

expansion of chemical research in Australia in recent years, and partly because of the growing recognition that publication in overseas journals represents a substantial subsidy which Australian science should shoulder. It is expected that the improved publication facilities and other changes will encourage Australian chemists to make use of the *Journal*.

#### The Wellcome Trust

THE fourth report of the Wellcome Trust covers the period 1960-62, in which funds totalling more than £2 million were allocated, compared with about £1.2 million in 1958-60 (Pp. 72+6 plates. London: The Wellcome Trust, 1963). A capital grant of £120,000 was made to the Royal Society to endow in perpetuity a Henry Dale research professorship in medical science. The first of a series of Wellcome senior research fellowships in clinical science was awarded to Dr. E. H. Cooper, and funds were provided to establish two senior posts in the United States for research workers of distinction. Funds were also made available for a co-operative research programme on tropical anaemias and sprue and to provide a Wellcome Research Laboratory of Haematology, which will be part of the Department of Haematology at the Postgraduate Medical School of London. The arrangement with the Carlsberg Foundation of Copenhagen for research fellowships on a co-operative basis continued, and a similar arrangement was made with the Medical Research Council of Sweden. The Trustees acquired the contents of the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum and Library, and the expanded and reconditioned Library in the Wellcome Building was reopened by Lord Brain in September 1962. Capital grants for building projects totalled £883,000, including £120,000 to the University of Otago, New Zealand, and £174,000 to the Postgraduate Medical School of London towards new research laboratories. Grants for major equipment totalled £432,000 for 82 departments, compared with £163,000 in 1958-60, five travelling research fellowships involving an annual expenditure of £12,000 for five years from 1961 were awarded and travel grants to some 312 research scientists totalled £60,000. Grants totalling £3,400 were made in support of a further five small symposia to discuss research aspects of particular medical and biological problems, £24,000 was awarded in grants for research in the history of medicine, and about £50,000 for medical research museums and libraries.

#### World Population Problems

IN 1952 the U.S. National Academy of Sciences convened a conference on scientific aspects of population problems. The scientists, who met for three days in Williamsburg, Virginia, urged the creation of a non-governmental foundation which would foster research and education in demography and in the biology of reproduction and its control. Following the recommendation of the Academy conference, which was supported by John D. Rockefeller (III), the Population Council was founded. It has fostered research and investigations in this field by grants to universities, by the award of fellowships, and by its own programme of research. Ten years later, in May 1962, the National Academy of Sciences again asked a panel of eminent scientists to consider the population problem. Part of its report has been published in the *Rockefeller Institute Review* (1, No. 3; June 1963). The essence of the report is that a short-term increase in income *per capita* may be possible in most less-developed areas, even if the fertility rate is not reduced. Nevertheless, even in the short run, progress will be much faster and more certain if the birth-rate falls. In the longer run, economic progress will eventually be stopped and reversed unless the birth-rate declines or the death-rate increases. Economic progress will be slower and more doubtful if less-developed countries wait for the supposedly inevitable impact of modernization on the birth-rate. They run the risk that rapid population growth

and adverse age distribution would themselves prevent the achievement of the very modernization they count on to bring the birth-rate down.

#### The Wildlife Youth Service

THE Wildlife Youth Service membership continues to increase steadily. Present figures show a total membership of more than 10,000 children from every part of Britain. Recruitment has not been confined to Britain, however, and the Youth Service has already gained members in the United States, Canada, Australia, South Africa, Kenya, Tanganyika, Rhodesia (North and South) and the Lebanon. Many children have joined the Wildlife Rangers and the Panda Club from Eire also. An interesting aspect of the rise in membership has been the large number of adults who have applied. The Youth Service 'Information Bureau' is dealing with a vast number of questions sent in by members, who ask questions ranging from "Have you seen my lost budgie?" to long and technical questions on ecology. Since the Youth Service was launched in May 1963 the Director and his staff have dealt with more than fifteen thousand letters (*World Wildlife News*, No. 17; August 1963).

#### A Preceramic Settlement on the Central Coast of Peru

IN the past eight years, work done by F. Engel, or under his sponsorship, has greatly extended our knowledge of the interesting and important Preceramic period, lasting from about 2500 until 1200 B.C., on the coast of Peru, during which the people depended mainly on the resources of the sea supplemented by cultivation on a small scale. The period is distinguished by twined cotton textiles of extraordinary complexity, exhibiting patterns in a sophisticated art style, but it now appears that people, who lacked cultivated cotton but were otherwise very similar, were living there perhaps 1,000 years earlier. Engel has increased the number of known sites from two in the north to about forty distributed throughout the coast. Some publications have already appeared, but full study and publication of the material is bound to take a long time, and each instalment adds useful information. *A Preceramic Settlement on the Central Coast of Peru—Asia, Unit 1* deals in detail with a site at Asia in a small valley some 110 km south of Lima, and contributes a good deal to our knowledge of the latter part of the Preceramic period (*Transactions of the American Philosophical Society*, N.S., 53, Part 3, Pp. 139. Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 1963. 4.50 dollars).

#### The Royal Society of New Zealand

THE *Proceedings of the Royal Society of New Zealand* for May (90, Part 1; 1963) contains, besides a report of the tenth New Zealand Science Congress at Christchurch, August 13-17, 1962, the presidential address of Dr. J. K. Dixon and Sir Alister Hardy's Hudson Lecture, "Some Developments in Plankton Research", delivered to the Society on August 4, 1961. Besides the report of the Society's annual meeting, 1962, there is a report of the half-yearly meeting, 1961, to which is appended a report to Council on the future needs of technological research in New Zealand. This report, by Mr. S. G. Brooker, emphasizes that future needs are both specific and general, including a much broader outlook and provision in the higher educational system for the training of men to undertake technological research or to fill technical positions in industry. Closer relations between research institutes and universities are recommended, preferably by location on a university campus, but establishment of a 'university of technology' is regarded as premature.

#### The Canadian Photobiology Group

THE Canadian Photobiology Group was formed during the first Canadian conference on photobiology, held at Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario, during September