

THE UNIVERSITY OF SKOPJE

THE Editor has received the following appeal from Dr. Tha Hla, deputy director of the Unesco Department of Natural Sciences, on behalf of the scientists of the University of Skopje:

"The earthquake which destroyed our city last July 26 also wiped out some of the most modern laboratories in Yugoslavia. Our young University, the third largest in the country, was levelled in just 15 seconds.

"It is now being rebuilt, and classes have begun again, but we are in desperate need of equipment for science teaching and research. Together with Unesco staff scientists, we have drawn up detailed lists of the items required in each department, and we appeal to our

colleagues around the world to help us with contributions through Unesco Gift Coupons. We should also be grateful for contributions, in kind, of the apparatus we need.

"For lists of what is needed, please write: Unesco Gift Coupon Office, Place de Fontenoy, Paris 7."

Nature is sure that every scientist or scientific institution in a position to do so will give assistance to the University of Skopje in its present distress. *Nature* itself is unable to give more practical help than present financial assistance and free copies of the journal until such time as this new University is satisfactorily re-established. This is now being done.

NEWS and VIEWS

Engineering Science at the University of Durham:

Prof. R. D. Hoyle

DR. R. D. HOYLE, who has recently been appointed to the newly established chair of engineering science in the University of Durham, was educated at Malvern College and Clare College, Cambridge, where he read for the Mechanical Sciences Tripos. He served an engineering apprenticeship at Messrs. Mather and Platt, Ltd., and became maintenance engineer at the Scottish Dyes factory of the Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd. In the Second World War he served for five years in France and India, ultimately as a Major in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. Since 1944, Dr. Hoyle has been on the staff of the Mechanical Engineering Department of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, where his main interest has been the transfer of heat to the rotors of steam turbines and the thermal stresses arising from this, in which work he has been supported by the Admiralty. He has been a reader in mechanical engineering since 1958 and is now assistant director of the Mechanical Engineering Department. Dr. Hoyle has been closely associated with the expansion of the Imperial College of Science and Technology and the planning and building of the new facilities there. He leaves the College at the stage when the rebuilding of the Department is approaching completion. He takes up his appointment at Durham on October 1.

Soil Science in the University of Reading:

Prof. E. W. Russell, C.M.G.

DR. E. W. RUSSELL has been appointed to the newly created chair of soil science in the University of Reading. His initial training was in mathematics and physics at Cambridge, and after further study there and at Zurich and Leningrad he was appointed to the staff of the Physics Department at Rothamsted Experimental Station in 1930. He was reader in soil science at Oxford from 1948 until 1955, when he was appointed director of the East African Agriculture and Forestry Research Organization. His earlier work was on the physical and physico-chemical nature of soils, and included investigations of the relations between inorganic ions or organic molecules and the surfaces of soil particles. His work on the effects of deep ploughing and other cultivations on the growth and yield of crops attracted considerable interest. He has been responsible for two editions, of which the first was a virtually complete revision, of the standard monograph *Soil Conditions and Plant Growth*, originally written by his father, Sir (Edward) John Russell. In East Africa, he has developed and directed an outstandingly effective research organization, which, in collaboration with terri-

torial departments of agriculture and other research institutions, has investigated a large number of important problems in agricultural science and forestry. Dr. Russell has contributed notably to the work of many official and unofficial committees, including the Scientific Council for Africa and the Arid Zone Committee of Unesco, and of numerous scientific societies and journals, and was created C.M.G. in 1961. He will take to Reading unique experience of teaching and research on the nature and uses of soils, and will powerfully reinforce Reading's interest in agriculture and education in tropical countries.

The Nature Conservancy

PROF. J. A. KITCHING, professor of biology, University of East Anglia, and Prof. O. W. Richards, professor of zoology and applied entomology, Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, have joined the Nature Conservancy's Scientific Policy Committee on the retirement of Sir William Taylor, who has served since the Conservancy's inception in 1949. Dr. F. Fraser Darling, who retires from the Nature Conservancy on the completion of nine years service, remains a member of the Scientific Policy Committee. Prof. J. Wreford Watson, professor of geography and head of the Department of Geography, University of Edinburgh, has joined the Scottish Committee until March 31, 1965, and Prof. J. H. Burnett, professor of botany, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, who serves on this Committee, has also become a member of the Committee for England. Mr. R. H. Owen, member of Caernarvonshire County Council since 1948, chairman of Caernarvonshire Planning Committee and vice-chairman of Caernarvonshire National Parks Planning Committee, has been appointed a member of the Committee for Wales in succession to Mr. R. H. Roberts.

The John Innes Institute

IN reply to a question in the House of Lords on April 8, the Joint Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Education and Science, the Earl of Bessborough, said that, following the establishment of formal academic relations between the University of East Anglia and the trustees of the John Innes Institute, the trustees of the Institute had recently decided, with the agreement of the Agricultural Research Council, to move the Institute from Bayfordbury to Norwich. There were strong arguments for closer co-operation between Government-supported research establishments and the universities, and the Council of the University and the Agricultural Research Council had welcomed the trustees' proposal. Since the Institute was established at Bayfordbury in 1949, £222,000 had been spent by way of capital grants from