

public funds by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Agricultural Research Council, of which £100,000 was for experimental glasshouses of limited life. The cost of establishing the Institute at Norwich was expected to be borne mainly by the John Innes Charity; expenditure from public funds would be limited largely to the provision of equipment. The partnership of the School of Biological Sciences of the University and the Food Research Institute (*Nature*, 201, 450; 1964) with the John Innes Institute should make possible the development of a really outstanding national centre of biological training and research.

The Institution of Professional Civil Servants

THE annual report of the Institution of Professional Civil Servants for the year 1963, issued with *State Service* for April 1964, summarizes the Institution's comments to the Minister for Science on the Trend Report. These counter-proposals urge that responsibility for civil science should be vested in a Minister of Cabinet rank, supported by a major scientific department, and responsible for co-ordination to ensure civil application of the results of defence research, where appropriate, and re-deployment in the civil field of scientists and engineers becoming redundant in the defence field. Expansion of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in the new Ministry is urged, and that commercial exploitation of research and development should be the responsibility of a Minister who should take over and expand the activities of the National Research Development Corporation. The Institution also urges that the Cabinet should keep under constant review the education and training of scientists and technologists, the allocation of resources to both defence and civil science, and their co-ordination and exploitation. The report notes that in the year the Treasury proposed to offer a small number of administrative principal posts to the scientific officer class, but the Institution has maintained its opposition to proposals to offer research fellowships at the principal scientific officer level. Redundancy within the Atomic Energy Authority is the subject of extensive comments, which admit that the main contribution of the Minister for Science has been to allow the Authority valuable scope for dealing with the human problems of the run-down. Membership decreased slightly during the year from 57,676 at December 31, 1962, to 57,520 at December 31, 1963.

The Durban Museum and Art Gallery

THE annual report for 1962-63 of the Durban Museum and Art Gallery records that the work in the public galleries of the Museum has proceeded apace during the year and that plans for the new Geological and Palaeontological Hall have been drawn up (Pp. 24. Durban: Durban Museum and Art Gallery, 1963). This will be the last major project in the modernization of the Museum. During the year, a local collecting expedition was made to Natal and also a major expedition to Swaziland. Further collections of birds from the Kilosa and Mahenge areas of Tanganyika were acquired by purchase. Active research by the staff was again devoted largely to the further elucidation of the complex avifauna of South Africa. Steady progress and various improvements have been made in the Art Gallery, and especially noteworthy were the diverse temporary exhibitions arranged during the year. At the Old House Museum the congested condition of the exhibits is again stressed.

The Manchester Museum

DURING the year ended July 31, 1963, the Director and staff of the Manchester Museum concentrated on the very necessary task of the examination of the reserve collections (Report of the Committee for the year ending July 31, 1963. Pp. 20. Manchester: The Museum, the University, 1964). On the display side, cases of agates and ornamental stones, together with an exhibit of

nineteenth-century lapidary work from Derbyshire and one concerned with limestone country and the role of water as a geological agent, have been arranged. In zoology, four additional panels in the human anatomy series have been completed. An innovation was the circulation of a questionnaire to interested members of the public requesting them to comment on matters relating to display in the Museum. Both the weekly lectures and the temporary exhibitions have proved more than usually popular. The report concludes with an impressive list of publications by the staff.

Eton College Natural History Society

FIFTY years ago boys at Eton who were keen on natural history spent their spare time in making observations relating to hunting, shooting and fishing and in compiling records of flowering plants, birds and Lepidoptera seen in certain localities. Since then there has been a gradual change in outlook, and the report of the Natural History Society for 1962-63, in addition to the usual entries, carries a long list of expeditions, and lectures by distinguished visitors, together with a good account of last year's exceptional weather (Pp. 32+2 plates. Eton: Eton College Natural History Society, 1963). Then there are reports of two ecological surveys involving experimental techniques, the first of a pond in the College grounds, the second a joint project, with boys from other schools, of Southampton Water and the English Channel. But the most suggestive investigation recorded was a test carried out on the time taken by rats to learn a maze modelled on that at Hampton Court, compared with that taken by a group of boy members to learn the original. The boys learned the maze about seven times faster than the best rat learned the model.

Use of Eidophor in Teaching Embryology

IN 1962, Laboratoires CIBA, Paris, presented the new Faculty of Medicine in the University of Paris at the Sorbonne with an Eidophor television system. This was the first projector to be installed permanently in Europe for the purpose of facilitating teaching before a large body of students. Since its installation, the system has been in steady use in anatomy, histology and embryology courses, and as an adjunct to lectures in physiology, enabling the transmission of laboratory demonstrations. According to the autumn issue of *CIBA Journal* (27; Autumn 1963), "the installation of a number of projectors in different halls is at present considered the best way of multiplying the possibilities of simultaneous instruction to thousands of students". Prof. H. Tuchmann-Duplessis, professor of embryology in the new Faculty of Medicine, describes his classroom experience with Eidophor during its first months of operation in his department. He believes that it is one of the instruments best adopted to the teaching of medicine.

Birds of Thailand

UNDER the title *Checklist of the Birds of Thailand*, Dr. Herbert G. Deignan presents a summary of his many years of systematic work on the birds of Thailand (Smithsonian Institution: United States National Museum. Bulletin No. 226: *Checklist of the Birds of Thailand*. Pp. x+263. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1963. 1.25 dollars). His unit is the subspecies (or monotypic species), and for each he gives the essential nomenclatural information followed by a statement of range within the country. When the bird is a seasonal visitor, that is mentioned; and there is sometimes an indication of abundance or otherwise. The author lists 1,173 forms, which is evidence of a rich avifauna such as one would expect in a tropical country extending over some 14° of latitude, with coasts on two seas and a wide diversity of terrain. The only previous publication purporting to cover the same subject appeared in 1920, when the available knowledge was relatively slight. An important gap