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# University of Edinburgh

# BULLETIN

The Thanksgiving and Memorial Service for Professor Sir Hugh Robson, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh, was held in the High Kirk of Edinburgh, St Giles at 12 noon on Saturday 21 January.

The Chancellor of the University, His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh was represented at the service by the Chancellor's Assessor, Lord Cameron. Representatives of the City of Edinburgh were headed by the Lord Provost. In addition to Lady Robson, family and friends, staff and students at the University, also among those at the Service were representatives of the legal profession in Scotland; the medical profession and the Health Service; the Scottish Office; Edinburgh Members of Parliament; the consular corps in Scotland; the European Commission; the Lothian Region; the Scottish, United Kingdom and international university communities; and other official and professional bodies with whom Sir Hugh was associated.

The Chaplain to the University, Rev Hamish Smith, officiated and the lessons were read by the Dean of the Faculty of Divinity, Rev D. W. D. Shaw, and the Senior President of the Students' Association, Mr Keith Leslie. The music was provided by the University Organist, Mr Herrick Bunney, and the Edinburgh University Singers.

## Rector delivers thanksgiving and memorial address for Sir Hugh at St. Giles



*A full tribute to Professor Sir Hugh Robson is printed on page 6.*

In his address at the Service, the Rector, Mr Magnus Magnusson, spoke in moving terms of Sir Hugh, the man, the doctor and teacher, the Principal and Vice-Chancellor—of his dignity, his humanity and his sense of humour, and his devotion and ability as

leader of the University. By means of the Service, Mr Magnusson said, "we can still bestow on him, and on ourselves, a great and fitting memorial of thanksgiving that goes far beyond sentimentality; we can strive to ensure that the healing qualities of his intel-

ligence and courage, his courtesy and honour, his fairness and compassion, and above all his selfless dedication, shall remain as the guide-lights of each and every University this great and good man, this very special man, has guided and inspired".

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## Honorary Fellow at Rehabilitation Studies

Mr James Tait, formerly General Manager in London of Commercial Union Assurance (UK), has been appointed an Honorary Fellow in the Rehabilitation Studies Unit of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University. He takes up his appointment this month while retaining a connection with Commercial Union as Chairman of the Group's Scottish Advisory Committee.

Mr Tait started his career with the CU Group in 1936 when he joined the North British and Mercantile in Glasgow. Before he became General Manager (UK) he had previously been Manager for Scotland and in the 1960s Branch Manager in Edinburgh.



## NO COMMENT

David Christie of the Faculty of Law was quoted in a Scotsman article just after Christmas on the fact that under the law at present, it is difficult to take effective legal action against individuals and organisations who sell 'bogus degrees'. He subsequently spoke on the BBC about the same topic, and since then has received the following two letters:

Dear Sir,  
About 8.15 a.m. early this week, I heard on BBC Radio 4 Broadcast (The Today's programme) that University degrees—BSc and BA are on sale. I should be pleased if you would kindly send me the name, address and the telephone number of the dealer.

Dear Sir,  
I was listening to Radio 4 the other morning when I heard your name mentioned. I would like to know the price for a Degree in French and English. I hope to hear from you very soon . . .

## Fisheries conference

In association with The Institute of Fisheries Management the University of Edinburgh has organised a one-day Freshwater Fisheries Management Conference for Saturday 18 February 1978.

The Conference will be of special relevance not only to those with a professional interest in the management of fisheries but also to angling clubs who have their own fishing waters. Mr P. Barratt of the Aquatic Weed Research Organisation, Oxford will talk about the ever-increasing problem of weed growth in our lochs and rivers and discuss control methods and their necessity. Mr A. Crowhurst of Maccaferri will give a speech on the use of gabions for bank protection and river improvement and finally in the afternoon Dr Derek Mills of Edinburgh University, Mr Iain MacKenzie of Game Fisheries and Mr Andrew Walker of the Freshwater Laboratories Pitlochry will give papers on stocking policies for Rivers, Lowland Lochs and Upland Waters. There will be ample time for questions following all papers.

All persons interested in attending the Conference should apply to the Department of Extra-Mural Studies, Fisheries Management Conference, 11 Buccleuch Place, Edinburgh for an application form.

## Music in the University

General Reid's memory will be celebrated in the concert directed by Michael Tilmouth in the Reid Concert Hall on 16 February. The General's marches, minuets and sonatas inevitably suffer by comparison with the music of his great contemporaries such as Mozart and Beethoven. So this year we have made the Jubilee an excuse for matching his talents against those of other amateur composers including some of the princes, dukes and earls who formed part of the chain of patrons which extended from king to commoner. Perhaps we ought to ask when we listen to music by Prince Louis Ferdinand of Prussia and the Archduke Rudolph of Austria, both patrons and pupils of Beethoven, whether the modern composer drawing support from the Arts Council is really quite so fortunate as Beethoven was. Is the collective musical knowledge and taste of a committee the equal of that displayed by these gentlemen whose music is, if it is nothing else, the product of musical literacy of a high order? Our other

composers include James Sherard, MD, FRS, who was content to remain an amateur composer, the Earl of Kelly who shocked his fellow aristocrats by turning professional, and the chemist Borodin whose musical talent was nothing short of genius.

Another concert by Students of the Faculty of Music will cover a wide range of music by Vivaldi, Chopin and Milhaud, as well as a remarkable version for double bass of the Bach 3rd Cello Suite. This will take place in the Reid Concert Hall on 21 February and will be followed by a further recital by the Edinburgh Quartet on 23 February. As an appropriate sequel to their cycle of Tippett quartets, their programme will include one of Britten's last works, the Quartet No. 3, so far little known, but a worthy successor to the splendid first two quartets. Flanking this are two classical masterpieces, Schubert's great and moving Opus 29 and the brilliant quartet Op. 77 No. 1 by Haydn.

## Extra-Mural

Anniversaries and centenaries can be tedious things and so often obscure or distort a true appreciation of the victim commemorated. But here—in 1978—is one such anniversary that must simply not be allowed to go unsung—the 250th of the birth in Kirkcaldy, Fife, of Robert Adam, architect, designer and revolutionary.

Revolutionary he most certainly was, and his own phrase descriptive of what he thought he and his brother had achieved is the title of one major exhibition to be held in Edinburgh this year—'A Kind of Revolution'. For it was Adam above anyone else who pioneered the movement in terms of building and decoration away from the pomposities of late baroque or the rigours of English palladianism and introduced his own alternative to the fripperies of continental rococo. His use and interpretation of the heritage of late Roman building and his excitement in experiment with spatial arrangements are two elements in a style that came to dominate his contemporaries and followers of at least two generations.

Edinburgh owes much to Robert Adam—and the University, one might say, everything. His greatest surviving public buildings in Britain are indeed Register House and Old College and in both these he achieved a forcefulness of expression which surprises those who think of Adam in terms of ceilings and delicacy of interior design. At Charlotte Square, north side, too we have his uniquely experimental concept of eleven terrace houses welded together in a unified composition—a model promptly adopted by other urban architects up and down the land. The city has other minor Adam achievements too—including the house interiors at 8 Queen Street and the David Hume mausoleum in the Calton Burial Ground.

Round Edinburgh his more regular image—the elegant fixer of gentlemen's houses—is well represented. Newliston and Mellerstain stand for his more classical style, Seton and Oxenford for his

## ROBERT ADAM 1728-1778

February conference at Edinburgh inaugurates the celebrations



Robert Adams Old College frontage—before the dome was added.

'castle manner' of which—of course—the greatest example is at Culzean in Ayrshire.

With all this wealth of near-local material it is inevitable that Edinburgh should provide the main focal point for the Adam 1978 Celebrations. The plans start off in February with a two-day conference introduced (10 February) by Sir John Summerson, and continuing (11 February) with papers from Colin MacWilliam, Geoffrey Beard from Lancaster, James Simpson, Maurice Tomlin from the V and A Museum and James Macaulay from Aberdeen—all Adam scholars. With this conference and also later in June there will be study-visits to Adam buildings in and near Edinburgh and in July there will be a 'Robert Adam Grand Tour' down the eastern side of Britain ending in London and visiting Adam's major country houses on the way. All these events are arranged by the Extra-mural Department who have produced a commemorative programme, available on application at 11 Buccleuch Place.

Other organisations are sharing the commemorative plans—there will be two major exhibitions, at

the Scottish Record Office and the National Library of Scotland, and a smaller display at Hopetoun House, and the National Trust for Scotland has its own programme under way at the Georgian House. It was in 1951 that the idea of civic-sponsored, University-given lectures was launched in Edinburgh under the title "Town and Gown Lectures". From that year until the series halted upon Regionalisation in 1975 sixty lectures were given within the City Chambers of Edinburgh, all contributed by Professors of the University or by successive Principals. Indeed the last of the series, entitled "The College and the Town", was presented by the late Sir Hugh Robson.

These lectures proved an eminently satisfactory way of forging links between the Edinburgh public and the various areas of disciplinary interest within the University. Audiences were often at capacity—about 300—and the list of topics covered in the 24 years of conduct represents a microcosm of the University's teaching.

Following conversations between the present Lord Provost of Edinburgh

continued on page 4

## Foundation of Rheumatology Chair

Following a generous donation of £35,000 from the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council for Research in Great Britain and the Commonwealth, the University is to establish a Chair to be known as the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council Chair of Rheumatology.

