

which ran to 14 editions. In more recent years, he was one of the first to introduce automation into clinical biochemical analysis in this country.

Dodds own research reached its highest point in the discovery of the highly potent artificial oestrogenic hormone, diethyl stilboestrol and its relatives. With Wilfrid Lawson, he explored the weak activity which they had detected in a range of simple non-steroidal compounds, until they found a highly active by-product arising in the demethylation of the simple phenolic ether anethole. They discovered the structure and synthesis of the compound, in work with Sir Robert Robinson, in 1938. Stilboestrol was even more active than the natural hormone, could be manufactured in quantity, and was effective when given orally. In addition to its value in gynaecology, it proved, following the lead of Charles Huggins, to be the first oral drug to be able to control a form of cancer—carcinoma of the prostate—even when the disease was disseminated.

The honours and decorations conferred on Dodds over the years occupy a whole column of Who's Who, but among these were his Knighthood in 1954 and Baronetcy 1964. He was elected FRSE, 1941; FRS 1942 (Vice-President 1957-9); FRCP 1933 (Harveian Librarian later) and President of the Royal College of Physicians in 1962—unique for a professor of biochemistry to be so honoured. He held honorary degrees from universities all over the world, was widely travelled and had lectured—though this did not come easily to him—in many countries. He succeeded Lord Horder as Chairman of the Scientific Committee of the Cancer Research Campaign; an excellent chairman, he was in constant demand in this capacity, serving on numerous Government and other scientific committees. His medical school owes to him the revolutionary reorganisation of the teaching of biochemistry, and of chemistry, which he insisted should be integrated subject; he built up a devoted staff of gifted teachers.

Though somewhat shy by nature, he was never aloof with his colleagues, always ready to discuss their problems, tempering his shrewd advice with a nice touch of humour. It delighted him when he became Master of the Society of Apothecaries in 1947-9, and nothing pleased him better than entertaining his many friends to good food and good wine, on which he was something of an authority.

His marriage in 1923 to Constance Elizabeth Jordan of Darlington was a happy one and he never seemed to his close friends quite to recover from her death in 1969. Their only son Ralph succeeds to the baronetcy.

## Announcements

### Corrigendum

IN the article "Heavy ion transfer reactions in nuclear astrophysical processes" by T. W. Conlon (*Nature*, **247**, 268; 1974) the third paragraph from the end should read as follows. "A study of the  $\alpha$ -transfer reaction  $^{12}\text{C}(^{16}\text{O},^{20}\text{Ne})^8\text{Be}$  at energies in the region of the Coulomb barrier has been made possible by the development of a particle identification system based on position-sensitive counters mounted in the focal plane of a Buechner spectrograph. Preliminary results indicate that significant amounts of  $^{20}\text{Ne}$  are produced with respect to  $^{24}\text{Mg}$ , which results from the principal compound nucleus channel (Table 2)."

In the same article, the following corrections should have been made; para. 1, line 12 should read "corresponds to the transfer of an  $\alpha$  particle, . . ."; para. 10, line 5, "available for later evolutionary . . ." and the last column in Table 1 should be " $Q$  optimum (MeV) corresponding to ( $E_{\text{min}}$  to  $E_{\text{max}}$ )".

### International meetings

May 14, **Our Environment—Museum or Habitat?** (Lisa Strange, The Ship and Boatbuilders' National Federation, 31 Great Queen Street, Kingsway, London WC2B 5AD)

May 15, **The Possible Role of Anti-Tumour Immunity in Radiotherapy** (The General Secretary, British Institute of Radiology, 32 Welbeck Street, London W1M 7PG)

May 16, **Friction, Wear and Lubrication** (The Meetings Officer, The Institute of Physics, 47 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8QX)

May 19-22, **Second International Banff Conference: Man and His Environment** (Miss E. M. Buchanan, Conference Supervisor, Division of Continuing Education, The University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta T2N 1N4)

May 20-23, **The Impact of Offshore Oil Operations** (Mrs Jill de Wardener, The Institute of Petroleum, 61 New Cavendish Street, London W1M 8AR)

May 20-23, **5th National Convention of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute** (Professor B. J. Ralph, School of Biological Technology, University of New South Wales, P.O. Box 1, Kensington N.S.W. 2033, Australia)

May 20-24, **2nd International Symposium on Biotelemetry** (ETHZ Turnen and Sport, Labor. für Biomechanik, Plattenstrasse 26, CH-8032 Zürich, Switzerland)

May 20-25, **7th World Congress on Occupational Safety and Health** (World Congress Secretary, Ansley House, Dublin 4, Ireland)

May 21-23, **Rubber Processing 1974** (Martin J. Quinlan, Publications Officer, The Institution of the Rubber Industry, 4 Kensington Palace Gardens, London W8 4QR)

May 21-24, **The Science and Technology of Powders and Fine Particle Systems** (Institute for Fine Particles Research, Summer School, 1974, Laurentian University, Sudbury, Ontario, Canada P3E 2C6)

May 22-24, **Workshop/Symposium on Compliance with Therapeutic Regimens** (David L. Sackett, Room 3H2, McMaster University Medical Centre, 1200 Main Street West, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8S 4J9)

May 23, **Structure and Function of Intracellular Junctions** (R. C. Hughes, National Institute for Medical Research, Mill Hill, London NW7 1AA)

May 24, **The Future of the Polytechnics** (The Secretary and Registrar, The Institute of Mathematics and its Applications, Maitland House, Warrior Square, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 2JY, UK)

May 29-31, **28th Annual Symposium on Frequency Control** (Commander, US Army Electronics Command, Attention: AMSEL-TL-MF, (J. R. Vig), Fort Monmouth, New Jersey 07703)

May 29-31, **26th Annual Brookhaven Symposium in Biology: Processing of RNA** (John J. Dunn, Biology Department, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, New York 11973)

May 29-June 1, **Electronic Properties of Oxides: Applications and Science** (Professor R. W. Vest, School of Materials Engineering, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana 47907)

May 29-June 2, **5th International Congress of Cytology** (Alexander Meisels, Secretary General, 5th International Congress of Cytology, 1050, Chemin Ste. Foy, Quebec 6, PQ, Canada)

May 31-June 1, **International Symposium on Jaundice** (Gordon Awade, Executive Director, The Canadian Hepatic Foundation, 65 Queen Street West, Toronto, Ontario, Canada)