

zoology at the University of Redlands, California.

DR. J. R. CURRIE, a senior medical officer of the Scottish Board of Health, has been appointed to the chair of preventive medicine in Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario.

DR. H. STANLEY ALLEN, of the University of Edinburgh, has been appointed to the chair of natural philosophy in the United College, St. Andrews, which has become vacant by the retirement of Professor Butler.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF TECHNICAL JOURNALS

It is a not uncommon practice for members of the faculties of our colleges, universities, and other schools to enrich the libraries of these institutions by donating copies of technical journals received by the individual either by subscription or by virtue of membership in some scientific society. This loyalty to the local institution is natural and laudable from the standpoint of the institution, but it may, perhaps, not be realized that if every one of our colleges and universities were to depend upon such gifts for their files of scientific periodicals there would shortly, in the case of many such publications, not be any journal to donate, so inadequate is the financial support of scientific publications.

With the exception of those journals, such, for example, as the chemical journals, which have a large and financially profitable circulation among practical workers outside of libraries and faculties, many of our journals devoted to pure science are barely, or not at all, able to exist except for generous subsidies. Outside of members of societies of which the publications may be the official organ, paid subscriptions may be expected only from a very few individuals not members, from a very small number of public libraries in our larger cities, and from educational institutions.

It is a matter of record that many of our journals devoted to publishing the results of research do not have subscriptions from more than a small fraction of American institutions

maintaining a department in the given science, and in many cases this results because some member of the departmental staff contributes his personal copy to the library.

One of our biological journals recently faced the necessity of either securing a generous additional subsidy, or of increasing its subscription rate by one dollar a year, or of suspending publication. The subsidy was not forthcoming and so the subscription price was advanced. Notice to this effect was followed by cancellation of subscription, not by one of our private, struggling, small colleges, but by one of the largest of our state universities. The letter of cancellation stated that the institution would hereafter depend upon a donated copy.

The existence of all of the journals of the class referred to is a matter of vital importance to the colleges and universities. None of them is maintained for its own sake as a business venture. Practically all of them were established because of the impossibility of securing the publication of the results of research with any degree of promptness—often not within a year or eighteen months, or even longer, after the completion of the manuscript.

Our colleges and universities should regard practically all of these journals as established primarily for their advantage, and the journals in turn are justified in expecting support from these institutions to the extent of at least one subscription. The donation of personal copies by professors to the library of their institution may help the library to the extent of a few dollars, but the present extent of this practice is depriving journals, indispensable to donor and benefactor alike, of hundreds of dollars each of support annually.

It is an interesting but regrettable fact that, while it is comparatively easy to obtain money for research, nothing is much more difficult to secure funds for than the publication of the results of research.

C. STUART GAGER

ACOUSTICAL RESEARCH

THE quotation from the London *Times* on the subject of Acoustical Research (November 3, 1922) conveys an impression which seems to need correction.