The Council's donation will provide endowment income through which an existing Senior Lecturer post can be upgraded to that of a Professor, enabling a Chair to be established on a permanent basis, following the retirement of Professor J. J. Duthie this year who held a personal chair in Rheumatology. *The rheumatic diseases* are responsible for much disability. In 1971, just over 1 million spells of incapacity among the insured population in Britain were due to those conditions. The time lost from work amounted to 44 million

days resulting in a loss of productivity of over £420 million. 'Rheumatic complaints' were second only to accidents as regards the number of people affected and second only to bronchitis for the number of days lost. Surveys in general practice suggest that nearly 10% of the work of family doctors is devoted to diagnosis and treatment of musculoskeletal disorders grouped under the term 'rheumatism'.

Professor Sir Stanley Davidson and Professor Duthie were prominent among those in Britain who early on recognised the importance of undergraduate education and research in rheumatology. The donation from the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council will now help to ensure that Edinburgh's pioneering work in this field will be continued.

## Nobel Prize-winner to give Gifford Lectures for 1978

This year's series of ten lectures in the Gifford Lectureship in Natural Theology will be given by Sir John C. Eccles, FRS, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of the State University of New York at Buffalo, where he was Distinguished Professor and Head of the Research Unit of Neurobiology from 1968 to 1975. He received the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1963, when he was Professor of Physiology at the Australian National University at Canberra. Sir John has honorary membership of several National Academies and honorary doctorates from many universities, including Cambridge, Melbourne and Oxford. Published books relating to the theme of the lectures—"The Human Mystery"—include: *The Neurophysiological Basis of Mind* (1953); *Facing Reality: Philosophical adventures by a brain scientist* (1970); *The Understanding of the Brain* (1973); *The Self and its Brain* (1977), with K. R. Popper.

The lectures will be given at 5.15 p.m. in Lecture Room B of the David Hume Tower and the series begins on Monday 20

February continuing on 22, 24, 27 February and 1, 3, 6, 8, 10 and 13 March. A brochure giving the title and outline of individual lectures will be available from New College. (Titles of individual lectures given in 'Coming Events').

Sir John refers to Sir Charles Sherrington, who gave the Gifford Lectures in 1936/37 on the theme "Man on his Nature" as his great master, and his first lecture will be a survey of the great imaginative insights that Sherrington presented on the nature of man.

THE GIFFORD LECTURESHIPS which are held in each of the older Universities of Scotland were instituted under the will of Adam Gifford, one of the Senators of the College of Justice, who died in 1887. Set up "to promote and diffuse the study of Natural Theology in the widest sense of that term—in other words, the knowledge of God", the Gifford Lecturers in Edinburgh have included many notable scholars—Sir James Frazer, A. N. Whitehead, Albert Schweitzer, Reinhold Niebuhr, Niels Bohr and Arnold Toynbee.

Robert Adam *continued*

burgh and the late Principal, the decision has now been taken to revive this tradition of Town and Gown lectures. Indeed it seems in retrospect that despite Regionalisation there would have been no constitutional problem in the continuation of the series without interruption. The suggestion has been made that an Edinburgh figure well worthy of attention should be taken to restart the series, and Professor T. C. Smout has very kindly agreed, in accordance with this proposal, to speak about "Provost George Drummond"—the initiator of the New Town. Professor Smout's lecture will take place at 7.30 p.m. on Friday 17 March 1978 within the City Chambers. Admission is by ticket only, these being obtainable from the Extra-mural Department at 11 Buccleuch Place; the only departure from precedent is that in this new series refreshment will be provided for the audience and therefore a nominal charge of 50p is to be made.

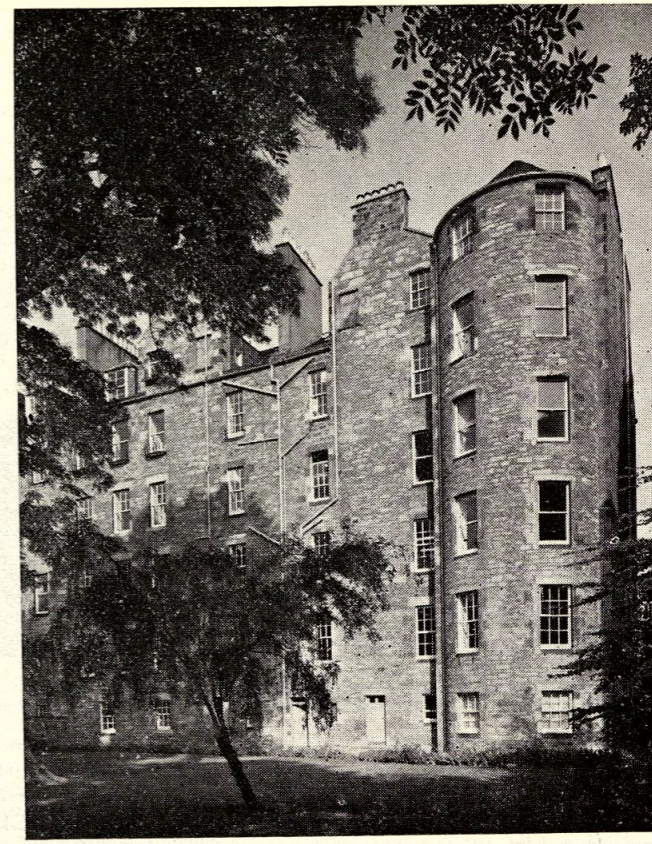
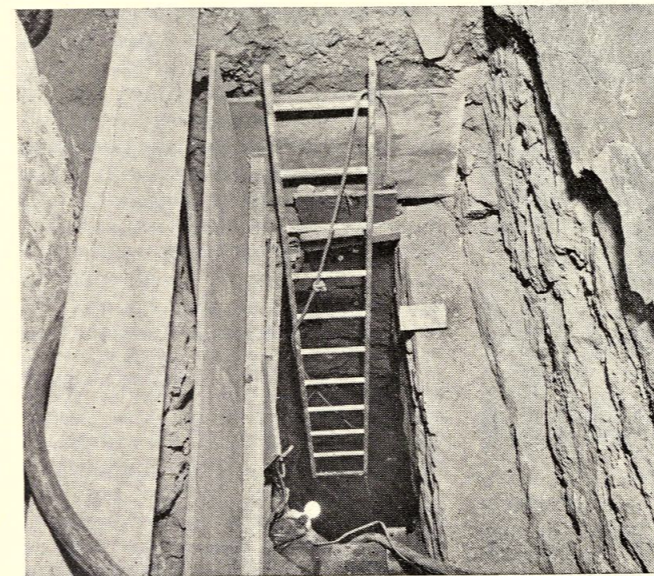
## An earlier Nobel Prizewinner



*This special issue of Swedish stamps commemorates the Nobel Prize-winners of 1917, including Professor Charles Glover Barkla, Professor of Natural Philosophy at Edinburgh from 1913 until his death in 1944. He is shown in the stamp against a background of Old College.*

## Conserving Buccleuch Place

*The continuing programme of restoration and conservation of the University's buildings in Buccleuch Place has been progressing on the south side of the street in recent months. Externally this has involved repointing of stonework and replacement of lintels together with the reinstatement of astragles in the windows of one block (see right), as well as painting the woodwork. At the same time some substantial structural repairs have been undertaken as (below) where foundation underpinning is in hand.*



## Out and About

### Engineering debate

Last month Sir Monty Finnieston, at the Department of Industry, launched "the great engineering debate". Sir Monty, Chairman of the Government's new enquiry into the engineering profession, expects that his final report will be published in 1979 and over the next year his 18 strong committee will be sifting through a vast amount of evidence (at least 100 organisations have already promised submissions by February). Later in the year the CEI is to arrange 16 regional public conferences.

### Scottish Office appointment

The Prime Minister, with the agreement of the Secretary of State for Scotland, has approved the appointment of Mr W. K. Fraser CB, presently the Deputy Secretary in the Scottish Office as Permanent Under Secretary of State in the Scottish Office in succession to Sir Nicholas Morrison KCB, who will be retiring from public service on 31 March 1978.

Mr Fraser, who is 48, was educated at Glasgow University and has served at

the Scottish Office since 1955. In his present post he has a special responsibility for co-ordinating work on devolution in the Scottish Office.

### UK education statistics

Final statistics on education in the United Kingdom in 1975\* were published on 10 January 1978.

In the United Kingdom in 1975 there were 269,000 full-time students in the universities, double the number in 1963. At that time 27 per cent of the students were women. This percentage increased to 34 per cent in 1975. Some 31,500 were from overseas.

In higher education the percentage of students who were on courses of part-time study has increased over the past five years, due to the growth of the Open University.

In addition over a million students in FE establishments undertook, mostly on a part-time basis, a course leading to 'non-advanced' qualifications. The overall staffing standard in public sector schools in the UK was 20.2. The ratios in the four countries were: Scotland 19.5; Wales 20.0; England 20.3 and Northern Ireland 22.5.

The volume also includes estimates of births and the child population to 1990, statistics of school leavers, teachers in training, teachers in service, awards to students as well as details about educational building, finance and libraries.

