

the most important is that of attracting strong fields of applicants for awards offered by the less-developed Commonwealth countries. This is primarily a question of publicity, and the report stresses the need for accurate, detailed and up-to-date information regarding facilities in the universities of these countries. Reference is again made to the shortage in some countries of graduates eligible to apply, and some of these countries are urging more awards at undergraduate level. There is also the recurrent difficulty of inducing some Scholars to return home on completion of their tenure, and although an appreciable number of Scholars have now returned to their home countries, of 324 whose awards had terminated by March 31, 108 sought deferment for periods of up to two years.

University Extra-mural Work in Britain

THE report of the Universities Council for Adult Education, 1962-63, entitled *Change and Tradition in University Extramural Work*, notes new developments announced in broadcasting and other encouragement received from different quarters for adult education (Pp. 24. Liverpool: Universities Council for Adult Education, The University, 1964). Reports from the various extra-mural departments indicate the variety of the demand as well as the opportunities, and the intensity of the demand is illustrated by the persistence with which the courses were pursued during the severe winter that year. The increased possibility of planning classes on a regional basis is emphasized in some of these reports, as well as the possibility of a new local pattern of extra-mural classes, with a choice of subjects offered in neighbouring towns. The report emphasizes also the need for adult education centres, with a varied programme, and spaced so that each can act as a centre for the region. Besides the growing momentum of day-release courses for trade unionists there is a marked spread and development of extra-mural courses for social workers. There is also a general development of extra-mural courses of groups which have a common vocational interest, illustrated by a particularly encouraging response to some courses for magistrates and the interest aroused among local authorities by a week-end conference on "Coastal Erosion" arranged by the University of Southampton. Residential courses arranged by university extra-mural departments seem likely to increase, and there is also more general adoption of linked week-end courses. The increased need for extra-mural departments to provide facilities for training and research in adult education is again stressed, but the report concludes by deploring the Ministry of Education's announcement in February 1964 that no additional grant-aid would be available in 1964-65 to finance further full-time appointments or expansion of full-time work. This reversal of policy came when the plans of extra-mural departments were already advanced. The Council firmly protests against such short-sightedness, which achieves trifling economy but frustrates and stultifies the efforts of extra-mural departments to respond to the growing public awareness that education is a life-long process in which the universities have a recognized and continuing part to play.

Teaching and Research in Public Health Engineering

A TWO-DAY conference of "Teachers of Public Health Engineering in Universities and Colleges of Technology" was held at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, during September 17-18. This followed a successful first meeting held in the University of Newcastle a year ago. It was attended by participants from the Universities of Birmingham, Leeds, London (Imperial College and University College), Newcastle, Sheffield and Strathclyde, and from Kingston College of Technology, Manchester College of Science and Technology, and the National University of Ireland. Discussions on the first day were devoted to the teaching of public health engin-

earing at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, the recruitment and selection of students, the provision of short courses on specific topics and assistance to universities overseas. On the second day the conference discussed a number of subjects of current research or of possible future research. Among these were various aspects of water conservation, including investigations on the economic optimization of water and sewage treatment processes, tertiary treatment of sewage, some possible new methods of waste treatment and the application of chemical engineering processes in the field of public health engineering. There was also discussion on the presentation of the results of research and on co-operation with other research bodies. It was agreed that a further meeting should be held in the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, in September 1965.

Fourth World Congress on Industrial Safety

THIS year the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, in co-operation with the International Labour Office and the International Social Security Association, has organized, and is host to, the Fourth World Congress on Industrial Safety. To mark the occasion, the *British Journal of Industrial Safety* (6, No. 68; Summer 1964) devotes a whole issue to contributions made by some sections of British industry towards the greater safety and health of their employees. It is gratifying to know that "The United Kingdom is proud of its contribution to industrial safety. Its statutory provisions have been used by other countries as a blueprint for their own laws, and many of its industries have established safety programmes which have achieved creditable results over the years". After a foreword by R. K. Christy (H.M. Chief Inspector of Factories), the titles of contributions are: "There is no Profit without Safety", by G. H. Beeby (chairman, British Titan Products Co., Ltd.); "Research for Health: Work on Pneumoconiosis", by Dr. R. L. Gordon (Safety in Mines Research Establishment, Ministry of Power); "Accidents in the Construction Industry", by D. Short (H.M. Senior Inspector of Factories, Building and Civil Engineering); "Safety through Standards in British Industry", by R. Berry (divisional chief technical officer, British Standards Institution); "The Practice of Medicine in Industry", by Dr. R. Murray (medical adviser to the Trades Union Congress); "Safety in Steel", by R. Barry (head of Accident Prevention, British Iron and Steel Federation, and editor of *Safety*); "Safety in Chemicals", by N. F. Patterson (chairman, British Chemical Industry Safety Council); and "Accident Prevention in the Rubber Manufacturing Industry", by H. Jackson and S. F. Smith (respectively deputy chairman of the Leyland and Birmingham Rubber Co., Ltd., and chief officer for safety, health and welfare, the Dunlop Rubber Co., Ltd.). Each year, in conjunction with the National Industrial Safety Conference, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents organizes a trade exhibition of industrial safety equipment. It was appropriate that this year the 'Intersaf' Exhibition was staged in London (July 13-17) to coincide with the fourth World Congress on the Prevention of Occupational Accidents and Diseases.

Mobile Foundry Laboratory

AMONG many matters of interest mentioned in the annual report of the British Non-Ferrous Metals Research Association for 1963 is the description of a travelling laboratory designed to assist the non-ferrous foundry industries (Pp. 47. London: The British Non-Ferrous Metals Research Association, 1964). An 18-ft. caravan is fully equipped to demonstrate techniques, and is staffed by a metallurgist especially experienced in foundry matters and a highly qualified technician. Established especially to assist those producing copper alloy castings, it is already making a considerable impact on this branch of industry (see also p. 308 of this issue of *Nature*).