

pathology and therapy at the University of Berlin, editor of the *Medizinische Klinik*; and of Sir Montagu Sharpe, K.C., the well-known ornithologist, chairman of the Council of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, who died on August 23, at the age of eighty-five years.

THE AID OF SCIENCE IN PRODUCTION IN GREAT BRITAIN

IN order to ensure that the fullest use is made of scientific and technical resources in the field of production, the British Minister of Production, according to *The Times*, London, has appointed W. A. Stanier, chief mechanical engineer to the London Midland and Scottish Railway; Dr. T. R. Merton, treasurer of the Royal Society, and Dr. I. M. Heilbron, professor of organic chemistry, Imperial College of Science and Technology, to his staff in the capacity of full-time scientific advisers. The official statement reads:

The field of activity of these advisers will be co-extensive with the responsibility of the Minister of Production. They will keep in close touch with the scientific advisers of the Service and Supply Departments, and will be available to assist the departmental organizations of scientific research and technical development. They will not supersede the departmental organizations, which will, for instance, continue to be responsible for the examination of new inventions and technical suggestions in their own fields.

They will be responsible to the Minister of Production, but will work under the immediate supervision of the Lord Privy Seal, acting on his behalf.

These appointments have been made with a view to completing the existing organization for scientific research and development which has been carefully built up over a number of years and operated with outstanding efficiency.

The Government has reviewed the whole position in the light of recent representations, and has decided that the creation of the post of Minister of Production affords the opportunity for this further measure of coordination which the Government believes will be to the national advantage.

THE SECRETARY OF THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON

ACCORDING to *The Times*, London, the secretary of the Zoological Society of London, Dr. Julian S. Huxley, has written to H. G. Maurice, vice-president and chairman of the council, resigning the secretaryship of the society and membership of the council. His letter is as follows: "I am writing to ask you to transmit to council my resignation as secretary to the society and member of council. I am sorry to have to do this, but as I had associated myself with the informal committee, and as the fellows have now voted

against their nominees, I feel that no other course is open to me. Apart from this, I regret that there no longer exists that measure of mutual confidence and general agreement between myself and council which would warrant my continuing to hold the post of secretary. I am, of course, taking steps to find alternative accommodation, and shall vacate the official flat as soon as I have done so. In view of the misapprehensions which still exist concerning my own position, I am sending a copy of this letter to the press."

Dr. Huxley's resignation was received by the council of the society at their meeting on August 26, and at the meeting of fellows which followed, Mr. Maurice expressed his regret that "a man of such brilliant parts as Dr. Huxley should be of such restless genius as not really to fit in with the routine drudgery of an institution of this character." The council's personal relations with Dr. Huxley had always been very friendly.

Mr. Maurice announced that a resolution handed in at the annual general meeting advocating the establishment of a committee of council members and fellows to inquire into the administration of the society had been accepted by the council. This committee would investigate the suggestion that the society's original charter, in existence since 1829, was in need of reform. Members of the committee would be appointed at the next council meeting in a month's time.

MEDICAL AID TO CHINA

HELEN KENNEDY STEVENS, the executive director of the American Bureau for Medical Aid to China, writes to *SCIENCE* as follows:

Apropos of Egbert H. Walker's suggestion in the July 17 issue that American scientists should save scientific publications for the future use of Chinese scientists whose own libraries have been destroyed, may I inform your readers that the American Bureau for Medical Aid to China, one of the participating agencies of United China Relief, for some time has been collecting text-books and journals for shipment to the Emergency Medical Service Training Schools in China and other institutions desperately in need of such literature. American physicians and institutions have been most generous in donating texts and journals which those in charge of Chinese schools and hospitals have asked us to obtain.

Unfortunately, now that the port of Rangoon and the Burma Road have been cut off, and there are such heavy demands upon the transport routes from India, it is inadvisable for us to continue to send books, but we are sending texts and charts on micro-film, which go by air mail and may reach China less than a month after their publication here. The film texts have the added advantage that, once arrived in China, they can be passed around from school to school.

That the Chinese have made good use of this oppor-