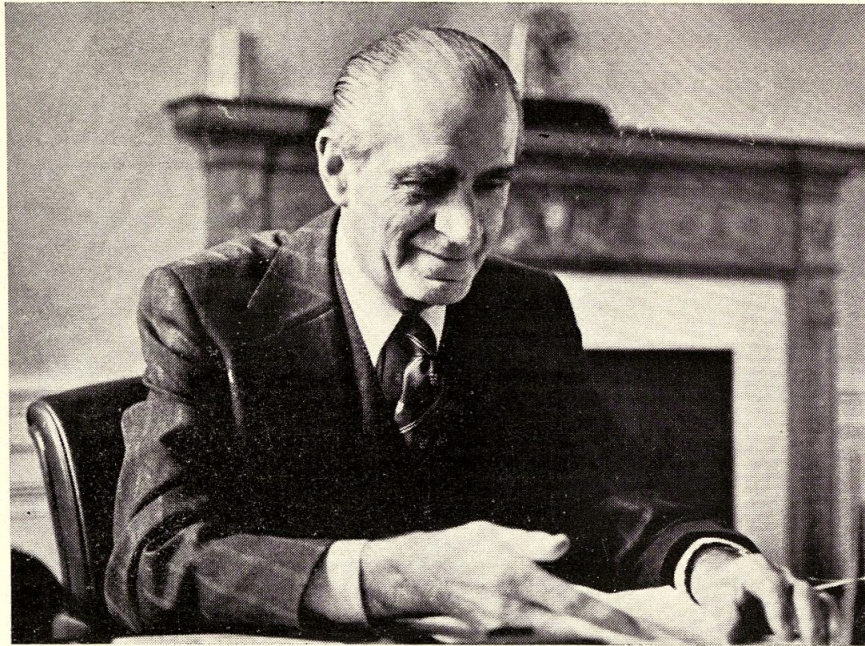
\*Education Statistics for the United Kingdom 1975. HMSO price £6 net.

### Government tuition fee's announcement

The UGC in a letter to Vice-Chancellors, have indicated the rates of tuition fees that will be assumed by the UGC when they announce University recurrent grants for the year 1978/79. The rates represent an increase of approximately 9% in line with the Secretary of State's earlier suggestions that the rise in tuition fees next year would be limited to an amount representing the likely increase in costs between the two years, rather than incorporating a further net increase.

The rates for undergraduate and other courses designated as attracting mandatory awards and full-time courses for serving teachers leading to a degree, diploma or advanced certificate are as follows: Home students £545 (£500 in 1977/78), Overseas students £705 (£650 in 1977/78). Postgraduate courses (other than those listed above): Home students £815 (£750 in 1977/78), Overseas students £925 (£850 in 1977/78).

## Professor Sir Hugh Robson, Principal and Vice-Chancellor 1974-77



Hugh Robson was a man of great strength of character and leadership who, as Principal and Vice-Chancellor made a major impact on two great Universities, who on the national stage gave sterling service to the public and to the university community and who, as a distinguished teacher of medicine, did much for the cause of medical education in two continents. He will be sorely missed by his very many friends, colleagues and those who worked for him, in all three areas, as well as by a family on whose affection, ready help and support he relied throughout his public career.

Born on 18 October, 1917 in Langholm, and educated at Langholm and Dumfries Academies, he entered the University of Edinburgh—of which he was later to become Principal and Vice-Chancellor—to study medicine, and graduated MB, ChB in 1941. The following year he and Alice Livingstone, a fellow medical graduate at Edinburgh, were married, though they had immediately to face the customary separations of the war-time years, when four years service with the RNVF as Surgeon Lieutenant took him to the Western Approaches, Normandy, Arakan and Malaya. Returning to civilian life, he came

back to the University of Edinburgh as a Lecturer in Medicine in 1947; within three years he was appointed to a Senior Lectureship in the University of Aberdeen and in a further three years, at the age of 35, to a Chair—that of the first Professor of Medicine—at the University of Adelaide, Australia. The twelve years of his stay at the University of Adelaide were to see the flowering of his career as a teacher and clinical practitioner of medicine, as well as service to the University as a whole, and public service within Australia, which of itself would merit a full tribute. It must have been with some regret that he and his family left their second, adopted country and all the friends they had made there in 1965 to return to the United Kingdom, but this move marked an entirely new phase of his career, albeit one for which he had been prepared in various posts within the University of Adelaide, to that of Vice-Chancellor and Principal in which he was to make such a mark.

He returned to the United Kingdom in 1966 to face a new situation, and at that time, an unknown one. None knew then that the universities were to face the ten most difficult years of their history—years of student unrest, of student

change, as well as of necessary internal change and development—all at a time of rapid expansion involving doubling of student numbers after the Robbins Report. Sheffield University was indeed fortunate to have Hugh Robson there as Vice-Chancellor and Principal in these critical times, but so were all the universities of the United Kingdom, for they gained in Hugh Robson one who was high in their counsels and in positions of leadership throughout this period. Friends in Sheffield will pay tribute to his magnificent service there for eight years. But it is to the greater scene that the greatest tribute must be paid in this period—to his work for the Commonwealth Universities as a whole and, during the years 1971-74, when he was first Vice-Chairman and then Chairman of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals. In his role as Chairman of the Vice-Chancellors' Committee, he had a firm grip of the essentials whilst inspiring the universities to meet the serious winds of change sometimes blowing from Government, sometimes from students, sometimes from academic staff and sometimes from the public. The estimation in which the United Kingdom universities are held today, both in this country and abroad, owes a very great deal to Hugh Robson and his firm and forward guidance, which helped them to emerge stronger from the troublesome days, when some universities throughout the world weakened. The knighthood which came to him in 1974, was a fitting tribute to his public and university service.

At the University of Edinburgh, for which he had such affection and to which he was proud to return in 1974 as Principal and Vice-Chancellor—having graduated there thirty three years before—there will remain the deepest sorrow that his Principalship, to which he came when the University was experiencing troubled times, should have been cut so short.

Under his leadership, a period of disturbed relationships had already given way to one in which the concept of community could again come to the fore and co-operation between all parts of the University had become the keynote in settling harmoniously the problems it faced—whether those of internal government, of finance, or in other areas. Edinburgh's response under Sir Hugh's Principalship was to meet and surmount these challenges and not be sundered by them.

His Principalship was also distinguished by the efforts he made to ensure that the University, once

Sir Hugh's career was an exceptionally wide-ranging one, distinguished by membership of many bodies and the holding of many posts. He was admitted to Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians (Edinburgh) in 1947; of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians in 1954; and of the Royal College of Physicians (London) in 1966. He was also an Honorary Member of the Association of Physicians of Great Britain and Ireland. He was elected to the Fellowship of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1975, and in the same year was admitted as HonDSc of the University of Pennsylvania, and HonLLD of the University of Sheffield. In 1976 he was elected to the Fellowship of the Royal Society of Arts and to the Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

His publications included articles on haematological and other medical subjects in British, American and Australian medical journals.

He was accorded the title of Professor Emeritus by the University of Adelaide in 1965, and served as Honeyman-Gillespie Lecturer in Edinburgh in 1949 and 1959; as Listerian Lecturer in Adelaide in 1954; as Bancroft Lecturer in Queensland in 1965; and as Keith Inglis Memorial Lecturer in Sydney in 1968.

Among his many official appointments numbered the Chairmanship of the Central Committee on Postgraduate Medical Education (Great Britain) from 1968-70, and that of the Council for

**Professor Berrick Saul, Acting Principal of the University has written of Sir Hugh's Principalship at Edinburgh,**

**"He made himself the model of civilised behaviour by conducting meetings with the utmost courtesy and astonishing patience. He piloted through a reform of the University government that brought students and the non-teaching staff to full membership of the Court and**

the "Toun's College", enjoyed the best possible relationships with the City of Edinburgh and the Lothian Region.

Sir Hugh was a modest man, almost a self-effacing one, and certainly not one disposed to seek personal glory. But he was certainly jealous of the good name and reputation of this University and no effort was too great for him where this was concerned. It must be judged a cruel twist of fate that he did not live long enough to see the full results of his labours for the University coming into effect and to preside over them in a Principalship which would have

Postgraduate Medical Education in England and Wales from 1970-72. He was Chairman of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals of the Universities of the United Kingdom from 1972-74, and Chairman of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs from 1971-76. He served on the United Nations University Founding Committee and since 1974 he had been Chairman of the Scottish Health Services Planning Council. Sir Hugh had only recently been appointed Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Medical Training for the European Communities.

He was a member of the Executive Committee of the Inter-University Council for Higher Education Overseas, a Governing Trustee of the Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust, and Chairman of the British Committee of Award for the Harkness Fellowships (Commonwealth Fund).

Before his departure to Australia he held a number of clinical appointments. He was successively Clinical Tutor in the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, Assistant Physician in the Western General Hospital, Edinburgh, Senior Registrar in the Northern Hospitals Group, Edinburgh, and Assistant Physician (Consultant) in the Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen.

Whilst in Australia, he acted for two years as Hon. Physician in the Royal Adelaide Hospital and the Adelaide Children's Hospital, and as Consultant Physician in the Queen Victoria Maternity Hospital, Adelaide. He was Hon. Physician in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Adelaide, and Consultant Physician to

**gave a greater role to the research staff on the Senate. The sweeping economies made necessary by the economic crisis were accepted without dissent because approval by him gave them the seal of equity. He made every effort to meet with different groups in the University and yet never spared himself the unending round of public functions that falls to the lot of a Principal and**

been crowned by the University's 400th Centenary Celebrations, in 1983, in whose planning he was already closely involved.

His period as Principal at Edinburgh, short though it was, must place him among the most effective, as well as among the most well-liked holders of that office, over its many years of history. And that knowledge may help to offer some continuing comfort to Lady Robson, their two daughters, their son and wider family. Their loss is one shared with the members of the University, staff and students alike, who were privileged to work with Sir Hugh.

the Royal Australian Navy for six years. He also held many appointments of a non-clinical nature during his twelve years in Australia. At one time or another he served on the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia, the Nuffield Foundation Fellowship Selection Committee, and the Papua and New Guinea Medical Research and Advisory Committee. He was also a member of the Post-doctoral Fellowship Selection Committee of the Australian Academy of Science, the Research Advisory Committee of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, the Australian Nomination Committee of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan and the Australian Drug Evaluation Committee.

At the University of Adelaide, Hugh Robson was Dean of the Faculty of Medicine from 1959-61, Chairman of the Professorial Board from 1961-63, and Member of Council from 1964-65. From 1960-65, he was successively President of the Australian Society of Haematology, Chairman of the Scientific Committee of the First Congress of the Australian Medical Association and Councillor for Australia of the International Society of Haematology.

