

Parliament in Britain

IN a written answer in the House of Commons on December 6, the Secretary of State for Education and Science, Mr. A. Crosland, said that after considering the advice of the University Grants Committee, a provisional figure of £147.5 million had been settled for the first year of the quinquennium beginning next August. This was to give the universities a firm planning base for the first year of the quinquennium, and the University Grants Committee would now allocate this amount between the universities. The corresponding figure for the academic year 1966-67 was estimated at £133 million and the increase is attributable partly to the increase in the number of students planned to the Robbins target of 197,000 and partly to price increases since the last adjustment in 1964-65. It does not include the cost of research taken over from Research Council funds or provision for local authority rates.

IN a written reply to a question in the House of Commons on December 2 about university courses in oceanography, the Secretary of State for Education and Science, Mr. Anthony Crosland, said that the University of Liverpool provides a course leading to a B.Sc. honours degree in oceanography, and the University College of North Wales, Bangor, a course leading to an honours degree in zoology with oceanography; at Birmingham, London, Newcastle and Southampton, oceanography formed part of a first degree course in such subjects as marine biology and geography. In the years 1960-61 to 1964-65, two, five, one, eight and two students at the University of Liverpool gained honours degrees in oceanography. Several universities provided opportunities for postgraduate study in oceanography, and in the past 5 years more than 50 students were recorded as studying the subject at this level.

IN a written answer on December 5, Mr. I. Hoy, Joint Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said that the Marine Fisheries Laboratory had four research ships and a staff of 30 scientists and assistant grades engaged on fisheries research, much of which was in physical and biological oceanography. Plans had already been approved to replace two of the vessels by others of greater range and the most up to date equipment.

DETAILS of 37 current research contracts placed by the Ministry of Health with universities and colleges of advanced technology for the study of health and welfare services were given by the Minister of Health, Mr. K. Robinson, in a written answer in the House of Commons on December 5. The expenditure totals £632,000 and the size of the projects varies from £800 to £180,400.

INVESTIGATIONS by the Road Research Laboratory have shown that improved mudguards and mudflaps can reduce spray behind commercial vehicles and lessen the danger of obscuring windscreens of following vehicles. Much of the spray is thrown up sideways and then drawn into the area of reduced pressure immediately behind the vehicle. Mudflaps would not prevent this, but manufacturers are considering improved designs of mudguards. (House of Lords, December 8.)

Appointments

MR. L. F. RUTTERFORD has been appointed as secretary of the Computer Board for universities and research councils. Mr. Rutterford previously served in the Computer Advisory Service of the Ministry of Technology.

DR. A. W. HOLMES has been appointed director of the British Food Manufacturing Industries Research Association and will be taking up his new post at Leatherhead on January 1. Dr. Holmes, at present on the research staff of Unilever, has been concerned with meat curing and with fish and milk products.

DR. WILLIAM MACGREGOR HENDERSON has been appointed director of the Agricultural Research Council's Institute for Research on Animal Diseases, Compton, from October 1, 1967, when Dr. W. S. Gordon, the present director of the institute, will be retiring. Dr. Henderson is an expert on foot-and-mouth disease.

DR. T. MORAN, director of research since 1939, is retiring from the Research Association of British Flour Millers on December 31, and has accepted the post of scientific adviser (part-time) to the Home Grown Cereals Authority. As from January 1 the Research Association will merge with the British Baking Industries Research Association to form the Flour Milling and Baking Research Association, and Dr. G. A. H. Elton has been appointed director of research.

Announcements

THE late Professor D. E. Rutherford has been awarded posthumously the Makdougall-Brisbane Prize for 1964-66 by the Council of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. The prize was awarded for his papers published in the Proceedings of the Society during the period of the award, and for his outstanding contributions to mathematical research and education over many years.

A THREE-DAY scientific meeting on "The Origins of Schizophrenia" will be held in the University of Rochester during March 29-31, in celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the founding of the Department of Psychiatry in the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. Further information can be obtained from Professor John Romano, Department of Psychiatry, University of Rochester, School of Medicine and Dentistry, Rochester, New York 14620.

A SYMPOSIUM on "Indian Ocean", jointly sponsored by the Indian National Committee on Oceanic Research and the National Institute of Sciences of India, will be held at the National Institute of Sciences of India, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi, during March 2-4. There will be group discussions on physical and chemical oceanography, geology and geophysics, and biology, including fisheries. Further information can be obtained from Dr. N. K. Panikkar, National Institute of Oceanography, CSIR, Rafi Marg, New Delhi-1.

ERRATUM. In the review entitled "Bamboo" by William Davies, which appeared in *Nature*, 212, 1186 (1966), the word *Granineae*, which appeared on lines 21 and 26 of the review, should be spelt *Gramineae*.

ERRATUM. In the communication by Franz-Christian Czygan entitled "Effect of Chloramphenicol on Mutants of *Chlorella pyrenoidosa*", published in *Nature*, 212, 960 (1966), the seventh line of the third paragraph should read "... or by the nitrogen of the chloramphenicol".

CORRIGENDUM. Dr. G. A. Davies writes "In a letter entitled 'Nature and Mechanism of Formation of Oxide Films for the Chromium-Iron-Carbon Systems' published in *Nature*, 212, 915 (1966), the name of the fourth author, I. A. Mortimer, was omitted".