

The future of the museum which the Royal Institution of South Wales is best known for is not entirely clear from the resolution accepted by the membership in July, but it does appear that there will be a joint management committee and that the university may in due course appoint a director. Like many similar institutions, the Swansea museum has suffered since the Second World War from the discovery that its once handsome endowment is now hardly sufficient to pay for electric light and heating. In successive attempts at modernization, the museum has indeed been made to seem less interesting. The banishment of the stuffed elephant that used to guard the doorway was no doubt an acknowledgment of the need for modernization, but it seems not to have been followed by a hardheaded appraisal of what the function of a museum might be in a modern industrial city.

WATER RESOURCES

**Water for Wales**

THE control of water resources in Wales is still too fragmented in spite of some recent reorganization, and the authorities involved take too narrow a view of their responsibilities, according to the Welsh Council. In its advice to the Secretary of State for Wales (*Report on Water in Wales*, available from the Welsh Council, Cardiff), the council complains, for example, that the river authorities lack positive powers to advance the wellbeing of areas in which reservoirs are built. A more coordinated approach could be taken instead by a new body, a Water Development Authority for Wales, which should have wider responsibilities than the existing river authorities and the Water Resources Board to build and regulate reservoirs and to develop their use for recreation. The authority could be financed, the council suggests, by levies on water supplied to the various water undertakings, and, being a commercial organization, it should be able to deal more satisfactorily with the often tricky negotiations for compensation for land acquired for reservoirs.

The council does not consider desalination a practical alternative to conservation and storage of river water, but points out the advantages of estuary storage schemes which, it believes, are less likely to raise objections in Wales than are upland reservoirs. It asks for the early completion of studies on the feasibility of the Dee Estuary for water storage, and also for the initiation of a study into possible storage schemes in the Severn Estuary and elsewhere. The council points out, however, that estuary storage is unlikely to make a contribution until the end of the 1970s, and even then, some upland reservoirs will still be needed.

Reservoirs in rural areas in Wales could, the council says, be made profitable to the communities if they were properly developed for recreation. The council also emphasizes the need for careful siting of buildings, and it comments that some of the reservoirs recently built in Wales might have fitted more satisfactorily into their surroundings if the dams had not been of stark white concrete.

The government will now consider this report alongside the forthcoming regional study from the Water Resources Board and reports which are due from the Central Advisory Water Committee and from the Sports Council.

ANIMAL HEALTH

**Cows Not Well**

THE first incidence of acariasis in bees was reported in Romania last year, and colibacillosis of pigs was confirmed in Fiji. Camels in Somalia were suspected to have anaplasmosis, but bluetongue was no longer recorded in India. Once more the health of the world's animals has been analysed, tabulated and published by the Food and Agriculture Organization as the *Animal Health Yearbook*. The information about foot and mouth disease shown here is part of a more comprehensive table depicting the incidence of the disease in Europe, together with each country's vaccination policy. From South America, a success story is recorded in Argentina, where vaccination has contributed to the establishment of the area south of parallel 42 as a disease free zone. Less happily, throughout the continent last year several new sub-types of foot and mouth virus were reported.

OUTBREAKS OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN EUROPE IN 1969

|                                | Outbreaks in |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | Vaccination |    |    |   |   |
|--------------------------------|--------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-------------|----|----|---|---|
|                                | J            | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D | Total       | CP | CO | V | P |
| United Kingdom (Great Britain) |              |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 0           |    |    |   | + |
| United Kingdom (N. Ireland)    |              |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 0           |    |    |   | + |
| Iceland                        |              |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 0           |    |    |   |   |
| Denmark                        |              |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 8           |    | +  |   |   |
| Norway                         |              |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 0           |    |    |   | + |
| Sweden                         |              |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 0           |    |    |   | + |
| Finland                        |              |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 0           |    |    |   | + |
| Netherlands                    |              |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 0           | +  | +  |   |   |
| Belgium                        |              |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 3           | +  | +  |   |   |
| Luxembourg                     |              |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 0           | +  | +  | + |   |
| France                         | +            | + | + | + | + |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 35          | +  | +  | + |   |
| Fed. Rep. Germany              |              |   | + |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 12          | +  | +  |   |   |
| Switzerland                    |              |   |   |   | + |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 1           | +  | +  |   |   |
| Austria*                       |              |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 0           |    |    |   | + |
| Italy                          | +            | + | + | + |   | + |   |   |   | + | + | + | 132         | +  | +  | + | + |
| Malta                          |              |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 0           |    |    |   | + |
| Spain                          | +            | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | 522         | +  | +  | + | + |
| Portugal                       | +            | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | 160         | +  | +  | + | + |
| USSR                           | +            | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | 473         | +  | +  | + | + |
| Poland                         |              |   |   | + | + | + |   |   |   |   |   |   | 6           |    |    |   |   |
| German Dem. Rep.               |              |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 4           | +  | +  |   |   |
| Czechoslovakia                 | +            | + |   |   |   | + |   |   | + |   |   |   | 7           | +  | +  |   |   |
| Hungary                        |              |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 0           | +  |    |   |   |
| Romania                        | +            |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 6           |    | +  |   |   |
| Bulgaria                       |              |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 0           |    |    |   | + |
| Yugoslavia                     |              |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 0           |    |    |   |   |
| Albania                        |              |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 0           |    |    |   |   |
| Greece                         | +            | + | + |   |   |   |   | + | + | + | + | + | 111         |    |    | + |   |
| Turkey                         | +            | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | 1,654       | +  | +  | + | + |
| Cyprus                         |              |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 0           |    |    |   |   |
| Israel                         | +            | + | + |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 24          |    |    |   |   |

Vaccination may be CP, compulsory periodically; CO, compulsory in outbreak areas; V, voluntary; and P, prohibited.  
\* In Austria vaccination is prohibited unless officially ordered.

HUMAN ECOLOGY

**Man under the Microscope**

MAN'S relationship with his environment, in all its multidisciplinary glory, has been taken under the wing of the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council (CHEC), which was set up officially last November. It has come into the limelight with the announcement of plans for a Commonwealth conference on development and human ecology. Joint sponsorship of this conference, to be held in Malta next October, is the first major project of the council, which has the ambitious aim of seeking ways to encourage Commonwealth governments to avoid the mistakes of the past when planning future developments—agricultural, medical, economic or whatever.

This wide ranging aim is reflected in the composition of the executive committee, which includes Dr E. B. Worthington of the International Biological Pro-