He also acted as External Examiner in Medicine in the Universities of Sydney, Melbourne, Western Australia, and Otago, and held Visiting Professorships or Guest Lectureships at the Universities of Sheffield, New York, Chicago, St Louis, Salt Lake City, Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Christchurch and Dunedin.

**Vice-Chancellor". . . . .**

**"To go to see him was always a pleasure anticipated and realised because, whatever the outcome, one had been with a great man".**

**"His three years brought happiness and contentment to a University that must now seek to live up to the standards of courage and probity he most surely would have required had he lived".**

## Regulations for the election of the Non-Teaching Staff assessor on Court

1. The Election shall be by Single Transferable Vote.
2. The Election shall be conducted by Postal Ballot.
3. The electorate shall consist of all those employees of the University who are full-time non-teaching staff and who are in the clerical, manual or technical grades; that is to say all those full-time staff who are remunerated on other than academic or academically-related salary scales.
4. Nominations shall be lodged with the Secretary to the University not later than 1 p.m. on Tuesday, 14 February, 1978.
5. Nominations shall be accompanied by evidence in writing, and signed by the candidate, of his or her acceptance of nomination. Accordingly all acceptances of nomination by telegram, by cable, or by proxy, or orally shall be invalid.
6. Each group nominating a candidate shall be required to appoint a secretary, resident in the Edinburgh area, and the secretary shall be obliged to lodge his name, address, and telephone number (if available) with the Secretary to the University, in order that he can communicate with the group secretary; and the group secretary shall be required to subscribe the appropriate nomination form when completed.
7. Secretaries for candidates shall receive from the Secretary to the University, in the form of these regulations, clear and comprehensive instructions in writing concerning the nomination of candidates and shall be advised that failure to comply with these regulations shall automatically invalidate a nomination.
8. Secretaries for candidates shall receive dated and time-stamped receipts of the lodging of nominations, which shall be issued by the Secretary to the University.
9. The Secretary to the University shall be responsible for the scrutiny of nominations to establish their validity.
10. The Secretary to the University shall provide nomination forms and publish posters calling for nominations, and, in each case, draw attention to the correct form of procedure for making nominations, as well as advising that failure to conform with those procedures shall automatically invalidate a nomination; and the posters calling for nominations shall be published on University notice boards by 16 January, 1978.
11. Nominations shall be subscribed by not less than twenty members of the electorate as defined in (3) above.
12. The electoral Roll shall consist of all those full-time members of staff as defined in (3) above who are in post on 31 January, 1978. It shall be available for inspection in the Secretary's Office from 27 January, 1978 during normal office hours. Any person whose name does not appear on the Roll may, not later than 7 February, 1978, apply to the Secretary to the University to be included in the Electoral Roll, on production of an appropriate contract of employment.
13. Candidates shall be allowed to withdraw nominations up to 1 p.m. on Thursday, 16 February, 1978; withdrawal shall be intimated in writing and signed by the candidate in like manner to the regulations governing acceptance of nomination in (5) above.
14. On 26 February, 1978, the Secretary to the University shall issue, through the internal University post, a ballot paper to each member of the electorate. Completed ballot papers shall be returned to the Secretary to the University not later than 4.30 p.m. on 7 March, 1978. Any ballot paper received thereafter shall be invalid.
15. The counting of the votes shall take place on 8 March, 1978, under the direction of the Electoral Reform Society. Each group nominating a candidate shall be permitted to have a representative at the count.
16. The Electoral Reform Society shall nominate a Returning Officer, who shall not be a member of the electorate and who shall be responsible for the declaration of the result of the Election. A notice of the result shall be posted in the Old College.
17. The date of the Election shall be published in an appropriate issue of the University *Bulletin*.

NOTE: These arrangements have the approval both of the University Court and of the Electoral Reform Society.

## Spanish Play

**Tirso de Molina's play, *Marta la piadosa* (1615), will be presented by the Department of Hispanic Studies in the Adam House Theatre on Wednesday, 15 February at 6.30 p.m., and Thursday and Friday, 16 and 17 February at 7.30 p.m. This is one of the best comedies written in the Golden Age of Spain by its greatest comic writer, outstanding for his wit and gift for satire. He ridicules the foibles and conventions of contemporary society in Madrid, the finally established capital which had recently acquired a cosmopolitan atmosphere. The heroine, Marta, faced with the prospect of an arranged marriage to a rich old man, her father's friend, feigns a religious vocation to gain time, and by her ingenuity and resourcefulness over-**

## Computer Chess conference

A two-day conference on new developments in computer chess will be held in Edinburgh, Kings Buildings, on 10-11 April, 1978. Those with papers or exhibits to contribute should write to: Mr M. R. B. Clarke, Department of Computer Science and Statistics, University of London, Queen Mary College, Mile End Road, London E1 4NS. who will edit the published record of the proceedings. The conference will include an exhibition and demonstrations. Conference fee £10 (£5 for students). Accommodation in Halls of Residence, including two meals, approximately £6.50 per person per day. Closing date 15 March; late entry fee £12.50 (£7.50 for students). Those wishing to attend should write to:

*Penni Montgomery, Machine Intelligence Research Unit, 1 Hope Park Square, Edinburgh EH8 9NW.*

comes the obstacles in the way of her marriage with the young man whom she loves. The production is once again directed by Rafael Portillo. A detailed

summary in English is provided in the programme. Tickets, 50p, are available in advance from the Department of Hispanic Studies.

## Sport

The President of EUSU has given congratulations to the following:

### ORIENTEERING

To various members of the Club on retaining the Blue Star Trophy against strong opposition at Alnwick, Northumberland. With **Andy Curtis, Douglas McKeith, John Tullie, Roger Coombs** and **John Addy**, in that order, all finishing within the first twelve, the result was never in doubt. In addition **Sarah Marshall** finished a very creditable second in the Senior Women's 'B' Class, whilst **Chris Fielding** took the Men's Under 21 event by a wide margin. Also to **Andy Curtis** and **Gordon Ross** on their election to the South East Area Committee, Andy as Chairman, and Gordon as Treasurer, and to the club as a whole for staging a very successful event at Fribush last weekend in which 300 competitors took part.

### SWIMMING

To the **Swimming Club** for winning a four-cornered match on Saturday 19 November against Manchester, Newcastle and Aberdeen. The Water Polo team drew 3-3 in a very tight final against Manchester.

### HARE & HOUNDS

To **D. Bryson** for coming third in an inter-University match at Aberdeen and to the **University 'B' Team** for coming fourth behind Glasgow, Dundee and Heriot Watt 'A' teams and beating other University 'A' teams.

To the 'A' team for coming 14th (12th Scottish team) in the annual Edinburgh to Glasgow road relay for the top twenty teams in Scotland and the top Irish and Norwegian Teams. As a result of which the club was awarded the most meritorious performance award for the most improved team of the year.

To the 'A' Team of **Stuart Gibson, Bill Blair, Graeme Morrison** and **Robin Thomas** for finishing 14th in the Scottish National Relays on 26 November at Falkirk in a field of over eighty teams. Also to these four for being selected to run for the Scottish Universities. To **Stuart Gibson** for finishing tenth in an East District League Race on Saturday in a field of over 100 competitors.

### FENCING

To the **Men's Epee 'A' Team** for winning the Scottish Universities Epee Teams Championship, easily beating all five other University teams. Also to the 'B' Team for coming second, beating all other University teams except the 'A' Team. Also to the **Ladies Foil 'A' Team** for winning the second leg of the Scottish Universities Ladies Foil Teams Championship without conceding a fight.

### LACROSSE

To **Lucy White** for being selected to play for the Home Scots Team and to **Debbie Yule** for being selected to play for the reserves at the first international trial held on Saturday.

### BADMINTON

To **Leon Douglas, Neil Heberton** and **Lesley Stevenson** who played in Germany for BUSF.

## Skateboarding round the University

In order to make full use of the indoor facilities available for skateboarding in the Pleasance gymnasium a group of skateboarders in the University have formed the Edinburgh University Skateboard Club. The club have arranged practice sessions in the games hall of the University gymnasium on Thursday evenings from 8 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. and on Sunday afternoons from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. In addition the P.E. Department have a Skateboarding and Roller Skating session on Thursday lunchtime from 12 noon to 2 p.m. The P.E. Department has supported the development of skateboarding in the University by providing safety equipment which can be used at department and club sessions. Blues, a local skateboarding shop, have kindly loaned four skateboards with assorted decks, trucks and wheels. These will be ideal for beginners who wish to try out the sport and the different equipment available before purchasing a skateboard. Club members are willing to aid beginners who wish to try skateboarding.

Early in December 1977 a demonstration was held by the Hans Sport skateboard team and from this it became clear that children of staff and students

would like to use the facilities if they could be made available. To cater for this need, the steering committee of the Edinburgh University Skateboard Club have formed a club for the children of members of the Edinburgh University Sports Union (students as Pavilion Section members). It is called the Pipeline Club. The Sunday meeting time is open to Pipeline Club members since the children of Sports Union members may use the gymnasium then. In addition to making full use of the indoor facilities available, the club exists to promote skateboarding as a developing sport. Competition will be encouraged between club members and other clubs. Trips will be arranged to the skateparks now becoming available throughout Scotland. The club has already been active in pressing for skateboarding facilities in Edinburgh and protecting the interests of skateboarders by making a submission to the Price Commission regarding the costs of skateboarding equipment. Anyone interested should come along to one of the meetings in the Pleasance gymnasium. Contact Mark Anfilogoff, Austin Tate or Alun Thomas at any meeting.

