

Nuffield Unit of Medical Genetics at the University of Liverpool

THE Trustees of the Nuffield Foundation are to make a grant of up to £350,000 to the University of Liverpool in support of the capital and running costs of a proposed Unit of Medical Genetics. This Unit will be established under the aegis of the Department of Medicine. It is anticipated that the grant from the Nuffield Foundation will meet the major part of the cost of the Unit for a period of nine years. The University has undertaken to assume full responsibility for the Unit from the beginning of the academic year 1972-73. Since 1953 an increasing amount of work in human genetics has been carried out in Liverpool. At the present time there are ten workers investigating human genetics problems in the Department of Medicine under Lord Cohen of Birkenhead. The emphasis throughout has been on investigation into the causes of common diseases, among them duodenal ulcer, rheumatic fever, rheumatoid arthritis, Rh hæmolytic disease and its prevention, leukæmia and other cancers, thyroid disease and schizophrenia. Dr. C. A. Clarke, reader in medicine at the University, will direct the Unit of Medical Genetics, which will work in close association with Prof. P. M. Sheppard, head of the Department of Genetics at Liverpool, with Prof. E. B. Ford, of the University of Oxford, and with other universities.

The Imperial College of Science and Technology and the Indian Institute of Technology (Delhi)

THE Imperial College of Science and Technology, University of London, has entered into special relationship with the Indian Institute of Technology (Delhi), formerly the Delhi College of Engineering and recently raised by the Government of India to the status of an institute of national importance. The British Government, in collaboration with British industry, has given substantial financial assistance towards the new Institute's full development. Parallel academic assistance will be provided through the special relationship with the Imperial College. This will be made possible through financial help from the Department of Technical Co-operation. Discussions are now proceeding in London between Dr. Thacker, chairman of the Board of Governors of the Indian Institute, Sir Patrick Linstead, rector of Imperial College, and Sir Willis Jackson, chairman of the British Technical Committee. The scheme will involve long-term secondments of Imperial College staff, training of Indian staff at the College and short visits to Delhi by senior College staff. Academic assistance is already in being: for example, the chair of mechanical engineering at the Indian Institute has been filled for more than a year by Prof. N. P. W. Moore. He is on long-term secondment from Imperial College, where he holds the post of reader in the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi: Publications

THE present publications of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi, include the *Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research*, a monthly general science periodical, replacing the *Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research: Section A—General*; the *Indian Journal of Chemistry*, a monthly research periodical devoted to original communications in chemistry (including biochemistry), replacing the chemistry part of *Section B—Physical Sciences*; *Indian Journal of Pure and Applied Physics*, concerning original communications in physics, replacing the physics part of *Section B—Physical Sciences*; the *Indian Journal of Technology*, again a monthly research periodical dealing with applied sciences and technology, replacing *Section D—Technology*; and the *Indian Journal of Experimental Biology*, a quarterly research periodical embracing original communications of an experimental nature in the biological field,

replacing *Section C—Biological Sciences*. The *Indian Journal of Technology* (1, No. 6; June 1963) gives details of the aforementioned changes and coverage of the subjects sponsored by the Council. This particular issue is notable for the range of subjects discussed, including investigations on activators for vulcanization of rubber; oxidation of cellulose by chromic acid in presence of hydrated oxides of metals; modification of lac: esterification of lac with allyl alcohol; investigations of stamped charging of coals for coking; utilization of lignite dust for making granular products; observations on the theaflavin gallate and thearubigins of black tea; chemical composition of mackerel (*Rastrrelliger canugurta*); changes in the nutritive value during storage; dehydration of green peas. These papers are followed by short communications traversing an equally versatile range of subjects.

The British Glass Industry Research Association

THE eighth annual report of the British Glass Industry Research Association presents brief accounts of seven major projects, largely carried out in what is clearly the closest co-operation with the industry itself (Pp. 44. Sheffield: The British Glass Industry Research Association, 1963). Among some highly interesting operational work is an inter-firm comparison of the performance of container furnaces, from which differences in British and American practice were brought into prominence. American practice leans towards higher temperatures and higher melting rates, and it is interesting that of 142 American furnaces noted, none was now using producer gas, while a third of the 100-odd British furnaces were still on this fuel, although its use has fallen by a half in the past ten years. Other operational exercises dealt with batch mixing and handling in the founding problem and with inspection and handling of glassware. There are some interesting and unsolved problems in the loss of the strength during storage, a phenomenon which is also observed for some ceramic products. Fundamental work on strength has continued with particular reference to the possible application of ion-diffusion techniques to conventional mass-produced glassware, and it has been demonstrated that ion-diffusion processes can increase the strength of abraded unetched samples from about 30,000 lb./in.² to 90,000 lb./in.². On the technological scale, stress configurations on large glass panels under uniform loading are being investigated by strain-gauge techniques. Considerable progress has been made on the examination of heat transfer from glass through the mould, and the condensation aspect has been solved. An analogue computer has been built to extend the investigation to take account of heat transfer by radiation. The report concludes with a note on the information service and a list of reports and publications. It is depressing to read that "the rising costs of running the Association have not been matched by any increase of income" and that a planned reduction of staff is contemplated. One must deplore that a massive national asset like the family of research associations should have to see any of its members financially embarrassed.

History of Science

VOLUME 2, 1963, of *History of Science*, an annual review of literature, research and teaching, is noteworthy for F. Maddison's survey, with bibliography, of sources and modern studies of early astronomical and mathematical instruments; W. A. Smeaton's paper, "New Light on Lavoisier: the Research of the Last Ten Years"; and R. E. Schofield's article on the needs and opportunities for research into the histories of scientific societies. Under the title "Merton Revisited", A. R. Hall contributes a critical re-examination of R. K. Merton's article in 1938 on science, technology and society in seventeenth-century England, while A. H. Ewen describes a sixth-form course