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WASC 603

Explosives Research and
Development Establishment

Chemistry and Industry

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and magnetic tape backing store. The analogue section consists of two PACE 231R MKV computers, manufactured by Electronic Associates Ltd. Elliott-Automation was responsible for the design and installation of the complete system, under a contract from Cambridge University supported by the Science Research Council.

The address delivered by Professor Coales will be published next week.

Cockroft lecture

The first Cockroft lecture was presented by Lord Penney to the British Nuclear Energy Society at the Institution of Civil Engineers on 13 June. The contributions made by Sir John Cockroft were described by Lord Penney in the course of the lecture.

Research in America and Europe

In *The Times* (14 June 1968), Pearce Wright discussed remarks made in Brussels by Dr Arthur Bueche, vice-president of American General Electric's Research and Development Centre, on the subject of research.

Dr Bueche suggested that scientists and engineers in American universities should be encouraged to take up consultancy posts in European industry. There was also a need in the United States to stimulate further the interchange of qualified people between industry and universities.

General Electric's programme for organising research and development was described by the vice-president. The major programmes of research currently being pursued by the Centre were in the fields of solid state physics and electronics, information science, chemicals and transportation.

Technological co-operation

Mr John Davies, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, speaking at the Licensing Executive Society in London recently, made a plea for closer technological co-operation between European countries. Europe's failure to meet competition from North America in the field of technology had been in trying to maintain, upon the basis of compartmental markets, a level of technological competence wholly incompatible with our national frontiers.

1968 'New Scientist' Award

The winners of the first *New Scientist* award (1968) were announced earlier this month.

The first prize of £1000 went to Dr J. K. Hambling, manager of British Petroleum Chemicals Division, for his development of a process by which 4-methylpentene-1, a

valuable new raw material for the manufacture of plastics and solvents, which is being produced on a commercial scale.

The special award of £250 goes to Mr I. Whitney, Hyfil development scientist at Rolls-Royce Ltd, Aero Engine Division, Hucknall, Nottingham; Mr M. R. Rowland and Mr S. G. Jones, experimental assistants attached to the same company. They have won the special award for their contribution to the development of Hyfil, the composite material used for the compressor blades of the Rolls-Royce RB 211 turbofan engine.

Mr A. D. G. Stewart, technical director of the Cambridge Scientific Instrument Co. Ltd, has been 'highly commended' for his development to the production stage of the Stereoscan, the world's first commercial scanning microscope.

Australians in London

A former Prime Minister of Australia, Sir Robert Menzies, is to address the golden jubilee banquet of the English-Speaking Union at a London hotel on 27 June. On 1 July he will open the 58th annual conference of the Commonwealth Press Union.

The Nobel prize-winner, Sir Macfarlane Burnet, will chair a meeting of the Commonwealth Foundation trustees in London late this month. (*Radio Australia News*)

Assignments in the developing countries

The International Atomic Energy Agency have requested the International Recruitment Unit of the Ministry of Overseas Development to nominate candidates to undertake short-term assignments in the developing countries.

A highly qualified food scientist and technologist with experience in the use of ionising radiation in the preservation of sea foods is required as soon as possible at the Biochemistry and Food Technology Division, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Trombay, Bombay, India, for a period of six months.

The Institute of Applied Radiation Chemistry, Lodz, Poland, requires a food technologist in the autumn of 1968 to give general advice on the different directions of research to be undertaken in food preservation by irradiation. Also to discuss the most promising lines of investigation as well as the educational and training programme for the staff of the National Food Irradiation Centre. The duration of the appointment is one month.

Enquiries should be directed to the Ministry of Overseas Development, International Recruitment Unit, Eland House, Stag Place, Victoria, London S.W.1.

Explosives Research and Development Establishment

A press day was held at the Ministry of Technology's Explosives Research and Development Establishment, Waltham Abbey, on 13 June. This was the first occasion on which the Press had been invited to inspect the work of the Establishment since it was set up in 1945. Open days were held on 12-14 June.

At the time of its formation ERDE was concerned solely with work on liquid and solid propellants and explosives, but in recent years the Establishment has considerably broadened its range of activities. Approximately 30 per cent of total R & D effort, for example, is absorbed by two materials groups working on the physics, chemistry and applications of polymers and the development of fibre-reinforced materials.

A major part of the work of the chemical engineering branch consists in developing laboratory processes up to the pilot plant stage and the branch has considerable expertise in remote control, special purpose handling equipment and instrumentation. Other subjects of general interest covered by the Establishment's R & D programme include: the mixing of slurries and pastes, noise evaluation, high speed photography, sealants and adhesives, thermal conductivity and heat transfer, chemical analysis and spectroscopy.

The type of work carried out at ERDE was described in a specially contributed article in *Chemistry & Industry*, 20 February, 1965, pp 320-27.

Meetings, Notices

Operational Research Society

The Operational Research Society has announced that its Inventory & Production Control Study Group will be holding a meeting on 10 July 1968 at 5 pm at the London School of Economics. Mr J. W. Greener will speak on 'Improving the utilisation of raw material at the refining plant in the manufacture of china clay.' A film *The World of China Clay* will be shown, and there will be a demonstration of an analogue computing device.

The Society is at 62 Cannon Street, London E.C.4.

Forthcoming meeting

SCI Food Group

By invitation of the director, Dr M. Ingram, the Group will visit the Meat Research Institute, Langford, nr Bristol, on Friday, 28 June.