## EUSU AWARD FOR MR STEWART

The Sports Union is pleased to announce that Honorary Membership of the Pavilion Section has been conferred on **MR CHARLES STEWART** in recognition of his interest in its affairs over his thirty years as Secretary to the University. **Miss Morag Reid**, the President of EUSU will be making a gesture presentation to Mr Stewart in supplement of this recognition at the EUSU "Blues" presentation meeting next May.

## Physics lecture on waves

Mr R. M. Sillitto, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Physics at the University, will give this year's Physical Society Lecture for senior school pupils at 4 p.m. on Wednesday 1 February in Lecture Theatre 4 of the Appleton Tower, on the topic 'Light Waves and Images'. The lecture will discuss the nature of waves, the evidence for the wave nature of light, and the way in which the wave nature of light contributes to the formation of images. It will also include a practical demonstration of sound waves, water waves, light waves, and the manipulation of optical images.

## Dear Sir

### Help on usage

Dr Stephenson's *cri de coeur* over the use of the verb 'help' without 'to' (*Bulletin No. 3*) seems to stem from a feeling that this is a recent innovation in the English language, and an undesirable affectation at that. Perhaps the fact that it has, according to the Oxford English Dictionary [*help* B 5], occurred in the language since the 16th century will help her, as a(n) historian, come to terms with the usage? True, the venerable OED labelled it 'now dialectal or vulgar' back in 1898; but the Concise Oxford today lists both usages side by side without comment: *help me (to) lift it*.

'Word-Watcher'.

## Appointments

The Staff Committee on behalf of the University Court has approved the following appointments and resignations:

### APPOINTMENTS

<i>Accounting and Business Method</i>	S. G. Ramsay	Tutor	10.10.77-13.3.78
<i>Biochemistry</i>	J. Haywood, BSc, PhD	Lecturer	1.4.78
<i>Chemistry</i>	C. N. M. Pounder, BSc, PhD	Deptl. Comp. Officer	1.12.77
<i>Christian Ethics and Practical Theology</i>	Dr G. Tellini	Lecturer (p.t.)	1.10.77
<i>Clinical Surgery</i>	A. W. M. C. Owen, MB, ChB, FRCS	Lecturer (temp.)	1.11.77-31.1.78
<i>Dental Surgery</i>	D. H. T. Scott, BSc, MB, ChB, FFRCS	Lecturer	5.12.77
<i>Edinburgh Regional Computing Centre</i>	K. D. Dietz, BAsC, MASc K. M. Farvis, BSc, MA Miss R. Soutar	Comp. Officer (CO/2) Comp. Officer (CO/3) Comp. Officer (CO/2)	1.3.78-31.5.78 1.7.77-31.7.80 1.2.78-31.7.83
<i>Fire Safety Engineering</i>	D. D. Drysdale, BSc, PhD	Lecturer (temp.)	18.2.79-17.2.84
<i>Library</i>	Mrs E. G. Stevenson, BA	Librarian (Grade II)	9.1.78-31.7.81
<i>Medicine, WHG</i>	N. McD. Davidson, BA, MA, BM, BCh, MRCP	Snr. Lecturer (temp.)	11.1.78-10.7.78
<i>Pathology</i>	Miss S. L. Manton, BDS	Lecturer (temp.)	1.1.78-31.3.78
<i>Physiology</i>	P. J. Harris, BSc, PhD	Lecturer	1.9.78
<i>Politics</i>	Miss C. Craig W. J. A. Macartney	Tutor Tutor	1.10.77-30.9.78 1.10.77-30.9.78
<i>Psychology</i>	D. H. C. Robb, MA	Univ. Demonstr.	1.1.78-30.9.80
<i>Radiotherapy, WGH</i>	A. Rodger, BSc, MB, ChB, FRCS, DMRT	Lecturer (temp.)	1.10.77-30.9.80
<i>Social Anthropology</i>	A. T. Campbell, MA, BLitt	Lecturer	1.1.78
<i>Student Advisory and Counselling Service</i>	Miss K. A. Strathmore, BSc	Student Counsellor	5.1.78
<i>Urban Design &amp; Regional Planning</i>	J. Hope P. McGovern R. G. H. Turnbull Mrs R. Pearson D. Mackie	Lecturer (p.t.) Lecturer (p.t.) Lecturer (p.t.) Lecturer (p.t.) Lecturer (p.t.)	1.10.77 1.10.77 1.10.77 1.10.77 1.10.77
<i>Veterinary Anatomy</i>	Mrs L. M. Brown, BVM&S	Univ. Demonstr. (temp. p.t.)	14.11.77-19.5.78

### RESIGNATIONS

<i>Agriculture</i>	D. Thomas, BSc, DPhil, DTA, MIBiol	Lecturer (temp.)	3.2.78
<i>Accounting and Business Method</i>	D. P. Tweedie, BCom, PhD, CA	Lecturer	31.3.78
<i>Child Life and Health</i>	A. Habel, MB, ChB, MRCP	Lecturer	31.3.78
<i>Edinburgh Regional Computing Centre</i>	Mrs D. Johnston	Comp. Officer (CO/2)	8.12.77
<i>Educational Studies</i>	N. D. C. Grant, MA, MEd, PhD	Reader	31.3.78
<i>Fine Art</i>	I. J. Davies, NDD, ATD, PhD	Lecturer	31.3.78
<i>General Practice</i>	S. J. Haddfield, MA, MB, BChir, FRCP, MRCS, LRCP	Lecturer (p.t.)	30.11.77
<i>Medicine</i>	R. E. Scorgie, MB, ChB, MRCP	Lecturer (temp.)	30.11.77
<i>Nursing Studies</i>	Miss R. Schröck, MA, SRN, RMN, RNT	Lecturer	30.4.78
<i>Veterinary Surgery</i>	W. T. Clark, PhD, BVM&S, FRCVS	Lecturer	31.1.78

### Help is a phone call away

**NIGHTLINE**—Run by students every night of term between 10 p.m. and 8 a.m.

**NIGHTLINE**—Gives information, offers suggestions, listens, respects confidentiality.

**NIGHTLINE**—Someone to talk to.

**NIGHTLINE**—667 0221.

### ORGANISATION OF CONFERENCES

The Centre for Industrial Consultancy and Liaison, (CICL) regularly organises conferences and exhibitions on behalf of members of staff and Groups within the University. If you are planning a conference and would like further information about the services provided by CICL please ring W. Campbell on: 667 1011 ext. 2369.



## Transition from school to University

### Students' Association project results

In September 1975 Moira Peelo (*left*) was appointed by the Students' Association as Transition Research Fellow with a two year studentship funded by the Association. Her remit was quite simply, "To look into the problem of transition from school to university, with reference to the social, academic, and accommodational problems of first year students". In August 1977, she submitted her report to the Students' Association and she has been successfully examined in the University for the degree of Master of Philosophy. Her thesis was a summary and report of the results of two years' intensive investigation into first year students at Edinburgh University, which is in turn summarised below.

For those concerned with the operation of a university, one problem which recurs annually is that of the new student arriving each October. While many studies have been concerned with the subject, Edinburgh Students' Association decided that it needed more information and needed it, moreover, from a student's eye of the transition process. While first year students are facing similar emotional and social problems to those of their non-university contemporaries, many are leaving home for the first time. This means that they are facing accommodation difficulties and making social contacts independently of their families, home backgrounds, and previous friends. Surprisingly though, despite this uprooting, she found that most students were pre-occupied with their work and academic difficulties.

This finding belies the view of students as constantly assailed by problems of drugs, drink and sex, sometimes found in the popular press. Certainly this does not seem to be the case with the students interviewed at Edinburgh University. As the introduction to the thesis points out, "In this case, the major preconception was that the most important problems first year students would have to face would be social in nature. The results (of the study) are quite different and came as a surprise".

Most students in the sample emphasised the difficulties they faced in their academic work. Students often arrive at the University with high expectations of both life and work on the campus. They must develop in many ways from the school pupils they have been hitherto if they are to derive full benefit from the time spend at university. One concern of the transition research project was to look at how these students reconciled their personal expectations with what they found on arrival at the University and how university life developed for them in the first two or three terms.

The objectives of the project are quite modestly stated in the introduction to the thesis:—"The aims of the project were quite unambitious, to produce information which due to its nature, would serve as a complement to the more general trends which have already been well described. The style of the project, . . . was exploratory and it did not set out to prove or disprove certain hypotheses. It

was not looking for outstandingly important factors affecting the possibility of a student failing examinations, but for what students saw as important aspects of being a first year student". It is in this area, perhaps, that the project has been most useful. While the overall remit and objective might seem unambitious, the results of the study and the ideas which it has generated are certainly not pedestrian. The students' own words act as powerful signposts to the problems which they see as being important in the transition process.

In the academic year in which the field work for the study was conducted, over 2,000 first year undergraduates registered for the first time at Edinburgh University. The majority registered also for the conference for first year students which is held annually in the week before the autumn term begins. It was felt important to contact and speak to first year students at this time of the Freshers' Conference and in the first few weeks of term. This exercise was undertaken as a pre-pilot approach and the Research Fellow contacted a one in forty sample of the conference registrants as such an exercise. However, the main part of the project was concerned with a one in ten sample of first year, first entrant, unmarried undergraduate students who came to the university in 1975. About

a quarter of these students were approached with a request for an interview by way of a pilot survey. A response rate of seventy-eight per cent was obtained on this initial approach. Each student in the remaining three-quarters of the sample received a questionnaire, the design of which had been arrived at after the pre-pilot and pilot interviews had taken place. The response rate for the questionnaire was most encouraging as nearly eighty-seven per cent of the students approached responded.

