

University News:

Glasgow

DR JOHN H. SUBAK-SHARPE, at present a member of the staff of the MRC Experimental Virus Research Unit in the Institute of Virology at Glasgow, has been appointed to the chair of virology in succession to Professor M. G. P. Stoker, who has been appointed to the directorship of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund Laboratories in London. Dr Subak-Sharpe will also succeed Professor Stoker as honorary director of the Experimental Virus Research Unit.

London

MR R. G. BURWELL, senior registrar at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, has been appointed to the chair of orthopaedics tenable at the Institute of Orthopaedics.

Newcastle upon Tyne

DR D. H. WHIFFEN, at present superintendent of the Division of Molecular Science in the National Physical Laboratory, has been appointed to the chair of physical chemistry.

Appointments

THE Royal Society has made its ninth appointment to a Royal Society research professorship and the holder of this appointment is Professor H. C. Longuet-Higgins, honorary professor in the Department of Machine Intelligence and Perception, University of Edinburgh, and until 1967 John Humphrey Plummer professor of theoretical chemistry in the University of Cambridge. Professor Longuet-Higgins will take up his appointment on April 1 and will work at the University of Edinburgh.

Announcements

THE Scientific Medal of the Zoological Society of London has been awarded to the following in recognition of their distinguished work in zoology: Dr J. B. Gardon, Department of Zoology, University Museum, Oxford, for his work on nuclear transplantation; Dr J. E. Treherne, Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge, for his work on insect physiology, particularly the absorption of nutrients; Professor L. Wolpert, Middlesex Hospital Medical School, London, for his work on cell biology and embryology.

THE Institution of Mechanical Engineers has awarded the James Clayton Prize jointly to Professor F. T. Barwell of the Mechanical Engineering Department, University College, Swansea, and Mr Frank Nixon, chief consultant at Rolls-Royce Ltd., Derby.

THE following addendum has been sent by Dr Kenneth S. Warren and refers to the article "Cercariae of *Schistosoma mansoni* and Plants: attempt to penetrate *Phaseolus vulgaris* and *Hedychium coronarium* produces a Cercaricido", which appears on page 647 of this issue: Recently it was noted that cercariae are attracted to only certain varieties of green string beans. Although there were no obvious differences among the beans tested, this phenomenon is under investigation.

ERRATUM. In the communication "Solar Oblateness and the Perihelion Advances of Planets" by J. J. Gilvarry and P. A. Sturrock (*Nature*, 216, 1283; 1967) the third paragraph on page 1284 should begin: "Because the accuracies in the determinations of the perihelion advances of Venus and the Earth are inadequate for the purpose, the only natural planet that could be conjoined with Mercury for a test equation (1) is the asteroid (1566) Icarus". For this minor planet, the advance of the perihelion predicted by general relativity is 10.1 sec/century, exceeding that of any planet except Mercury, and the advance arising from solar oblateness would be 15.7 sec/

century . . .". The sixth line of the second paragraph on page 1285 should read "with no observational disagreement", and not "with an observational disagreement". In the sixteenth line of the fourth paragraph on page 1285 reference 11, not reference 8, should be mentioned, and reference 16 should be inserted at the end of the following paragraph. This article was received on September 12, 1967, and not revised as indicated. The following note was added in proof: It has been pointed out recently by J. Ashbrook (*Sky and Telescope*, 34, 229; 1967) that the results of Dicke and Goldenberg differ sharply with the careful observations of W. Schur and L. Ambronn by means of a heliometer over the period 1891-1902 (essentially a sunspot cycle) implying only an insignificant solar oblateness. Their values are less than one-hundredth, at most, of that reported by Dicke and Goldenberg. In reply, the latter value is defended by Dicke (*Sky and Telescope*, 34, 371; 1967) as based on a differential measurement between the limbs, rather than on a visual measurement from limb to limb.

ERRATUM. In the communication "Imidazole and Sequestration of Calcium Ions by Sarcoplasmic Reticulum" by B. P. Yu, E. J. Masoro and F. D. DeMartinis (*Nature*, 216, 822; 1967) the figures were wrongly numbered. The legend of Fig. 4 should accompany the graph of Fig. 5, the legend of Fig. 3 should accompany the graph of Fig. 4, and the legend of Fig. 5 should accompany the graph of Fig. 3. (A previous erratum to this communication should be ignored.)

ERRATUM. In the communication "Transducing Phage for *Pseudomonas putida*" by B. W. Holloway and P. van de Putte (*Nature*, 217, 459; 1968) the phage PMBL-4B1 was incorrectly described as PMBL-4B1.

CORRIGENDUM. In the communication "Mechanism of Olfactory Transduction" by Barnett Rosenberg, T. N. Misra and Robert Switzer (*Nature*, 217, 423; 1968) the sentence beginning on line 23 of the right hand column of page 426 should read: "In the dark, the conductivity of crystalline chlorophylls was again higher, and the adsorbed gas could be easily desorbed. This process of irradiation and desorption could be repeated a few times, with diminishing effects, until it almost disappeared".

CORRIGENDUM. In the communication "Instability of Amitriptyline Base" by C. R. Henwood (*Nature*, 216, 1039; 1967) Fig. 1b was incorrectly drawn. The carbonyl group should be attached to the ortho positions of the benzene rings as in Fig. 1a.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mink in the Wild

SIR,—In the issue of *Nature* of January 6 (217, 9; 1968), you published an interesting note on "Mink in the Wild".

Apart from a disagreement with the Ministry of Agriculture about the significance of the damage which "escaped" mink do, I want to point out a misunderstanding concerning the reproduction. On p. 10 it is mentioned that "The young are born in March . . .". This is completely wrong. The mink has its breeding season in March. The length of gestation period is on average 49 days, that is the young are born at the beginning of May, ranging from late April to middle of May.

Yours sincerely,

O. VENCK
prof. dr. agro.

The Royal Veterinary and
Agricultural College,
Department of Animal Genetics
and Animal Breeding,
Copenhagen V, Denmark.