

40-page pamphlet enlarging on the lessons was sent to all interested television viewers. This pamphlet contains a series of simple problems printed on detachable pages, to be sent back when solved to the Institut Pédagogique National.

This project, the first of its kind in Europe, seems to have achieved considerable success.

The correspondence received by the Institute Pédagogique National has beaten all records. The first transmissions produced more than 2,000 letters

from viewers, and more than 12,000 pamphlets have now been sent out.

Certain industrial firms have organized viewing facilities for their technical personnel, with an instructor present. Twelve copies of each film have already been ordered for various schools. The University of Montpellier intends to use them on the occasion of the Journées Nucléaires during March 1962. Translations are already being requested from foreign countries.

J. DEBIÈSSE

RUDOLPH VIRCHOW MEDICAL SOCIETY

THE one-hundredth anniversary of the Rudolf Virchow Medical Society of New York was marked by special celebrations. In his presidential address*, Prof. Joseph Berberich described how the original Society, Deutscher Medizinischer Leseverein von New York, was founded in December 1860 by a small group of German physicians, some of whom had left their Fatherland after the Revolution of 1848. They wanted that freedom of expression for the same reason that led the patron of the Society, Rudolf Virchow, to emigrate at the same time from Berlin to the relatively free and open-minded University of Würzburg in Bavaria.

They lived mostly in the German quarters and met twice a month for the reading of papers and discussion. The rules of the Society were very strict, with Prussian discipline. If someone was absent from a meeting he was penalized 25 cents. A number of German medical journals were read and exchanged among the members. By 1888 the number of members increased to 177, and the name was changed to the German Medical Society in the City of New York. The reputation of the Society grew, and many outstanding physicians from Germany and Austria came to lecture to the Society. Men like E. von Leyden, Robert Koch, P. Ehrlich, F. von Exmarch, Friederich von Müller, F. Sauerbruch, H. Strauss, Pasteur, Victor Schmieden, Killian and others read papers more or less as ambassadors of the European, and particularly of German, medicine, which was then at its highest level.

* *Proceedings of the Rudolf Virchow Medical Society in the City of New York*, 19, 1960. Edited by Hans E. Bejach, Hans Lehfeldt and George Schreiber. Pp. vi+246. (Basle and New York: S. Karger, 1961.) 31 Swiss francs.

A second and influential impulse came after the First World War. The lost war and economic disaster made living difficult for many physicians in Germany. A great number left Germany for the United States. Those who stayed in New York found refuge in the Society. At the time it was not difficult for the newcomers to mix with the native physicians, since many American doctors were trained in Germany and Austria and were well versed in the German language.

Medical life after the First World War became more stimulating. With enormous financial backing the United States was soon a leading nation in the field of medicine. The gathering of political clouds in Europe in the beginning of the 'thirties cast a shadow on the Society. Political friction started among members and a number of them resigned. The exodus of a misled group of fanatics did no permanent harm. On June 10, 1939, the name was changed to the Rudolf Virchow Medical Society in the City of New York.

Almost at the same time (1938-39) came the third and greatest influx of German and Middle-European physicians to the United States. This wave of medical emigrants brought not only their own patients but also a good medical training and considerable experience. Members of the Society did fundamental research in nerve electrophysiology, in the development of insulin shock, electro-shock or electroencephalography, the cure of tuberculosis with new chemicals, treatment of nephrosis, histopathology of mental diseases, introduction of wetting agents into dermatology, the tuberculin patch test, noradrenalin in hypertension, mercury as a diureticum, diagnostic X-ray methods such as arteriography and venography, and myelography.

CENSUS OF SOVIET ZOOLOGISTS

THE Zoological Institute of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences published, in the form of a small book*, a list of Soviet zoologists, based on replies to a questionnaire sent out in 1958 to all universities, research institutes and organizations employing pure and applied zoologists. Although the editors complain that many zoologists did not fill in the returns, the list comprises 2,738 (not 2,800 as stated in the preface) entries. It is arranged in alphabetical order of surnames and for each person his full name (both in Russian and in Latin characters), date of birth, present post, official and private address, and his speciality are given.

* *Zoologists of the Soviet Union*, Pp. 299. (Moscow-Leningrad, 1961).

