

haematology, metabolism and endocrinology, and pregnancy and congenital deformities.

In November 1965, the government increased the council's grant for general research by £10,000 a year, bringing it to £72,000 a year. The increase was, however, more than absorbed by salary increases, so that the council reports that the range of its activities is more or less at a standstill. Other grants from unspecified sources and a grant from the government for specific projects brought the total amount of money administered by the council in 1966 to £106,650.

## Parliament in Britain

### Foot and Mouth

LORD BESWICK said that the setting up of a committee of inquiry into control policy for foot and mouth disease was being considered as a matter of urgency. The appointment of the chairman might be announced in the fairly near future. Although the precise terms of reference had not yet been decided, they were likely to be similar to those given to the Gowers Committee: "To review the policy arrangements for dealing with foot and mouth in Great Britain and to advise whether any changes should be made in the light of present scientific knowledge and the technical and administrative experience gained in recent years in this and other countries". The experience of those employed in the present outbreak would best be made available as witnesses rather than as members of the committee. (Debate, House of Lords, February 5.)

### Dungeness B

THE parliamentary secretary to the Ministry of Power, Mr R. Freeson, stated that the estimated base-load generating cost (including capital charges and operating costs) of the Dungeness B nuclear power station had increased by about 25 per cent since July 1965.

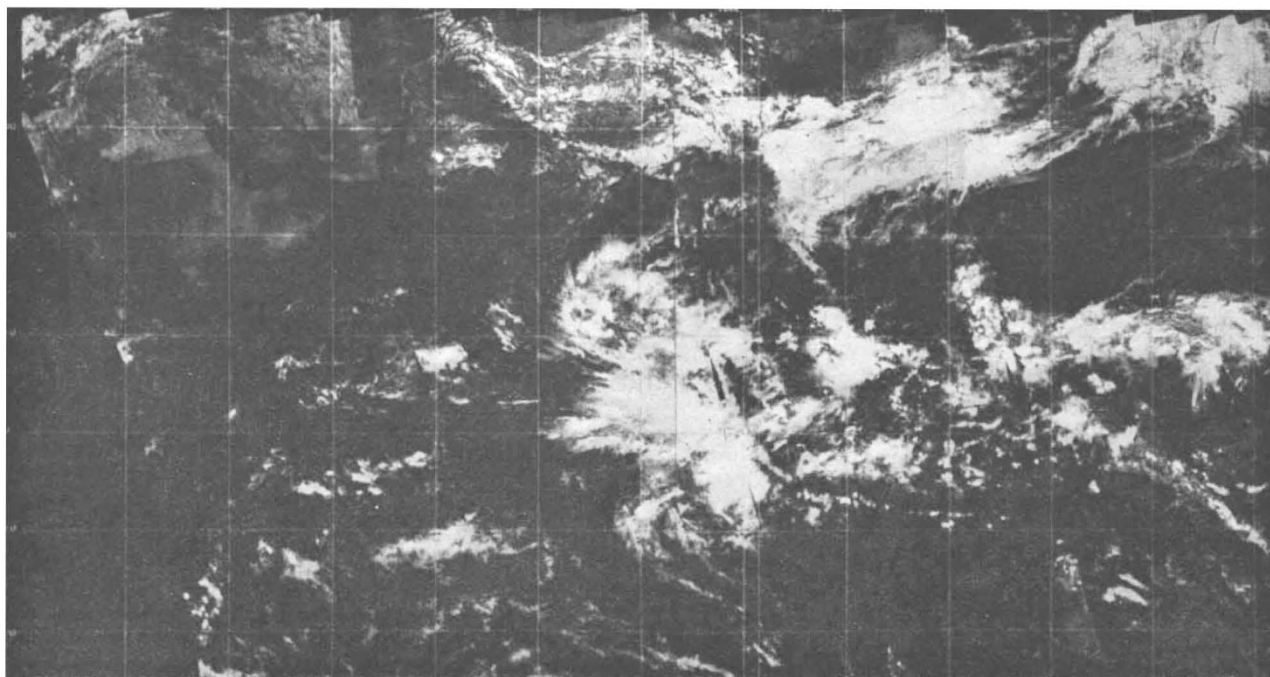
The Central Electricity Generating Board advised that 8 per cent of this was due to increase in price levels, including the effects of devaluation, changes in ground rules and use of the same rate for interest during construction, 3 per cent to the inclusion of royalty payable to the Atomic Energy Authority, and 7 per cent to other causes. The station was expected to begin operating in 1970. (Written answer, February 6.)

### Satellite Motors

IN answers in the House of Commons on February 5, the Minister of State, Ministry of Technology, Mr J. Stonehouse, stated that the first experimental model of an electrical thruster had been made at the Royal Aircraft Establishment and preliminary testing would start shortly. Initial research was being carried out on very low thrust electrical units suitable for maintaining the orientation of a satellite in orbit. A development programme on this initial research work came within a wider programme costing £3 million a year. (Written answer, February 5.)

### Insects

A LIST of current research projects into the biological control of insect pests to which the Department of Education and Science was giving assistance was given by Mr P. Gordon Walker, Secretary of State for Education and Science. The institutions receiving assistance are: Glasshouse Crops Research Institute; Pest Infestation Laboratory; National Vegetable Research Station; Rothamsted Experimental Station; Virus Research Unit; Agricultural Research Council, Monkswood Experimental Station; Department of Zoology, Cambridge University; Department of Zoology and Applied Entomology, Imperial College of Science and Technology; Department of Agriculture, Leeds University; Haughley Research Farm; and Insect Pathology Unit. (Written answer, February 6.)



A mosaic of cloud pictures on Mercator's projection, produced by computer from ESSA 3 satellite photographs.