

**University News:****Liverpool**

DR. M. R. SAMPFORD, at present senior principal scientific officer in the Agricultural Research Council Unit of Statistics in the University of Edinburgh, has been appointed to the newly established chair of mathematical statistics.

**London**

PROFESSOR G. L. HOWE, professor of oral surgery in the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, has been appointed to the chair of oral surgery at the Royal Dental Hospital of London School of Dental Surgery from April 1, and Dr. M. Ginsburg, reader in pharmacology at Chelsea College of Science and Technology, has been appointed to the chair of pharmacology, tenable at that college.

**Southampton**

DR. J. H. BIRD, reader in geography in University College, London, has been appointed to the chair of geography in succession to Professor F. J. Monkhouse; and Dr. M. Fleischmann, reader in physical chemistry in the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, has been appointed to the Electricity Council Faraday chair of electrochemistry.

**Appointments**

DR. V. SUNDARAM, formerly senior scientific officer of the Cotton Technological Research Laboratory, Matunga, has been appointed director of the Cotton Technological Research Laboratory, Bombay.

**Announcements**

DR. BRYAN THWAITES has been elected president of the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications for 1967, in succession to Professor M. J. Lighthill. Dr. Thwaites is principal of Westfield College in the University of London and is well known for his concern with the improvement of mathematics teaching in schools and for his founding of the Schools Mathematics Project. Professor Lighthill, Royal Society Research professor at Imperial College, London, and formerly director of the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough, played a major part in founding the institute, and has been its president since its incorporation in 1964. Dr. E. T. Goodwin, superintendent of the Mathematics Division of the National Physical Engineering Laboratory, and Dr. P. G. Wakely, manager of the Mechanical Engineering Laboratories of the English Electric Co., Ltd., at Whetstone, Leicester, have been appointed vice-presidents of the institute in succession to Professor A. Geary and Professor K. Stewartson. Professor D. C. Pack will continue to serve as honorary treasurer and Mr. F. W. Kellaway and Mr. W. G. Sherman as honorary secretaries.

At the election for the first elected council of the British Acoustical Society, which took place in November, Professor R. E. D. Bishop, Kennedy professor of mechanical engineering in University College London, was elected president. The other elected officers are: *Vice-presidents*, Professor E. J. Richards (head of Institute of Sound and Vibration Research, Southampton); Professor E. C. Cherry (Department of Electrical Engineering, Imperial College of Science and Technology, London); Mr. W. A. Allen (consulting architect).

DR. ELI BROOKNER, of the Raytheon Company, is the first recipient of the Journal of the Franklin Institute's \$1,000 award, which is to be made annually to the author of the outstanding paper appearing in the journal during the preceding year. Dr. Brookner received the award for his paper entitled "Effect of Ionosphere on Radar Waveforms", which deals with the problem of determining the effects of the ionosphere on the propagation of microwaves.

A MONTHLY abstract journal entitled "Abstracts of Mycology" is being published by BioSciences Information Service from January this year. There will be three trial issues, circulated to individual scientists with known interests in this specialized field of study. Further information can be obtained from Abstracts of Mycology, Professional Services and Education Department, BioSciences Information Service of Biological Abstracts, 2100 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 19103.

ERRATUM. In the legend accompanying Table 1 of an article "Induction of Thymine Dimers in Synchronized Population of Chinese Hamster Cells" by D. L. Steward and R. M. Humphrey (212, 298; 1966), the word "uridine" replaced the word "uracil" at two points, the words "cystine or cysteine" replaced the word "cytosine" at one point and the legend should read: "The two dimensional chromatographic analysis (ref. 8) does not separate uracil-thymine dimers from thymine dimers and the activity of both photo-products is referred to as thymine dimer activity in this report. The uracil-thymine dimer arises from the cytosine-thymine dimer deamination during acid hydrolysis of the DNA (ref. 17)".

ERRATUM. In the article "Flame Ionization and Magneto-hydrodynamics" by Jean Debiesse and Siegfried Klein in *Nature*, 212, 1405 (1966), figure 4 was printed upside down.

ERRATUM. In the first sentence of the third paragraph in the obituary of Dr. Arthur Patterson in *Nature*, 212, 1414 (1966), "increases" should read "decreases".

## CORRESPONDENCE

**What Kinds of Cities?**

SIR,—Your article thus headed seems to me an odd compound of scientific scepticism and unscientific assumption. It rebukes the Greater London Council for neglect of research into what city people like, what they will put up with, and what they might like if they knew about it. Then in the belief, or hope, or hunch (which is it?) that closer packing in flats of 6 to 49 stories would be socially and culturally better, it accuses the G.L.C. of neglecting to consider that form of housing.

But this matter of high versus low housing happens to be one on which there has been the most exhaustive research; innumerable surveys and opinion polls have shown that 85 to 95 per cent of British people dislike flats and want houses with private gardens. The G.L.C. itself admits that London should have built 75 per cent of houses instead of 75 per cent of flats. Even you, without research, sense that London is too big; and I, as a proponent of a policy of decongestion and dispersal and an experimenter in its practicability, snarled at the L.C.C. for 40 years for not pursuing that obviously sensible policy. Even now that the G.L.C. is trying to do so I have to urge it to be speedier and more logical about the job, in co-operation with the Government and other regions. I know it wants to, and I realize the enormous political and technical difficulties.

London is the first great city in the world to set about reducing its population, over-centralization and density. As one of its persistent critics, I resent on its behalf the suggestion that through lack of research it is ignorant of the major social considerations.

Yours faithfully,

FREDERIC J. OSBORN

[Sir Frederic Osborn is Chairman of Council of the Town and Country Planning Association and Vice-President of the International Federation for Housing and Planning.]