

Remarkable photographs of this eruption published in *The Times* on July 3, 1965, show that Surtling is already 250 m long and 20 m high. Prior to these outbursts the last volcanic island to be created off Iceland was that named Nyö south-west of Reykjanes, on which the Danish flag was ceremoniously raised in 1783, the year of the disastrous fissure eruption of Laki; but Nyö was soon eroded to below sea-level. Surtsey is apparently made of sterner stuff and already there have been many aeroplane landings on its tuffaceous foreshore.

The Wyeth Institute of Medical Research

THE Wyeth Institute of Medical Research at Taplow, near Maidenhead (Fig. 1), officially opened on June 22 by Lord Todd, is a 40,000 sq. ft., two-storeyed steel and concrete structure representing a £500,000 investment in research and development facilities for the future. It adjoins the Company's existing administrative headquarters, now two years old, while all production remains centred at the eight-year-old manufacturing plant at Havant, Hants. On the ground floor of the new research block are housed the two main Chemistry Departments, Medicinal Chemistry and Natural Products Chemistry. Here, too, are the physical chemistry, large-scale chemistry and radioisotope laboratories. Centrally placed on this floor are the laboratories, sterile suites and constant temperature rooms of the future Microbiological Department, at present based at Havant, but due to move into these premises in the near future.

Pharmacology, together with toxicology and the small-animal colony, occupy most of the first floor of the Institute. The animal colony, serviced from a central corridor running the length of the building, has been carefully designed to minimize contact between clean and soiled materials and to prevent the development of animal odours. Located in this unit also are an animal behaviour observation room and a fully-equipped operating theatre. The pharmacy laboratories of the Product Development Department are on the ground floor. The final sections of Wyeth research, chemical development, chemical manufacturing and accommodation for large animals, remain in Havant. The Taplow research building, with five separate air-treatment systems, hot and cold water supplies, high- and low-pressure steam, compressed air, distilled water, vacuum and gas services and an emergency electric generator in addition to the mains supply, contains in excess of £100,000 worth of equipment. Total research personnel strength, including administration and maintenance staff in Taplow, is 106.

Ashmolean Museum, Oxford

THE report of the Ashmolean Museum for 1964 records that the rearrangement of the valuable Cypriote Collection is virtually complete and has enabled the pattern of cultures and settlement in the island to be illustrated with a clarity and interest not possible in its previously crowded condition (Report of the Visitors, 1964. Supplement No. 6 to the *University Gazette*, March 1965. Pp. 87. Oxford: The University, 1965. 2s. 6d.). New features include a display of material from the late Bronze Age sanctuary at Pigadhes-Myrtou, excavated by a joint expedition to Cyprus of the Universities of Oxford and Sydney in 1950-51. A major rearrangement and re-shelving of the Randolph basement has made it possible to move the Arundel Marbles in reserve, and also the Latin and Greek inscribed stones, to more accessible positions.

Transvaal Museum, Pretoria

IN the report of the Transvaal Museum for the year ended March 31, 1964, it is recorded that the Namib Desert Research Station is now firmly established, and throughout the year workers in various fields of interest pertaining to conditions of extreme aridity have been carrying out research at the Station (Pp. 40. Pretoria: Transvaal Museum, 1965). Under the general title of *Scientific Papers of the Namib Desert Research Station*, some twenty papers have already been published. The buildings of the Station are well furnished, and the laboratory in particular is especially equipped with modern and valuable research instruments which, for the greater part, were given by the South African Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, and other research institutions.

Science Museum, London

THE new Agricultural Implements and Machinery Gallery at the Science Museum, London, conveys in a simply understood way the technological complexity of modern farming methods. History has been used to emphasize the differences that have so greatly improved the agricultural workers' way of life. So far as possible, the exhibits themselves are so grouped that their message is more or less independent of the explanatory labels, but even these are set up in easily readable positions. The arable farming section is historically much as before in content. Modern arable farming is shown chiefly by a series of fifty new tractor and implement models set in new backgrounds and representing the four seasons of the year. The dairy farming section is entirely new.

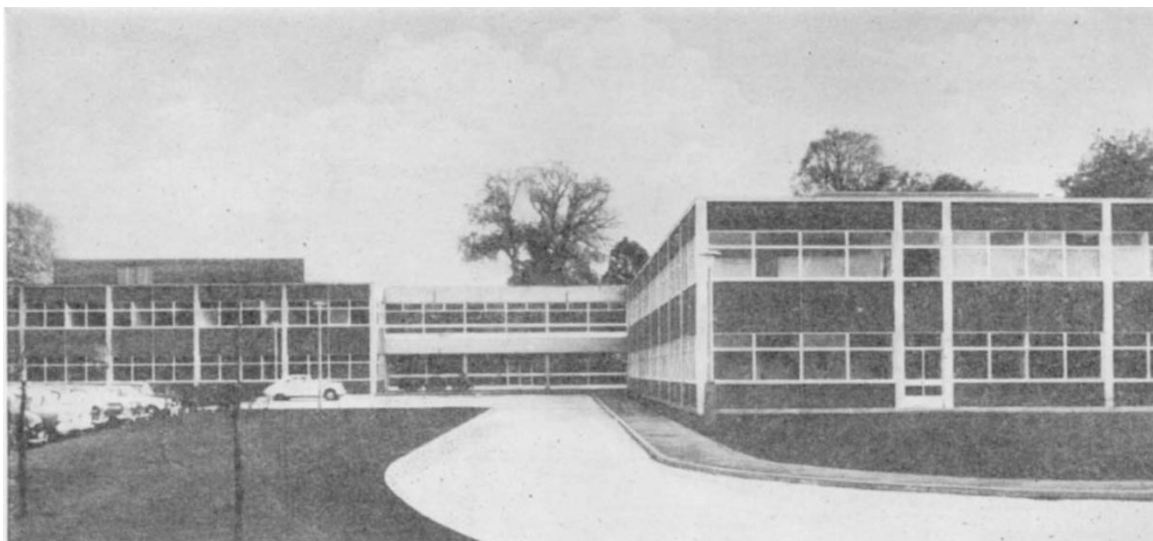


Fig. 1. The new Wyeth Institute of Medical Research at Taplow