A classification by specialists at the end of the book is of interest, providing some indication of the present trends in Soviet zoology. The largest group (509) is that of parasitologists; this may reflect the fact that the director of the Zoological Institute, Academician E. N. Pavlovsky, has devoted many years to developing this particular branch of zoology. It is closely followed by entomologists, of which there are 506; but, unfortunately, there is no separate heading for economic entomologists, who appear to be a majority, nor for insect ecologists. Other mainly applied zoologists include hydrobiologists (272); medical zoologists (140); zoologists working on commercial hunting, wildfowling, etc. (125); agricultural zoologists (2 only); bee specialists (13);

students of domestic animals (33 and 4 more under the heading of animal husbandry); conservationists (2); zoology teachers (37). Others, presumably 'pure', branches of zoology, are represented by these figures: morphology (75); physiology (55); embryology (78); zoogeography (9); general ecology (3); ecology of vertebrates (301); (no heading for ecology of invertebrates); invertebrate zoology (39); vertebrate zoology (68); ornithology (140); teriology (108); herpetology (24); ichthyology (342); malacology (12); protistology (19); human anatomy (4); soil zoology (10); history of zoology (11); histology (48). A very low number of geneticists (8) is, perhaps, less surprising to see than only five "Darwinists", and there are no more than two biophysicists and two biometricians; there are, apparently, no biochemists (unless they are listed as physiologists) and only one experimental zoologist. When all groups are added to-

gether, the total number is 3,250, that is, about 500 more than in the alphabetical list; this is because many persons indicated more than one speciality.

The system of classification is such that it is almost impossible to see what proportion of zoologists is carrying out basic research and what is engaged in practical applications. A glance through the list of entomologists and the institutions where they work suggests that, probably, more than half of them are engaged in pest control. If the same applies to zoologists and ecologists working, for example, on rodents and other economic animals, it appears that the great majority of Soviet zoologists is engaged in applied work.

Although admittedly incomplete and somewhat out of date, the list will be useful to zoologists in other countries who may wish to exchange publications with their Soviet colleagues.

COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIP COMMISSION

THE second annual report* of the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission shows that there were 168 Commonwealth scholars studying at United Kingdom universities and colleges during 1960-61. In the 1961 competition, 232 candidates have accepted the offer of scholarships, 40 of them coming from India, 28 from Canada and 22 from both Australia and Pakistan.

One feature of the report will lead to some disquiet. The Commission made a preliminary examination of the problem which it is likely to face in considering applications for extension of tenure in and after the third year of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan. A number of scholars have accepted two-year awards and has been admitted to courses of research for which three years of study are needed if the holder is to obtain the doctorate at which he aims. For such scholars to return to their country with their research half-completed, and without a qualification, will engender frustration and militate against the realization of the aims for which the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan was instituted. At the Commonwealth Education

Conference in 1959 it was anticipated that most candidates would, on taking up awards, have already had some postgraduate experience which would enable them to obtain a higher degree in the United Kingdom with two years further work. It is found, however, after two years experience of selection of candidates for United Kingdom awards, that a majority of them enter the competition in the final year of their course for a first degree or its equivalent and are judged to need at least three years further work if they are to proceed to a Ph.D. on their scholarship. It is therefore expected that a substantial number of the 1960 scholars will have good grounds for asking for an extension of tenure for a third year. The Commonwealth Scholarships Act, 1959, prescribes that not more than 500 awards may be held at any one time. If the statutory limit remains unaltered, and during 1961-62 the Commission wishes to extend the tenure of a substantial number of the 1960 awards for a third year (that is, tenure during 1962-63), it will have to choose between granting such third-year extensions and making, in the 1962 competition, the total of 250 fresh awards which it would normally seek to make. There would thus be a clash between the claims of existing scholars and the expectations of the several countries making new nominations.

* Commonwealth Relations Office: Colonial Office. Second Annual Report of the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the United Kingdom for the year ending 30th September 1961. Pp. 36. (London: H.M.S.O., 1962.) 2s. 3d. net.

FORESTRY RESEARCH IN BRITAIN

THE report* on forest research for the year ended March 1960, issued by the Forestry Commission, contains accounts of the research work carried out by the Forestry Commission research staff and by workers attached to universities and other institutions, most of whom are aided by grants from the Forestry Commission. In it there are a number of good photographs, but some of these would have been improved by the inclusion of an object to provide a comparison of size. The general trend of the research work is in keeping with the developmental stage the Forestry Commission has reached, and it is also indicative, in some measure, of what is likely to become normal practice in the fairly near future.

* Forestry Commission. Report on Forest Research for the year ended March 1960. Pp. viii+203+16 plates. (London: H.M.S.O., 1961.) 12s. net.

Afforestation is still a dominant work in which the Forestry Commission is engaged, and must hope to be engaged for some time to come. Afforestation problems are being investigated on difficult sites, including disused sand and gravel workings, on areas overlying impermeable clay and on exposed and elevated sites. But more and more attention is now being directed to the problems of existing forests such as their improvement, stand structure and regeneration. Large areas of forest have been established on peat, and this medium contains particular difficulties which are not easy to overcome. It requires draining; few tree species can be grown on it; the stability of the trees is often precarious; and there is now evidence, after some years, of a deficiency of potash and other elements in pine stands established successfully by deep draining and cultivation of the peat and aided