most encouraging features of the report is the programme being carried out jointly between WHO and the Indian Government for major sanitary works in the city of Calcutta and the surrounding area. Much more of this type of work is needed, and most of it is needed quickly.

Common Cause

THE Ministry of Technology has announced plans for reversing the brain drain of talented and qualified people from Britain to the United States. Two projects were announced on May 2 by the minister, Mr. Anthony Wedgwood Benn. A firm of management consultants, David Frost and Associates, is to be employed by the ministry to recruit British graduates from American business schools. About 150 British students graduate each year from American business schools, according to the ministry, and only twenty come back to work in Britain; David Frost and Associates have been given £4,000 to improve this situation, and if successful will repay the money out of the fees paid by recruiting companies. The second scheme is being run by a management consultancy organization, Management Selection Group. This is intended to attract experienced British managers, scientists and engineers working in the United States, and will cost £75,000 over a three year period.

These steps will presumably find support in Washington, where on April 30 the administration published a report by the Council on International Educational and Cultural Affairs which concludes that the brain drain is exaggerated, and that no action should be taken by the United States to curb it. The report doubts whether such steps would be efficient, or "in the best traditions of an open society". The intake of 30,039 qualified people to the United States last year was not influenced significantly by Government sponsored student or other exchange programmes, the report concludes, and any drain that does exist is caused by recruitment by industry, universities, hospitals and research institutes. What should the United States do? Support exactly the kind of project which Mr. Benn announced with uncanny timing the very next day, apparently.

Education 1965

THE latest statistics released by the Department of Education and Science cover the 646,000 boys and girls who left school in 1964–65. The number of leavers—17,000 fewer than the previous year—reflects the passing from the scene of the favourite alibi of so many ministers of education, the post-war bulge in births.

The figures show that 46·6 per cent of the pupils at grammar schools attempted some "A" levels, against 8·8 per cent of those at comprehensive schools, and a staggeringly low proportion, only 0·4 per cent, of those at secondary modern schools. In each category the proportion gaining two passes was about the same. As for universities, the direct grant schools were the most successful; 37·2 per cent of their pupils went on to university. Public schools—nicely described as "independent schools recognized as efficient" got just over a quarter of their pupils into universities, and still send a much higher proportion of them to Oxford and Cambridge than do other types of school. One-third of the pupils from public schools who gained university places went to Oxford or Cambridge, against one-twelfth of those from maintained grammar schools and one-fifteenth of those from comprehensive schools.

The statistics also include for the first time information about university students and staff. In October 1966 the full time student population (undergraduates and graduates) in Great Britain was 183,900, somewhat less than the figure of 187,000 estimated by the Robbins Committee. The number of new entrants to universities is now double what it was ten years ago, and 29 per cent of the entrants were women. Women seem to start younger—56 per cent of them were 18 or younger the year they started, compared with 44·5 per cent of the men. Of the new entrants to the universities in 1965–66, 27 per cent were reading pure science, 18·3 per cent engineering, technology and applied science, and 1·6 per cent agriculture, forestry and veterinary science. This compares with 22·1 per cent who were reading social, administrative and business studies, and 20·4 per cent reading arts subjects.

Research Run Riot

MUCH may well be right with the British research and development effort, but Sir Arnold Hall believes that something is amiss when at £1,000 million per annum the United Kingdom invests a greater proportion of its GNP than any other country in Europe yet has one of the lowest economic growth rates. Speaking at the annual luncheon of the Electrical Research Association as chairman of Hawker Siddeley, president of the British Electrical and Allied Manufacturers Association, a former university professor and a former director of a research laboratory, Sir Arnold was not merely doing lip service to the problems involved. He estimated that more than 40 per cent of the country's research and development is done by industry, less than 40 per cent by government establishments and about 10 per cent by the universities. The nonsensical situation had been reached where research and development had reached a new high value at a time when industrial investment was dropping. To his mind there is too much "climbing on the band-wagon of the great" which leads to support of mediocrity. Much more research and development should be seen as industrial investment, and too much scientific and technological manpower, he thinks, is employed in government service. The time has arrived for industry to employ more scientists and technologists in its ranks. To do this it should seek means to employ more of them, and it is his contention that the Government should take more positive steps to release some of them.

Plants, Animals and Man

A SYMPOSIUM on the Systematics of Cultivated Plants and Domesticated Animals was held in Edinburgh on April 12–13 by the Systematics Association. The topic has perennial interest which has recently been given impetus by the needs of archaeology and immunochemistry.

Archaeology has greatly helped our understanding of the earlier phases of the Neolithic Revolution in the Middle East about 9000 B.C. (and the independent