

that it should be dependent on invitations from departments which it may wish to investigate, and it accordingly recommends that its sub-committees should be able, with the agreement of the Committee and by leave of the House, to hold sittings in any overseas territory with the consent of that territory.

The Australian Academy of Science

THE report of the Council of the Australian Academy of Science for the year ended March 31, 1965 (Pp. 14. Canberra: Australian Academy of Science, 1965), reiterates its concern at the absence of Government replies to the various proposals submitted to it since 1962, covering the establishment of a research museum of Australian biology and compilation of a Flora of Australia, the provision of rockets to enable Australian space research to be developed, and the establishment of a National Science Fund for supporting, on an individual basis, high-quality projects for scientific research. Such apparent discourtesy must be far more frustrating and disheartening to Australian scientists than the reasoned rejection of proposals. During the year the senior fellowship scheme was established on a continuing basis, and the Council accepted responsibility for preparing a new secondary-school text-book on biology for use in Australian schools. Publication of the *Australian Journal of Applied Science* was stopped, but the number of papers published in Australian journals of scientific research increased by 67 during 1964.

The Smithsonian Institution

THE report of the Smithsonian Institution for the year ended June 1964 is a massive publication of nearly 300 pages (Pp. xiii + 293 + 14 plates. Smithsonian Publication 4595. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1965). It expresses the hope that in its wider usefulness the Institution may be able to broaden the traditional co-operation with museums throughout the world. Museums and their related laboratories are entering a new era and their resources are being drawn on as never before for general education, since more than 90 per cent are involved, ranging from simple school-extension programmes to postgraduate fellowships. For these reasons, it is felt that the Smithsonian, with its superb resources, has a great opportunity to serve the museum world in the role of leadership and co-operation. Research on wild populations and undisturbed conditions in Nature is now a matter of urgency. A related objective is to strengthen the position, within science as a whole, of those fields of biology which have the entire organism as their object: ecology, genetics, systematics, botany, zoology, oceanography, microbiology and palaeontology as well as the sciences of man which have for so long been central concerns of the Smithsonian. The Institution has also been active in the international field, and has made a determined effort to carry its activities beyond traditional expeditions and research to co-operation with other Government agencies and private institutions in the development of exchange of persons and exhibition programmes.

The Zoological Society of London

THE annual report of the Zoological Society of London for 1964 reviews all the activities of the Society during the year. There were 1,816,000 visitors to Regent's Park, a figure only marginally below the seven-year average, and 38,000 more than in 1963. The total number of visitors to Whipsnade Park was 675,000, which, though an improvement on 1963 (616,000), was still well behind the 757,000 visitors in 1961. 39,000 cars were brought into the Park by visitors, compared with some 33,600 in 1963. A particularly important acquisition by the Society during the year was a pair of European bison, presented to the British Forestry Commission by the Polish Forestry Commission and deposited in the Col-

lection. Since February 1963 there has been only a single male of this species in the London Zoo, but it is now hoped to be able to breed this extremely rare animal. Among the more interesting additions to the mammal collection have been a binturong, a Siberian weasel, two hog badgers, two giant pangolins and two spectacled bears. The outstanding exhibit in the aquarium still continues to be the *Arapaima* (*Arapaima gigas*) from South America, which is now almost 5 ft. long—more than three times its length on arrival in June 1962. A new nocturnal section housing pottos, douroucoulis, lemurs, flying squirrels and bushbabies was opened in the Children's Zoo at Regent's Park in the early summer, and has proved a most successful exhibit.

Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa

THE first annual report of the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa, which covers the period October, 1962–June 30, 1963, is of particular interest (Pp. 32 + map. Nairobi: Government Printer, 1964. 2s.). It records cogently and concisely the stages by which the former Desert Locust Survey developed from an organization financed entirely by Kenya, Tanganyika, Uganda and the British Government, but operating almost exclusively in Ethiopia and Somalia, into a fully constituted international organization of which Ethiopia and Somalia are members. This marks the culmination of the efforts that have been made for a number of years to foster international co-operation in locust control in Eastern Africa. During the period of the report desert locust activity was at a minimum throughout almost its entire area, and the Organization itself was not required to undertake control measures. Some control was carried out by national locust organizations in Somalia and Ethiopia assisted by the United States Regional Insect Control Project. The control potential of the Organization itself was used to conduct surveys which, with the co-operation of the countries concerned, were extended to the Sudan and Arabian Peninsula. The report contains a useful record of such locust activity as occurred, and an account of the research which the Organization is conducting or planning. This research includes locust population dynamics, use of radar in quantitative survey, morphometric studies, aircraft spray equipment and operational methods. The outcome of these projects will be of importance to all concerned with locust control, and future reports by the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa will be awaited with interest.

The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

THE report on the work of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine for the year 1963–64 (Pp. 127. London: London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, 1965) outlines the progress made with the modernization and expansion of the School, following the Wolfson Foundation benefaction of £800,000. It is supplemented by reports from the Departments of Bacteriology and Immunology, Biochemistry, Clinical Tropical Medicine, Entomology, Human Nutrition, Medical Statistics and Epidemiology, Occupational Health and Applied Physiology, Parasitology and Public Health, and from the Ross Institute of Tropical Hygiene and the Medical Research Council Environmental Physiology Research Unit. A list of publications during the year is appended.

The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

THE Public Information Office of this Institute, which is part of the U.S. Public Health Service, plans to distribute on request every 2½–3 months a news service to workers in this field, which will give information about the Institute's activities and progress. The *News Letter* dated February 1965 contains information about the higher values of the