

minimum has been interpreted as a recommended norm, with the result that large classes have been actively discouraged.

### Dedijer on Sociology and Science

THE Second Annual Lecture of the Science of Science Foundation was delivered in London on April 28 by Dr. Stevan Dedijer, of the Department of Sociology in the University of Lund. Among other things, Dr. Dedijer was at pains to blame his own specialty for what he described as its neglect of studies of the link between prosperity and the investment of money in research and development, the link between economic growth and the effectiveness of research and, indeed, the whole field of what Dr. Dedijer and his sponsors call the science of science. He was able to assemble an impressive list of official reports from the United States, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom (where both the Heyworth Report and the earlier document from the Tavistock Institute were found blameworthy) and from the Organization for European Co-operation and Development. "The social and behavioural sciences as a whole have so far neglected to identify and study the major problems and causes of the current scientific and technological revolution."

Among the causes of this neglect, Dr. Dedijer singled out the lack of time for the need to be recognized. Among the cures he recommended, the most tangible was the creation of institutes for "the science of science" in countries of all kinds. He asked that these should be concerned with the collection of information on research and development, the development of national research programmes in the science of science, the infiltration of other branches of the social sciences by the science of science, the creation of specialized units to study difficult problems, and liaison with similar institutes abroad.

### Leptospirosis in Man and Animals in Australia

UNTIL recently, leptospirosis was thought not to occur in man and animals in South Australia to any significant degree. In 1953-54, Dr. J. E. McCartney, medical bacteriologist to the South Australian Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science, examined 627 sera for the presence of leptospiral agglutinins, but no positive results were obtained. For many years, however, medical authorities concerned with the health of abattoir workers have noticed that febrile illnesses frequently occur which do not appear to correspond with any of the well-recognized ailments commonly seen in these workers—Q fever or brucellosis.

In April 1962 serum samples from 120 employees of the metropolitan abattoirs were sent for testing. Leptospiral agglutination tests were performed on these specimens and the results showed that forty-five cases had unequivocal evidence of previous infection with leptospiral organisms. It was therefore decided to set up a routine diagnostic unit at the Institute, and an immediate and comprehensive survey of abattoir workers was organized. In this survey, sera which agglutinated at a dilution of 1:100 or more were regarded as significant. Of 894 specimens examined, sixty-five showed leptospiral agglutinins. The groups with the highest incidence of antibodies were meat inspectors, beef slaughterers and workers in the pig hall and offal floor.

Of the clinical cases so far, sera from 140 patients have been examined. There have been eight confirmed cases of leptospirosis, all males and almost exclusively abattoir workers. One hundred and four sera from Aborigines in a variety of areas in South Australia were also examined in the course of other serological tests. No positive results were obtained, thereby confirming the validity of the testing procedure and the occupational incidence of the disease.

Evidence was also collected to determine the incidence of leptospiral disease in animals in South Australia.

Animal sera which showed leptospiral agglutinins at a dilution of 1:300 were regarded as positive. Forty-five cattle sera were submitted by the Division of Veterinary Pathology. Of these, twelve were positive. Forty-one sera were examined, and twenty-seven were positive. The results obtained so far clearly show that both doctors and veterinary surgeons need to be constantly aware of leptospirosis as a cause of hitherto undiagnosed symptoms in man and animals. Further information is to be found in the twenty-sixth report of the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science, South Australia (Adelaide: Government Printer, 1965).

### Announcements

OPEN days will be held at the National Engineering Laboratory, East Kilbride, during May 4-6. Further information can be obtained from the Director, National Engineering Laboratory, East Kilbride.

THE third national conference of the National Conference of Standards Laboratories will be held at the National Bureau of Standards, Gaithersburg, Maryland, during May 9-12. Further information can be obtained from W. R. Tilley, National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D.C.

A BIONICS Symposium, sponsored by the Aerospace Medical Division and the Research and Technology Division of the U.S. Air Force Systems Command, will be held in Dayton, Ohio, during May 3-5. Further information can be obtained from Dr. H. L. Oestreicher, Aerospace Medical Research Laboratories Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

AN international symposium on "Some Aspects of Strontium Metabolism", under the auspices of the Medical Research Council and the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, will be held at Chapelcross during May 5-6. Further information can be obtained from Dr. J. H. Martin, United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, Chapelcross Works, Annan, Dumfriesshire.

A CARBON and Graphite Group of the Institute of Physics and the Physical Society has now been created by the Council of the Institute and Society. The inaugural meeting of the Group will be held in the University of Sheffield on May 5. It will take the form of a discussion meeting on "Methods of Characterizing the Pore Structure of Carbons". Further information can be obtained from the Meetings Officer, Institute of Physics and the Physical Society, 47 Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1.

A SERIES of one-day courses in applied social research will be held at the Tavistock Institute of Human Relations during May. The following courses will take place: stress and conflict in industry (May 2); business organization (May 3); management development (May 4); management selection (May 5); consumer research (May 9); theories of working groups (May 11); personal and executive counselling (May 12); management training (May 13). Further information can be obtained from the Course Secretary, Tavistock Institute of Human Relations, 3 Devonshire Street, London, W.1.

CORRIGENDUM. In the article entitled "Efficiency of Ion Transport Mechanisms", which was published on page 398 of the January 22 issue of *Nature*, the expression  $\frac{c_{Na}}{c_{Na}}$  in equation (4) should be inverted to read  $\frac{c_{Na}''}{c_{Na}}$ .

CORRIGENDUM. Dr. A. Gajdos has written to the Editor of *Nature* stating that the last sentence in the communication entitled "Mechanism of the Inhibitory Effect of Adenine Nucleotides on Porphyrin Synthesis by *Rhodospseudomonas spheroides*", which appeared on p. 640 of the August 7, 1965, issue of *Nature*, should read "These findings do not invalidate the conclusions of our earlier observations".