

Four of the physics papers, given in the disciplinary section, were geophysical in content, which reflects the fact that perhaps 80 per cent of physics research in the three colleges of the University of East Africa is concerned with investigation of the environment. An Institute of Tropical Geophysics was proposed, as a centre of expertise and a stimulus for the progress of physics in tropical universities. Half of the biological papers given were parasitological, most of them from the East African Trypanosomiasis Research Organization; much research into sleeping sickness, which has long been a barrier to human settlement and farming activities, is in progress. The possibility of using antigenic classification for trypanosomes was discussed in relation to the biological control of the disease in cattle. A survey of trypanosomiasis in the fly-belt region revealed that the area of tsetse fly invasion is increasing, mainly because of the encroachment of game into some stock areas. Another zoological paper described how the breeding seasons of equatorial free-tailed bats coincide with the rainfall peaks of Uganda. Such research is valuable, for at least fourteen different viruses have been isolated from bats at the East African Institute of Virus Research.

Nature by Regions

DURING 1966, 3,387 scientific communications of all kinds were published in *Nature* and the following list shows that these originated in a total of 59 countries. As in previous years, the United Kingdom and the United States each contributed roughly a third of them. The countries of the British Commonwealth and Western Europe were the principal sources of other communications although contributions from Japan and the Soviet Union are a large and growing feature of the journal. It is now some years since there have been communications to *Nature* from the Chinese People's Republic.

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|-----------------|-----|-------------------|-------|
| Argentina | 13 | Korea | 1 |
| Australia | 184 | Lebanon | 1 |
| Austria | 12 | Malaysia | 6 |
| Belgium | 27 | Mexico | 1 |
| Brazil | 5 | Monaco | 1 |
| Bulgaria | 2 | New Zealand | 31 |
| Canada | 112 | Nigeria | 8 |
| Ceylon | 2 | Norway | 26 |
| Chile | 8 | Pakistan | 1 |
| China (Taiwan) | 4 | Philippines (The) | 1 |
| Czechoslovakia | 34 | Poland | 15 |
| Denmark | 13 | Portugal | 3 |
| Egypt | 6 | Rhodesia | 2 |
| Finland | 23 | Romania | 9 |
| France | 41 | South Africa | 38 |
| Gambia, The | 1 | Spain | 12 |
| Germany | 53 | Sweden | 55 |
| Ghana | 5 | Switzerland | 22 |
| Greece | 4 | Sudan | 1 |
| Holland | 64 | Tanzania | 4 |
| Honduras | 1 | Thailand | 2 |
| Hungary | 19 | Turkey | 3 |
| India | 69 | Uganda | 4 |
| Iran | 1 | United Kingdom | 1,140 |
| Ireland (South) | 16 | United States | 1,045 |
| Israel | 26 | Uruguay | 1 |
| Italy | 52 | U.S.S.R. | 55 |
| Jamaica | 2 | Venezuela | 4 |
| Japan | 76 | Yugoslavia | 11 |
| Kenya | 9 | | |

Parliament in Britain

IN reply to questions in the House of Lords on January 23, Baroness Phillips said that outbreaks of disease affecting salmon, sea trout and brown trout had occurred during the past two months in the rivers Conder, Crake, Gilpin and Kent in Lancashire, the River Eden in Cumberland, and the rivers Dee, Annan and Nith in south-west Scotland. The position was sometimes obscured by the natural mortality among spawned fish at this time of year. In a written answer in the House of Commons on January 24, Mr. J. Hoy, joint parliamentary secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, stated that extensive tests at the Waterville fish farm and on fodder fish elsewhere had disclosed no grounds for believing that the farm is responsible for the disease. The cause had not yet been established, but a leading authority in the United States had stated that he had not found among infected salmon in Ireland the particular organism responsible for columnaris disease in open waters and in some fish hatcheries in America: neither had that organism been isolated from stocks of rainbow trout or from fodder fish used in the Waterville fish farm.

IN reply to questions in the House of Commons on January 24, the Minister of Technology, Mr. A. Wedgwood Benn, said that the terms of reference of the Advisory Board on Relations with the Universities, set up with Dr. S. C. Curran as chairman, were "to consider and report on proposals for the formation and development of Institutes of Advanced Technology and to keep under review collaboration between the Ministry of Technology and the universities and other higher educational establishments on projects designed to promote technological progress in industry".

IN written answers on the same day, Mr. Benn stated that in the financial years 1965-66, £365,000 of Government money was committed to the computer industry under the Advanced Computer Techniques Project while the National Research Development Corporation had made a further £1.6 million available. Development since the National Electronics Research Council was set up in July 1964 had profoundly affected the role of the Council which would now become the National Electronics Council under the Ministry of Technology with a more limited interest in research but responsibility for the impact of major developments in electronics on society. It would consider and advise the Government on the application of electronics to national life and, if it saw fit, would take steps to promote research or other actions. The membership of the governing body of the Council would be widened and the Secretariat would be provided by the Ministry of Technology.

IN reply to questions in the House of Commons on January 24, Dr. J. Bray, parliamentary secretary to the Ministry of Technology, said that construction of the Steam Generating Heavy Water Reactor at Winfrith Heath was on schedule and it should be on power this autumn. Government expenditure of £85,000 on whisker technology last year was shared by the Ministry of Aviation, the Atomic Energy Authority and the Science Research Council. The future of the programmes in this expanding field was currently under review and there was room for an increase in the £5,000 at present sponsored with the universities.