

amended Clause 13 removes the original prohibition on charges for admission, but requires local authorities to take into account the need to ensure that the museum or gallery plays its full part in promoting education in the area, and to have particular regard to the interests of children and students. Lord Newton added that it was not the Government's intention to encourage local authorities to impose charges. Clause 14 allowed library authorities or authorities maintaining a museum or art gallery to contribute to the expenses incurred by any person, either in providing or maintaining a museum or art gallery, or in providing advisory or other services, or financial assistance, for it. The second power had been inserted with the needs of regional museum organizations particularly in mind. Clause 15 gave effect to the recommendation of the Standing Commission that the power taken by some authorities under private Acts to establish a fund for the purchase of exhibits should be made general.

Apart from some discussion of the clause relating to admission charges which, as Lord Newton anticipated, was not regarded as entirely satisfactory, the debate centred mainly on three points. First, on finance: Earl Attlee argued that there was need for some kind of Government grant to the large regional centres which served wide areas, although it was accepted that it would be easier to wait for the present review of central and local Government finance to be completed before changing the finance of the library service. The need for some immediate contribution from the central Government was urged by Viscount Eccles and by Lord Shackleton, who challenged in particular the Government's treatment of the National Central Library, for which he urged further consideration and support. Secondly, the question of the needs of students was urged by Earl Attlee as well as other speakers, and the importance of every library having a chief librarian and fully qualified staff with adequate remuneration and status was repeatedly emphasized. Thirdly, Viscount Eccles and others emphasized the importance of adequate research, and Lord Newton, in replying on the debate, said that under Clause 1 the Secretary of State would be able to commission research and also to draw on the services of the Architects and Buildings branch of his Department, both for research and for development work on public library buildings. He assured the House that this question would be considered when the Act came into operation. Earlier he had estimated that the improvement of standards of service might involve an increase of perhaps 50 per cent in the present cost of about £23 million, though this increase would be spread over several years.

South African Museum

THE annual report of the South African Museum for the year ended March 31, 1963, breaks with a 105-year-old tradition and provides, in an attractive format, a general account of the present main activities and future plans (Pp. v+23. Capetown: South African Museum, 1964). This replaces a record of accession data, donors, etc., which in future will be prepared but not printed. The policy of the Museum is to maintain a balance between funds allocated for research and educational activities. In the year under review, 25 major field trips were undertaken in addition to numerous short ones. Major extensions to the buildings are in hand and the new library and administrative block has been completed. A new exhibition of South African birds, a diorama to show bird life at Rondevlei and a display of Cape birds have been prepared. During the next two or three years it has been decided to concentrate on research in marine biology, palaeontology and entomology by teams of workers on the staff.

Transvaal Museum, Pretoria

As usual, this Museum's report is printed in English and Afrikaans (Transvaal Museum. Report for the year ending March 31, 1963. Pp. 31. Pretoria: Transvaal

Museum, 1964). The study collections, which form the basic material for research, continued to be augmented through selective collecting by members of the staff, and by donations. Further accommodation is urgently needed for the storage of these collections. A number of short collecting and survey trips have been undertaken to areas of particular scientific interest. Five new large mammal habitat cases have been installed. In the Cultural History section an interesting exhibition, "Old Cape Silver and Furniture", has been arranged.

Science in the Less-well-known Languages

IN the April (1964) issue of *Science East to West*, Mr. J. Garrido, deputy director of the Documentation Centre of the National Centre for Scientific Research, Paris, contributes an article on scientific and technical publications in the lesser-known languages. His analysis of articles published in 1962 indicates that English (66 per cent), Russian (13 per cent), French (11 per cent) and German (8 per cent) account for all but 2 per cent of published work in nuclear physics. In applied chemistry, the agricultural sciences and geology, other languages account for 14-18 per cent, the proportion varying slightly in the different subjects. Among these other languages, Japanese and Italian come first, each with about 20 per cent of the total in languages other than English, Russian, French and German. Polish, Romanian, Czech, Spanish and Ukrainian come next with 10-5 per cent, followed by Hungarian, Serbo-Croat, Bulgarian, Dutch, Swedish and Portuguese with 5-1 per cent. The most surprising result is the place of Chinese, which in M. Garrido's figures only stands first among 30 languages with less than 1 per cent of the output of the scientific literature in languages other than English, Russian, French and German. In applied chemistry, the proportion in English is 39 per cent, in the agricultural sciences 42 per cent, and in geology 33 per cent; for German the corresponding percentages are 20, 11 and 8 respectively; for Russian, 17, 19 and 35; and for French, 8, 10 and 10.

New Approach to National Health Service

ONE in ten of the adult population is probably suffering from a potentially serious illness which is unknown to his or her doctor. Not all these need medical attention; but many do, and delay in starting treatment is frequently responsible for unnecessary deaths and disablement. 2,500 deaths from cancer of the cervix and about 4,000 cases of blindness from cataract and glaucoma each year might be prevented if treatment had been started sooner. These facts are brought out in a report issued by the Office of Health Economics entitled *New Frontiers in Health: a Review of the Incidence, Impact and Implications of Minor and Unrecognized Illness in the Community* (Pp. 32. London: Office of Health Economics, 1964. 2s.). The report criticizes former delays in introducing measures which could demonstrably improve the health of the nation. During the 1930's about 20,000 child deaths from diphtheria could have been prevented had Britain started an immunization campaign at the same time as the Canadians. "It seems clear", says the report, "that powerful advocacy is sometimes required before even the most obvious advances in the health field are put into practice". It also directs attention to the amount of minor ill-health which is untreated. For every person who visits a doctor, there are probably three more who suffer from a minor illness without consulting him. It is estimated that minor illnesses cause the loss of about 25 million working days each year. Much of it is among women, for whom short sicknesses cause about two and a half days' absence a year. For men, short sicknesses on average are responsible for less than one day off work each year. The report concludes: "It is unrealistic to expect that everyone should enjoy 'perfect' health, and