### COMING UP TO UNIVERSITY

One of the factors which could help ease transition from school to university is the student's family history of experience of university or other higher education. The sample of students who replied to the questionnaire did not come from a homogeneous background. They were split roughly equally between those students who came from families with some experience of higher education and those with none. For about a third of the students overall, their parents, either one or both, had been to university but there were marked differences in proportions among students in different faculties. Only a quarter of



students in the Social Science faculty had parents who had been to university; the smallest proportion of all the faculties. The largest was found in the faculties of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, which were here combined, and the proportion in this combination was nearly two-thirds. The results are certainly interesting and point to differences sometimes quite marked, between students in the various faculties.

The underlying assumption behind much thinking on a student's approach to university is that the student will consider possibilities open to him and then make the decision to go to university. This is perhaps mistaken. Many students when interviewed by the Transition Research Fellow indicated that they had assumed they would be going to university, almost as if it were a natural progression, and only then had they considered courses and requirements. In this respect, and probably as a result of the attitudes the students exhibited, careers advisers in the schools did not seem to be of much help, as was clear from the responses of students to the questionnaire. Presumably, either students were not able to use career advisers in the way they had expected, or, as some of the students indicated, they already knew what they wanted and therefore felt that advice from careers officers was redundant. In the event, only about a third of the students replying to the questionnaire found this service to be of any direct assistance.

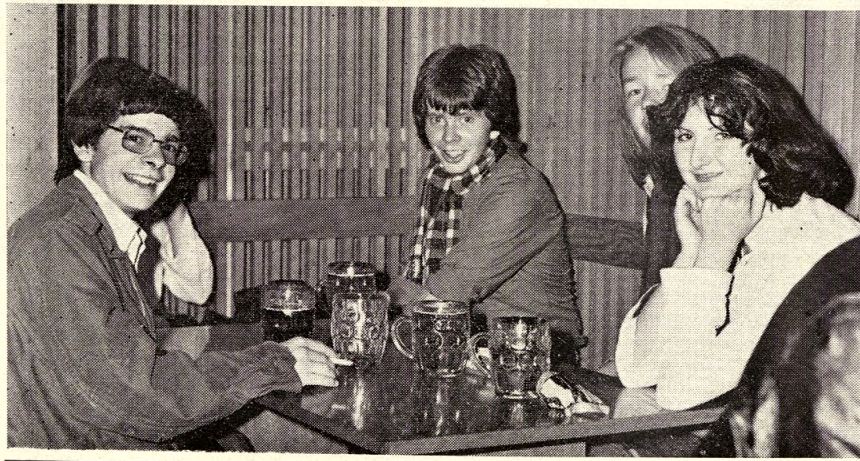
Edinburgh University would certainly seem to be a popular choice for students. It was the first choice for three-quarters of those students interviewed and for four out of every five students who answered the questionnaire. The small number of students in the sample who did not put Edinburgh as first choice of university were likely to have had Oxford, Cambridge, or Durham as their first choice. In trying to assess the popularity of Edinburgh the questionnaire asked students to indicate reasons for coming to this particular university. About twenty per cent indicated that the major reason for applying to Edinburgh University was that they lived in Edinburgh or the surrounding district. Twice that proportion indicated that they had come because they liked the city. It was not clear from the questionnaire whether this involved first hand experience of the city or whether it was based on a perception of Edinburgh as a capital city with a Festival and a number of other attractive features. Over thirty per cent of the students claimed to have come to Edinburgh because the course which they were anxious to pursue was best for the subject, though, again it is not clear from the questionnaire whether this was based on any more substantial sources than the opinions which happened to be current amongst their peers at the time the students applied for university admission.

As to why students should choose to come to university at all, the respondents to the questionnaire can be divided into two clear types, the positive and the passive. Two-thirds of the students claim to come for what can be described as

positive reasons; to get a better job, for a specific career, or to follow a particular course. About one third of the students were less direct in their response and came to university because they saw it vaguely as the next step; they had not considered anything else, or they did not want to go to work right away.

## FRESHERS' CONFERENCE

Every year at Edinburgh University the Students' Association organises a conference for the October intake of first year students and this takes place in the week before the autumn term. This first



week sees the majority of students moving into their new accommodation, matriculating, meeting their Directors of Studies, and making new friends. It is an untypical week in as much as there are few, if any, formal academic requirements. Usually, it is remembered as a time for discos, debates, drink, queues and a confusion of attractive events set out for the information and entertainment of intending first year students. Interviews with students who registered for the conference during this week suggested that students living at home tended to go home to escape. For those who did not have this escape route, the key impression conveyed was one of confusion and the movement of large numbers of people in occasionally arbitrary directions. For many students the first meeting with a member of the academic staff in an academic setting, the initial meeting with Directors of Studies, was very disappointing. Clearly, students were expecting more extensive personal contact with staff at this time than is physically possible. For some students this disappointment of their initial expectation gave rise to a feeling that the staff had a "couldn't care less" attitude. However, most students showed an initial attachment towards the department of their Director of Studies persisting well into the first term. After Christmas, however, it seems clear that students tended to see themselves as members of a particular class, course, year, or faculty regardless of their home base and with no particular attachment to the department of their Director of Studies.

This introductory week for first year students seems to have a remarkable and perhaps not totally unexpected effect on students. Many become what can only be described as bored with wandering through the campus and are anxious to embark on what they consider to be the real business of coming to university. However, the friendly atmosphere existing during that week amongst the newly-arrived students ensures that few feel too lonely. It would appear that the general impression students have at the end of this time is one of bewilderment with a fair measure of pleasant anticipation.

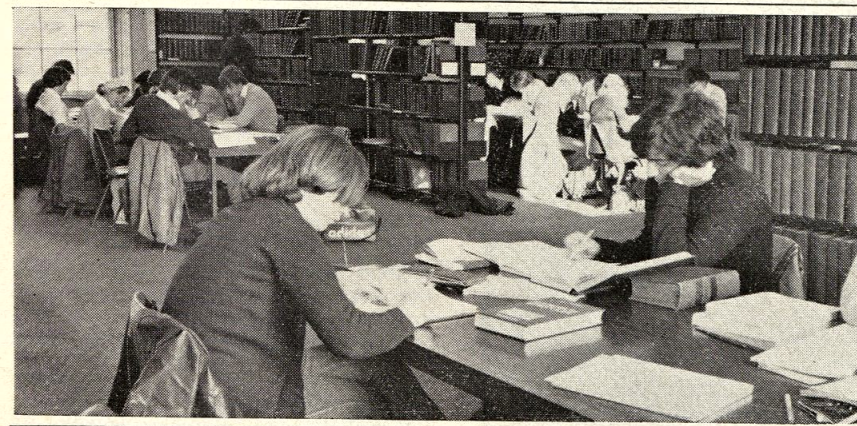
## ACCOMMODATION & SOCIAL LIFE

The general impression gathered from students who replied to the questionnaire was that they were mainly satisfied with their accommodation. As might be expected, and as previous research has shown, there is a considerable amount of chopping and changing in the first and possibly second terms but by the third term, ninety-five per cent of the students were almost completely satisfied with the accommodation they had found. The picture with regards to the students' finances is less satisfactory. About sixteen per cent of the students had experienced financial difficulty during the year. There was, in addition, a general anticipation that there were "lean times" ahead. The author sums up this anticipation quite simply:—"Most of the students I saw in the interview were resigned to the fact that their standards of living would be low for the next few years. . . . In effect, not only were these students adapting to a new life style in work and accommodation, but often to a shrinking purse and stomach too". The social life of students is a subject which excites a great deal of speculation and the outlandish exploits of a few can often cloud the more humdrum activities of the majority. The study clearly indicates that for male students, reporting on their social life, socialising focuses about sport of various kinds and the activities of the student's own societies; of course the weekends, especially Friday nights see many in the Student Union. For the female students

visits to (or from) close friends, theatre, cinema, or student societies seem to predominate in their social life. For many students living away from home, the opportunity to manage their time in terms of the allocation they give to work and play is perhaps greater than it has ever been in their lives. It would certainly seem to be the case amongst respondents to the questionnaire that they did not feel they had neglected their social life at the expense of work. In fact the majority of students felt that given the opportunity they would not have made more friends at university or have been more active in social activities. This, however, was not universal. Students in the Science and Social Science faculties were divided equally on the question of making more friends; and in the Social Science faculty the majority of students agreed that they would be more active in social activities given the opportunity again. It seems that there are differences, though perhaps of a minor nature, between the faculties in this respect.

## ACADEMIC LIFE

The students were asked in the interviews conducted after Christmas whether they felt that they had been properly prepared for university. Nearly all the students took this question to mean academic preparation in the strictest sense. This was not indicated at the time and the sense of the question was left open. As an initial reaction, most students believed that they had been well prepared but frequently they qualified the



extent of this preparation. One student summed it up quite clearly in the following:—"I don't know how you could be (prepared) unless you were at another university. I'd rather have known more about what the course entailed, I only had a sketchy outline. I don't think you can be prepared for leaving home unless you actually do it. Academically I could have been more prepared, even doing sixth year studies". The transition process, therefore, seems likely to be viewed by some students as a discrete jump rather than a continuous process. It was noticeable though that science students found a more direct relationship between school and first year university work than other students. The fact that not all students saw

transition as a smooth process, even after the first few weeks of term, is well illustrated by the quotation below. Old habits die hard and in a new environment uncertainty is quite common for the students and it would seem that after the first jump from school to university there can well be a number of minor judders. "It took me a term to get used to the way of working, especially after a lazy sixth year. I was terrified of the first class exams, not knowing what you would get thrown at you. That was quite an experience, I had no confidence at all. You get no indication from tutors (or) lecturers. I never used to get so worked up at school, but I wasn't worth talking to two weeks before the exams here. Then I settled more once I'd passed". In general, students interviewed were pleasantly surprised by their first class exam results.

