

member. The Central Engineering Establishment, on the other hand, was the responsibility of the board member for production. It was set up in 1953 for the development and testing of new machinery. In 1962, a change in departmental responsibilities was made which brought both establishments under the director-general of production, with the intention of co-ordinating all research and development in the mining field. The present director-general is Mr N. Siddall.

According to the new plan, staff at Isleworth will be moved to the establishment at Bretby, which will in future be known as the National Coal Board Mining Research and Development Establishment. There are some 685 staff members at Bretby and 310 at Isleworth. Starting in about six months time, members of the two hundred scientific staff at Isleworth will be asked to transfer, although it is, of course, realized that some may in fact be unwilling to leave the area. Clerical and industrial staff will not be asked to move, but the board says that efforts will be made to find alternative employment for them. The move is expected to be completed by the end of 1970.

The first step towards unification in 1969 will be the introduction of a single planned programme for research and development instead of one for each subject. Work being undertaken in each establishment will be combined in a number of main divisions incorporating mining techniques, mechanical engineering, coal preparation, design and construction, electrical engineering, testing, physics and administration.

Move for Insect Physiology

THE Agricultural Research Council has agreed to finance a new group to study insect physiology at the Imperial College research station at Silwood, near Ascot. The group has been set up as a direct consequence of the dissolution of the ARC Unit of Insect Physiology at Cambridge, on the retirement of Professor Sir Vincent Wigglesworth, its director.

The new unit has been set up within the department of zoology and applied entomology of Imperial College, which is headed by Professor T. R. E. Southwood. It is to be led by two former members of the Cambridge unit, Dr J. S. Kennedy and Dr A. D. Lees. Dr Kennedy, who has been appointed professor of animal behaviour by the University of London, is now at Silwood Park working on the organization of the new unit, and Dr Lees will be joining him very soon. They will have a supporting staff of five and newly equipped laboratories for research on insect photoperiodism and behaviour.

Professor Kennedy and Dr Lees, who have been appointed honorary lecturers at Imperial College, have had extensive experience in insect physiology and behaviour. Before Professor Kennedy joined the ARC unit in Cambridge in 1946, he had worked on locust behaviour in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan and the Middle East, and on mosquito behaviour at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and at the Wellcome Entomological Field Laboratories in Esher. He also spent a year at the Malaria Research Laboratory, Tirana, Albania. His work contributed much to the understanding of insect migration, host selection and behaviour. Dr Lees joined the ARC unit shortly after its inception and moved with it to Cambridge in

1945. His work on arthropod physiology has included in particular study of the cuticle and water relations of ticks and mites, diapause and polymorphism and photoperiodism in aphids.

Field Studies

MANY former students must have pleasant memories of field courses at one or more of the centres of the Field Studies Council. Dr J. D. Carthy, the scientific director of the council, points out, however, in the council's annual report just published, that the teaching at the centres is not restricted to sixth-form classes, students and teachers. It was mainly for the amateur naturalist that the council was originally founded, and the council hopes for increasing interest from this group of persons. The interest of the general public was shown by the enthusiastic reception for the lectures to holiday-makers in the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park during the past two summers.

Much was done in the past year to establish the two new field centres in North Wales and Somerset. The first students arrived at the Drapers' Field Centre in Caernarvonshire to attend courses at the beginning of August last year, but the centre will not be formally opened until this month. Courses began at the other new centre, the Leonard Wills Field Centre at Nettlecombe Court, Taunton, at the end of February, although in the year under report building work was still in progress there.

Plans are also being made for the erection of the long awaited biological laboratory at the Dale Fort



Nettlecombe Court and the thirteenth century church
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Field Centre within the next twelve months, and the council is also negotiating for the freehold of the Preston Montford Estate as a prelude to long-term improvements at that centre.

The total number of student weeks at eight out of the nine centres taking students last year was again a record—12,538—but, without those at the Drapers' Field Centre, there was a slight fall in numbers attending the other centres. This reduction may have been a result of the cancellation of bookings, often at such a late stage that it was impossible to fill the vacant places.

The main function of the centres is the teaching of the various aspects of the environment, but some long-