

chester. He began work on bacteriology in Manchester under Prof. H. B. Maitland in 1934, devoting particular attention to whooping cough. His best-known work is in the field of whooping cough—the antigens of *Haemophilus pertussis* and their relation to immunity. In 1940 he joined Percival Hartley in the Division of Biological Standards at the National Institute of Medical Research at Hampstead, where he worked on the standardization of toxins, especially those of gas gangrene. In 1947 he returned to Manchester to become a reader in Maitland's department. In 1955 he returned to the National Institute at Hampstead when it became urgently necessary to devise means for ensuring the safety and potency of poliomyelitis vaccines. This, coming at the time of the "Cutter incident", was a difficult task; we owe much to Evans and his colleagues for the fact that the British polio vaccines are second to none. In 1958 he succeeded Miles, taking charge of the Biological Standards Division. The value of his work was recognized a year ago when he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society.

The New York Academy of Sciences : President

DR. FREDERICK Y. WISELOGLE, assistant director in charge of chemical research in the Squibb Institute for Medical Research, New Brunswick, has been elected president of the New York Academy of Sciences. During 1948 Dr. Wiselogle was awarded the Presidential Certificate of Merit for his work on anti-malarial drugs.

New Honorary Life-Members

THE following were elected to honorary life-membership of the Academy: Sir Edward Dodds, Courtauld professor of biochemistry, University of London; Sir Alfred Lovell, professor of radio-astronomy, University of Manchester, and director of the Jodrell Bank Experimental Station; Dr. Giulio Natti, director of the Institute of Industrial Chemistry, Polytechnic Institute of Milan; Dr. Franz Buchner, director of the Pathological Institute, University of Freiburg; Dr. J. J. Trillat, director of research at the National Centre for Scientific Research, Paris. The total number of honorary life-members in the Academy is limited to 100. With the election of these five, the total number of honorary life-members of the New York Academy of Sciences is now 85.

Awards

ISIDOR B. LASKOWITZ, 284 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, has been awarded the D. B. Steinman Award of 500 dollars for his description of a new concept for a simple landing aircraft incorporating high speed, stability and vertical take-off without the use of rotors. Dr. Minoru Tsutsui, of the New York University College of Engineering Research Division, has been awarded the A. Cressy Morrison Award of 400 dollars for his description of the principles governing coupling of molecules through stoichiometric and catalytic activity.

European Co-operation in Space Research

IN reply to a question in the House of Commons on December 12, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Aviation, Mr. G. Rippon, said, on behalf of the Minister for Science, that recent negotiations in Geneva had led to the signature by ten countries, namely, Belgium, Denmark, France, Great Britain, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and Spain, of an agreement setting up a Pre-

paratory Commission to study the possibility of establishing a European organization for co-operation in space research. The Geneva Conference expressed the hope that the Preparatory Commission would consider the closest possible co-operation between any organization which might later be formed for space research in Europe and any collaborative organization between European States for the development of a launcher. Mr. Rippon added that Britain would keep in close touch about the matter with the Commonwealth and particularly with Australia.

Student Grants in Great Britain

IN a written answer in the House of Commons on December 19, the Secretary of State for Scotland, Mr. J. S. Maclay, said that the revised scale of parental contributions for university students announced by the Minister of Education on December 1 would come into force in Scotland in October 1961, and would apply to university students, students at colleges of education and students taking advanced courses in colleges of further education. It is the Government's intention to have the new rates of maintenance allowances in operation not later than October 1962, but an interim improvement of Scottish allowances will be made in October 1961. Mr. Maclay said he would consult the local authority associations about the complex problems involved in putting these arrangements into effect, and also about the small number of further education students taking shorter courses with lower entrance qualifications who would not be covered by these arrangements. The Government also proposes to accept the Anderson Committee's recommendations that no deductions should be made from grants from public funds in respect of an award holder's personal income, including income from scholarships and prizes, up to £100 a year, and that there should be no restriction on the student's freedom of choice of any university in Great Britain.

IN replying for the Government in an adjournment debate on State scholarships in the House of Commons on December 21, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Education, Mr. K. Thompson, pointed out that the acceptance of the Anderson Committee's recommendation, that a student who obtained a pass in a minimum of two subjects at Advanced Level in a General Certificate of Education examination and was accepted by a university for a place should qualify for an award, should make a separate system of awards to ameliorate financial hardship unnecessary. Under the new system, the financial basis of the State scholarship system is removed. Moreover, the State scholars are not by any means the only honours students in the universities, and he believes that the incentive to get a place in a university in an increasingly competitive field will itself provide a stimulus to students to give of their best in their sixth-form days. The Government is now ready for discussions with the responsible authorities of the universities and colleges to see how far the new arrangements could help to ameliorate the ill-effects of the pressures which such competition imposes on sixth-form curricula, and is seeking opinions on some proposals advanced by the Secondary Schools Examinations Council. Mr. Thompson said that under the new system, benefactors might be encouraged to offer prizes at more of the civic universities, and this might help to diminish the attraction of Oxford and Cambridge for the best