Examinations do figure largely in the life of students at Edinburgh University. The majority of students responding to the questionnaire indicated that they clearly attached a certain amount of anxiety to examination time. This was connected with a degree of uncertainty as to what was expected of them. Here there were some differences between students in the various faculties; indeed, the majority of students in Medicine and Veterinary Science disagreed strongly with the statement that they worried about exams because they did not know what the standard was. About a third of all students claimed that this anxiety with exams was associated with the fact that they left their work until the last

minute. A smaller proportion, about twenty per cent of all students, claimed that they allayed anxiety about exams by working steadily throughout the term. Nevertheless, despite this preoccupation with exams, few if any of the students thought of them as the whole point of being at university.

Like examinations, essay writing appeared to be associated with feelings of uncertainty as to what is expected and what the standards are. Arts students were likely to feel that they spent too much time on essay work and not enough time on other aspects of their study. This view was not shared by the majority of students in the faculties where essays were a less important component of course work. Students in the Social

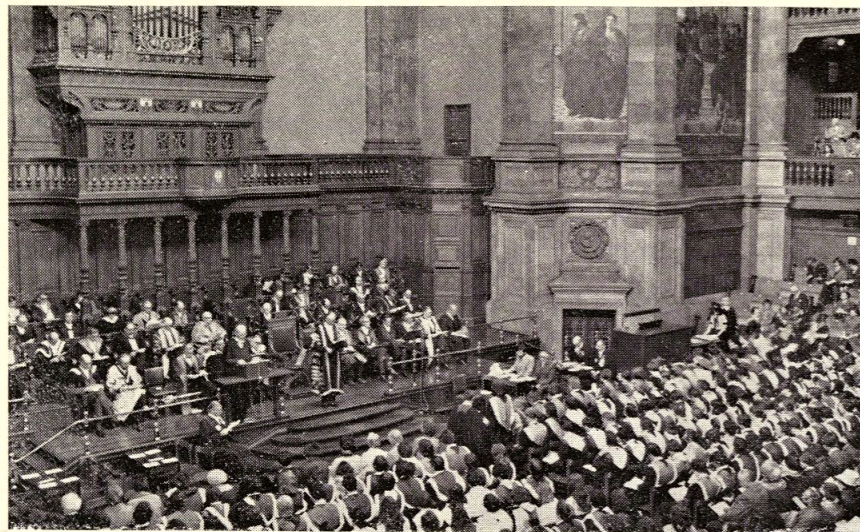
Science faculty were split almost equally into those who agreed and those who disagreed with the statement that essay writing required too much time and detracted from other aspects of university study. However, essays in general were clearly seen as important and even something to be welcomed as well over eighty per cent of all students did not agree that they would prefer to do entirely without essays.

In preparation for exams and essays, reading plays an important part. Students were divided equally between those who felt that the amount of reading was too much and those who did not. It clearly seems to be the case that the burden of reading is felt greatest in the Arts and Social Science faculties; the Scientific and Professional faculties make less demands, or at least are seen by students to make less demands, in terms of reading for course work. Of course, selectivity in reading is one of the skills which, one hopes, will develop during the course of a university career. It may well be the case that at this early stage in the students' academic development, it is difficult to isolate excess of zeal on the part of course organisers from inability of the student to distinguish between reading a book from cover to cover and using it as a learning resource. Over a third of the students found it difficult to get hold of set books but the difficulty would appear to be greatest for students in the faculty of Social Science.

Lectures are commonly held to be the backbone of any university course. The students surveyed by the Transition Research Fellow seemed to be of the opinion that the standard of lecturing varies greatly from one lecturer to another. This opinion was reinforced by the majority of students who were interviewed. Student comment on this issue is a substantial part of the reporting on this aspect of university life. The following two quotes will serve to illustrate. "The lecturers differ, some are very boring, reading last year's notes—I don't know whether they are or not, but they seem to—as if they are not very interested, but I suppose they must be. Some are very good at convincing you their subject is interesting. That's quite a change from school".

"Lectures are dodgy, I go to most of them. You don't know how much they'll help at the time. The lecturer seems bored, apart from that the notes they read sound as if they were made up a few years ago. They help, you don't have to do so much reading, it clears things up".

Lectures themselves were seen as something of a necessary evil. Students were aware of the problems of organising teaching when such large numbers are involved. The following quotes illustrate students' recognition that this is a problem. "It is the only way they can do it really, it takes a bit of getting used to. . . . There's no other way of teaching to such numbers. I would like more indication from the lecturers of what to do for exams—I'm getting neurotic about that—".



One Veterinary student was quite explicit in what he wanted from lectures. "I think I'd rather they gave you what you should know for a good pass in lectures and leave you to read the rest. Quite a few do, but some fill you up with all sorts of details".

Few of the students could articulate what they expected from a course of lectures. It was surmised, though, that whatever their compound expectation, it involved the hope that lectures would cover a subject fairly thoroughly and provide a certain amount of guidance. In order to test this, a question was included in the questionnaire which embodied the following statement:—"The point of lectures is to teach you the basic information of the course, and tutorials fill in on the details".

The complex and compound nature of a student's expectations on a course of lectures is clearly indicated by the response to this question. Overall, only just over a third of the students agreed with this point of view, though in the Arts faculty the figure rose to over one half of the students involved. The lecture as a teaching and learning situation obviously requires closer scrutiny.

It is quite clear that there is a felt need also for close personal contact with members of staff. Tutorials are obviously seen as a method of achieving this though there is probably great diversity in what is meant by tutorial in the different faculties. Just over three-quarters of the students agreed that tutorials are useful because they give personal contact with the teaching staff. Feed-back from the staff seems to be an important factor and this view is strengthened by those students who

commented to the effect that within the tutorial they were able to derive more positive information and cues as to what was expected of them and as to the standards being set; this teaching situation was seen to be less of a "vacuum" than the large and impersonal lectures. A number of students reported that they felt tutorials gave them a feeling that



Details of the transition research project and copies of the interview schedule and questionnaire are to be found in Moira Peelo's thesis—"A study of first year students' reported view on the problems of transition from school to university", which is in the University of Edinburgh Library.

She wishes to acknowledge the support of the Students' Association, of members of the University, and of teachers and pupils in schools throughout the Edinburgh area. Throughout this time she worked in the Godfrey Thomson Unit for Academic Assessment under the supervision of its Director, Dr A. E. G. Pilliner.

MOIRA T. PEELO,  
Transition Research Fellow.

they were being assessed or at least that someone was seeing that they were progressing along the right lines.

However, the importance of tutorials and the emphasis which students obviously place on them, for the reasons outlined above, does not mean to say that these teaching situations always pass muster. The majority of students concurred when it was asked if they thought the standard of tutorials depended on the tutor. While this would seem to indicate that there is variation between tutors, there is no evidence to suggest that this variation is anything like that reported for lectures. One student summed up the importance of the tutorial for him:—"Its a place where you either sink or swim and very often when you are on the way down there is no-one to throw you a lifebelt... My course is enjoyable, but I feel I wasted the first term, because I was not aware of what was expected of me. The transition from being taught to working on one's own is quite an ordeal... From an academic point of view, it is difficult to know how to cope with work without any advice or guidance. Not until later on in second, and in third term do you realise what you should have been doing".

However much the transition from school to university, from being taught to working on one's own, from living at home to living in a new and sometimes strange environment feels like an ordeal, most students seem able to cope. Certainly the majority feel that they have made the right decision in coming to university, though it would be instructive to ascertain if they still, after some experience of university life, hold the same reasons for wanting to come to university in the first place. Certainly, the process of transition does lead to change; it was noticeable that students in the Arts and Social Science faculties in particular were more likely to be uncertain, after their arrival, about the course of studies which they were following than other students.

A great deal of effort goes into welcoming students who enter Edinburgh University for the first time; indeed, this concern extends itself to further efforts to smooth their passage into a worthwhile university career. It seems likely that the Students' Association will continue refining and improving the welcome and assistance which it offers to first year students. It is hoped that this report of the project will stimulate, among students and staff alike, interest in the development and improvement of services for assisting the student at this important stage in his or her academic career.

JIM MURRAY,  
Research Officer.

## Viewpoint

### Appointments to chairs

by Mrs V. Salmon

The publication in the *Bulletin* (21 November) of new procedures for Chair appointments is very welcome, since members of staff—most of whom are seeing them for the first time—will now have the opportunity of commenting on them before their publication in the new *Booklet of Information for Staff*. It is unfortunate that in July 1977, ignoring requests for consultation, Senatus voted not to remit their proposals to Faculties before forwarding them to Court. In doing so they overlooked the fact that when they last discussed the question (in 1969) they did invite comment from Faculties who, as a result, were able to devise their own procedures for initial consultation on Chair appointments. In the Faculty of Arts, for example, it was agreed that the Dean should circulate all members for their views, and should thus ascertain that no one with comments to make had been overlooked.

Other considerations would have made consultation welcome on the present occasion. First, it was due to initiatives taken by elected members of Senatus, aware of problems in their own Faculty, that the present review was undertaken at all; and it could be that other non-professorial staff—not members of the Senatus—might have had equally important comments to make based on their own experience.

Secondly, the procedural document as it now stands is in part vague and ambiguous, and wider discussion might have revealed the lack of clarity as well as certain serious omissions.

Thirdly, staff outside the department concerned have lost their former right to propose names of members of Chair committees (cf. *Booklet*, p. 62). Members of the relevant Board or Faculty are no longer entitled to suggest names of (non-expert) members of Faculty to serve on the Chair committee, and it is regrettable that

such a valuable right has been lost without consultation.

