

his latest roses. To the present young generation Bragg was an avuncular figure who showed them that science can be fun. At the Royal Institution he instituted a series of physics lectures for sixth formers, making use of the institution's excellent experimental facilities to bring home the laws of optics, electricity and magnetism. These lectures were attended by 22,000 London school children each year. He also gave a remarkable series of television broadcasts on the properties of matter which brought him popular fame. He was intrigued when the greengrocer woman in Soho told him that he was "the spitting image of a man she saw on the telly last night" and modestly signed the bill for her to keep as a souvenir. Bragg's superb powers of combining simplicity with rigour, his enthusiasm, liveliness

and charm of manner, and his beautiful demonstrations all conspired to make him one of the best lecturers on science that ever lived. Yet few realized the formidable intellect that lay behind his genial façade or the decisive and revolutionary contributions to several fields of science for which he had been directly or indirectly responsible. His scientific papers still stand out as models of lucidity and conciseness. They generally contain little mathematics but are based on elegant physical and geometric arguments. His book on *The Crystalline State* once opened a new world to me and remains one of the best elementary introductions to X-ray crystallography.

Most X-ray crystallographers all over the world are "descended" from his or his father's pupils. He regarded them as one family and took the first steps in founding

the International Union of Crystallography soon after the end of the Second World War. J. C. Kendrew's and my own early attempts at protein crystallography could not have been sustained throughout the many lean years without his support, and our small group at the Cavendish Laboratory in Cambridge became the nucleus from which the present MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology later developed. Several other schools, including H. Lipson's at Manchester and W. Cochran's at Edinburgh, are offshoots of his group at the Cavendish. D. C. Phillips's flourishing Molecular Biophysics Laboratory at Oxford stems from the small protein crystallography group which Bragg brought together at the Royal Institution in the 1950s. We all owe him a great debt.

M. F. PERUTZ

## British Diary

### Tuesday, September 7

**Computers for Analysis and Control in Medical and Biological Research** (three-day conference) Institution of Electrical Engineers, in association with the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications, the Institution of Electronic and Radio Engineers, the Biological Engineering Society and the British Computer Society, at the University of Sheffield.

**Displays** (four-day conference) Institution of Electrical Engineers; and the Institution of Electronic and Radio Engineers, at the University of Technology, Loughborough.

**Human Locomotor Engineering** (four-day conference) Institution of Mechanical Engineers, at the University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton, Sussex.

### Thursday, September 9

**Electrical Plasmas as Free-Atom Generators, and Reservoirs for Analytical Atomic-Absorption, Emission and Fluorescent Spectroscopy** (2.30 p.m.) Professor V. A. Fassel, Society for Analytical Chemistry, Midlands Region, at Henry Wiggin and Co., Ltd, Holmer Road, Hereford.

### Sunday, September 12

**Cell Nucleus** (Third Harden Conference, six days) Biochemical Society in collaboration with the Biological Council, at Wye College, Ashford, Kent.

### Monday, September 13

**Fundamentals of Software for Computer Engineers** (vacation school, thirteen days) Institution of Electrical Engineers, in association with the Institution of Electronic and Radio Engineers, at the University of Manchester.

**Surface Chemistry of Oxides** (three-day discussion) Faraday Society, in the Chemistry Department, Brunel University, Uxbridge, Middlesex.

## Reports and Publications

not included in the Monthly Books Supplement

### Great Britain and Ireland

West of Scotland Agricultural College, Grassland Husbandry Department. *Experimental Records*. No. 22: Comparison of Productivity of Eight Varieties of Cocksfoot. By I. V. Hunt, J. Frame and R. D. Harkess. Pp. 16. No. 23: Varietal Productivity. Meadow Fescue, Series II. By I. V. Hunt, J. Frame and R. D. Harkess. Pp. 15. No. 24: Comparison of Productivity of Varieties of Tall Fescue. By J. Frame, R. D. Harkess and I. B. Hunt. Pp. 45. No. 25: Comparison of Productivity of Varieties of Timothy. By I. V. Hunt, J. Frame and R. D. Harkess. Pp. 38. (Auchincruive, Ayr: West of Scotland Agricultural College, 1971.) [26]

The Prospects for a European Security Conference. By Michael Palmer. (European Series, No. 18.). Pp. 107. (London: Chatham House and PEP, 1971.) £1. [36]

The Birds of Exmoor. By N. V. Allen. Pp. 644+14 plates. (Dulverton, Somerset: The Exmoor Press, 1971.) 50p. [36]

Department of Health and Social Security. Buildings for Mentally Handicapped People. Pp. 99. (London: HMSO, 1971.) £2. [36]

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