THE NUFFIELD FOUNDATION

THE eighteenth annual report of the Nuffield Foundation*, covering the year ended March 31, 1963, records allocations made during the year of £1,789,520, of which £213,579 was for biological research and £105,000 for other scientific research. Emphasis is laid on the two major schemes for work in food science which the Foundation is supporting by grants of £80,000 over three years to the British Industrial Biological Research Association. One of these is concerned with minor degrees of toxic damage to the liver caused by chemicals of low toxic potential; the other is concerned with the potentialities of the *in vitro* techniques involving liver microsomes for investigating the metabolism and toxicity of food additives. In the hope of attracting scientists of promise to a study of the possible long-term effects of food additives and processing techniques, a new scholarship scheme has been introduced under which up to eight awards will be offered annually beginning in 1963. A grant of £60,000 was made to the University of Sheffield for the establishment of a laboratory to provide a microscopy service in biological research, while Prof. J. J. Weiss's work at King's College, Newcastle upon Tyne now University of Newcastle upon Tyne], on chemical changes induced by radiation, is being supported by a grant of £12,000 over three years, and work on plant evolution in the tropics in the Department of Botany in the same University by a grant of £12,000 over five years towards the cost of journeys, etc., involved. A grant of £24,600 over five years has been made for continuation of work on cell-differentiation at the Institute of Animal Genetics, University of Edinburgh; one of £11,500 over three years for chemical and microbiological investigations into the biosynthesis of complex phenolic compounds at the University College of Swansea; and one of £11,000 over five years to the British Trust for Ornithology for the analysis of data on bird migration collected by bird observatories in the British Isles. A grant of £50,000 was made to the University of Oxford towards the estimated cost of the extension of the Physical Chemistry Laboratory, and £5,000 over three years for one or more postdoctoral fellowships in the history and philosophy of science in the University of Oxford.

Besides £45,250 for research in rheumatism, grants totalling £225,375 were made for other medical research during the year. Work at the University of Birmingham on the chemistry of mucopolysaccharides was supported by a grant of £16,500 over five years, and that on the mechanisms of inflammatory responses at St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College by one of £9,000 over three years. A grant of £65,000 over five years was made to the Chemical Biology Unit in the Department of Zoology at the University of Edinburgh for continuation of fundamental research on fibroblasts. The £250,000 allocation for industrial health and occupational hygiene, made three years ago, has now been almost wholly committed to helping set up three new group industrial health schemes and to developing occupational hygiene facilities at three other centres. The new group schemes at Rochdale and Dundee have now come into operation, and a grant of £60,000 was this year made available for capital needs and initial running expenses at Dundee; a tapering grant of £20,000 was made for a group scheme in the West Bromwich and Smethwick area, and a similar grant over four years to the Department of Occupational Hygiene, University of Durham, for the development of occupational hygiene facilities for firms in the north-east of England. A grant of £6,000 over three years was made to the University of Glasgow for investigation of the pathogenesis and treatment of lead poisoning; and a further grant of £38,000 over five years for an investigation at the Institute of Psychiatry, University of London, of the way in which each nucleus of the hypothalamus controls part of the activity of the pituitary gland and of the functions of the hypothalamus in various human diseases. A further grant of £36,000 over three years was made to the University of Oxford to continue and develop the Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine's work on linking health records, and a further grant of £28,000 over three years to the Institute of Child Health for biochemical investigation of mentally retarded children.

Grants totalling £196,040 for social research and experiment include one of £50,000 to endow a statistical research unit in sociology at the University of Keele; £18,500 over two years to the Royal Institute of Public Administration for an enquiry into the relation between central and local government; £50,000 over five years towards the programme of conferences for diplomats which the Society of Friends is engaged in promoting; a further and final grant of £5,000 over three years to the London School of Economics and Political Science for its study of local government in Greater London; and £9,000 for the completion of the survey into the management of common lands by the Nature Conservancy and the Department of Land Economy, University of Cambridge.

For education, the Foundation allocated grants totalling £369,330, including £120,000 to New Hall, the women's college at Cambridge, for a new wing to be called the Elizabeth Nuffield Building, and an additional £20,000 to the Unit for the History of Ideas. (The grants for educational research are discussed on p. 505 of this issue of *Nature*.) £259,045 was allocated for the care of the aged and research in ageing and grants for the Commonwealth overseas totalled £171,734. These include a repayable grant of £15,000 to the Centre for Educational Television Overseas, a supplementary grant of £6,000 over three years to the Overseas Visual Aid Centre, £13,000 over five years to the Agricultural Research Council of Rhodesia and Nyasaland for the study of groundnut genetics research in the United States and the development of plants resistant to the rosette virus, £7,720 over three years to the University of Sierra Leone for plankton investigations, and £5,000 over five years to the Tropical Fish Culture Research Institute, Malacca, for research on the grass carp.

In its fellowship and scholarship schemes, the Foundation allocated £163,267. The awards in medicine and dentistry have been enlarged to cover all the medical schools in the United Kingdom. Twenty scholarships were awarded under the medical scheme, but there were no outstanding candidates eligible for the fellowship, and the present holder was given extension. Applications for awards in dentistry were disappointingly few compared with the previous year. Nearly double the number of enquiries were received for the scholarships and bursaries in biology, and one scholarship and four bursaries were given. Under the schemes for the Dominions and the Colonies, seven travelling fellowships in medicine were awarded, eleven in the natural sciences, and six in the humanities and social sciences, as well as six Canadian travel grants. Two awards were made under the scheme for travelling fellowships for Indian Civil Servants, and the success of the scheme for training Africans in agriculture at the Surrey County Council Farm Institute led the Farmers' Marketing Board of Nyasaland to offer to finance a second scholarship. Fifteen further bursaries were awarded under the joint scheme with the Royal Society.

* The Nuffield Foundation. Eighteenth Report, 1962–1963. Pp. xiii+192. (London: The Nuffield Foundation, 1963.) See also p. 505 of this issue of *Nature*.