A comparison of the old and new procedures reveals little material difference between them; and since the shortcomings of the earlier procedures sometimes created problems, 27 staff, from 19 departments in 5 Faculties, have taken the unusual step of writing to Court asking for clarification of the procedural document. As all members of staff may, at any time, and quite unexpectedly, find themselves involved in a Chair appointment in their own departments, readers may find it useful to know some of the most important issues mentioned in the letter, and arising from discussions in various university groups.

The crucial issue is the mode of selection, qualifications and functions of the members of Chair committees, and on all these matters the new procedures are insufficiently explicit. The Dean, who is to recommend to Court all the Faculty members of the Committee, is given no guidance whatsoever on the qualifications desired, although in the former procedures it was laid down that they should normally be in related fields of study. It is not clear who recommends to Court the name of a member from another Faculty, but whether or not it is the Dean, there are no criteria for his selection.

The choice of external assessors is perhaps even more important, but here again, the Dean is given no guidance on how he—as a layman—is to decide among the various proposals which may emanate from the individual members of the department concerned. The new procedures provide only that the external assessors shall be persons of 'eminence and experience', and do not specify that they shall be experts in the field of the chair. Some members of staff—particularly those who have already been involved in Chair appoint-

ments in their own departments—feel that the external members should provide real expertise, and that those who are best qualified to propose their names are members of the Department concerned. They believe that the Department should be entitled to decide on the experts and to recommend them to Faculty, which should be able to reject them only for good reason.

On the functions of the committee members there is one very serious omission. It is not stated whether the external assessors are to have voting rights, or whether they are to act merely in an advisory capacity. The vital importance of this distinction was made clear in a Chair appointment in another university, of which details were published in the *THES* and other journals last year.

The procedure for that appointment also reveals another shortcoming in our own; to leave the selection of most of the Chair committee to a Dean places a serious burden on him, and can lay him open to accusations of making an inappropriate choice. Other Institutions avoid this difficulty by distributing the responsibility for selecting the members of a Chair committee among a number of bodies; for instance, the Department might elect the external assessors, while the Board, Faculty, Senatus and Court nominate one member each. A committee composed in this manner would represent a wide range of interests, from lay to expert, and would avoid either excessive specialisation or amateurishness.

It has not been possible to give more than a summary account here of the issues arising from these new procedures, but I should be glad to give fuller details to anyone interested in the question—in particular, of the points on which Court has been asked for clarification.

Vivian Salmon,  
Department of English Language.

## Notice Board

### Surplus equipment

Surplus equipment is held by the following departments:

Genetics Department: Phillips—EM75B (Type 11981) Electron microscope. Resolving power 40-50A. Magnification up to x12,000; Wobbler focusing device and binocular viewer. Specimen holder for 3mm grids. Continuous control of accelerating voltage from 0-75Kv. Air cooled oil diffusion pump. Portable. Some spares. Overall dimensions W. 99cm, D. 74cm, H. 188cm, Weight 350kg. In good working order. Price to be discussed with interested party. Contact: Mr J. Isaacson, 667 1081 Ext. 3535.

Zoology Department: (1) Panax Counter comprising, Automatic timer type T300, IDL Scaler 1700, Programme and readout unit 2007, Sample charger, Variac transformer 210859, Coincidence control unit 2032, Addo — X print out, Liquid measuring head 2022. (2) Autoclave British Sterilizer Co. "Motoclave". This is a large fully automatic unit with two doors. Suitable for installation between 'wash' and 'experimental' areas. (3) Technical Camera. Linhoff Technika 5 x 4. Multifocus viewfinder, 75mm Schneider lens, Dark slides (5), Cable release, as new—still in original box. (4) Lathe Harrison 5". Gap bed, 15" face-plate, 3 x 4 jaw chucks and various accessories. Contact: Mr J. Holmes, 667 1081 Ext. 3209.

Molecular Biology Department: Colworth Droplette BA6013, 1 only. Simplettes BA6051, 15,000. Contact: Dr R. P. Ambler, 667 1081 Ext. 2872.

Microbiology Department, School of Agriculture: LKB Radi RAC Fraction Collection Controller, type 3403B. LKB Uvicord, type 4701A Control Unit. LKB Rotator, type 3401B. LKB Recorder, type LKB 6520A. Pye Autotitrator, x 2. Labgear Decade Counter, type D 4151B (to count and register random pulses from a Geiger Muller Tube), x 2. Contact: Mr J. Wiseman, 667 1041 Ext. 352.

## Spring and summer degree exams

### ... reminder of entry dates

Entries for the degree examinations to be held in the Spring and Summer Terms, 1978, should be made at the Matriculation Office, Old College, by the following dates:

#### Faculty of Science

Agriculture (2nd, 3rd and 4th years) and Ecological Science (2nd, 3rd and 4th years): Tuesday, 31 January, 1978.

Civil Engineering (2nd, 3rd and 4th years): Wednesday, 1 February, 1978.

Applied Science (1st year) and Science Diplomas: Thursday, 2 February, 1978.

Pure Science: Tuesday, 7 February, 1978.

#### Faculties of Arts and Social Sciences

Diplomas and Certificates (including Education) and BEd: Wednesday, 8 February, 1978.

BA, MA, BCom, BSc (Social Science) and Non-Graduating Students: Thursday, 16 February, 1978.

MA Final Honours: Tuesday, 21 February, 1978.

#### Faculties of Divinity, Law and Music

LLB: Wednesday, 22 February, 1978.

BD, LTh and Diplomas & Certificates: Thursday, 23 February, 1978

BMus: Thursday, 23 February, 1978.

#### MPhil, LLM, MLitt and Intermediate Degrees

Entries for Postgraduate Degree Examinations to be taken by candidates for the degrees of MPhil, LLM and MLitt, and for the Intermediate degrees of MTh, MSc and MMus, which will be held in the Summer Term, 1978, should be made at the Faculty Office concerned (Postgraduate Section) by: Tuesday, 21 February, 1978.

Candidates, or potential candidates, for any of these Degrees who have been instructed by their head of department to sit, as a Class Test, an examination paper set for a Diploma or *Undergraduate* Degree are required to register, at the Matriculation Office, by Tuesday, 21 February, 1978. They are required to inform the Matriculation Office, on registration, that they are candidates for a Postgraduate Degree (to be specified) or Supervised Postgraduate Students, and that they are sitting the Examination as a "Class Test".

A *Matriculation Card* for 1977-78 must be shown when the examination entry is made, either at the Faculty Postgraduate Studies Committee Office or at the Matriculation Office.

*Late Entries* made outwith the advertised date may be allowed in exceptional circumstances, on payment of an additional fee of £10.

*Copies* of the Programme of Examinations are available at the Matriculation Office. Dates and Times not included in the Programme, and any amendments to the Programme, will be given in a Poster published at the beginning of the Summer Term. Enquiries relating to the date and hour of Postgraduate Degree Examinations which do not appear in the programme should be addressed to the Secretary of the appropriate Faculty Postgraduate Studies Committee.

## 13 April Meeting in Edinburgh on Photoperiodism for B.P.S.

The British Photobiology Society Meeting on Photoperiodism, will be held in the Engineering Department of the University on Thursday, 13 April. Among the speakers will be:

Dr Daphne Vince-Prue, (ARC); Professor A. D. Lees, (Imperial College, London); Dr D. S. Saunders, (Department of Zoology, Edinburgh); Dr S. M. Simpson, (Department of Zoology, University College North Wales, Bangor); Dr T. J. Nicholls, (Department Zoology and Comparative Physiology, Queen Mary College, London) and Professor B. K. Follett, (Department Zoology, Bangor).

The registration fee is £2 for BPS and £4 for non-members, inclusive of one year's subscription to BPS. *Further details and applications to attend are being dealt with by Dr Saunders of the Department of Zoology.*

## A Middleton for the Middle Ranks

### Easter conference

The Middleton Hall conferences on Teaching Methods have been running for some seven years now and during that time we have always been greatly encouraged by the support we have received from our colleagues in many departments; both in the "staffing" of the conferences and as participants. The conferences in September have been intended mainly for new teaching staff but we have met both interest and, on occasions, suspicion from established teaching staff about what goes on at Middleton Hall and so we have decided to try to meet this interest by providing an "Open Middleton" during the Easter vacation.

The conference, which we shall run on very much the same lines as the normal September version, will discuss topics such as student learning, assessment procedures, teaching methods and the wide role of the university teacher. The conference will take place from the late afternoon of Monday, 3

April to the afternoon of Friday, 7 April and will be *fully residential*. The number of participants will be limited to about twenty-five but anyone may apply. Additional information may be obtained from Heads of Departments or from Miss P. A. Rodgers, Old College.



It's all very well for these young chaps, but training at my age could change the habits of a lifetime .....

With acknowledgements to the Newsletter of the Academic Staff Training and Development Committee of Loughborough University of Technology.

## X-ray machine available

Owing to the decrease in annual demand for X-ray examinations, the University Health Service has decided that it will no longer be able to maintain the 100 mm X-ray machine presently installed at the

Health Service. Any department of the University which may be interested in securing the machine is asked to contact the Physician-in-charge, Dr J. B. Brown, Tel. 667 1011, ext. 2526.

## The Society for the Study of Artificial Intelligence and Human Behaviour

AISB was founded in 1964 and acts as a focal point for news of artificial intelligence research and experiments in the simulation of behaviour. Membership is about 450, mainly in Europe, drawn both from the Universities and from industry.

The activities of the Group are:

- (i) to publish a quarterly newsletter.
- (ii) to hold a biennial Artificial Intelligence Conference (on even years).
- (iii) to hold a biennial Summer School for newcomers to Artificial Intelligence (on odd years).
- (iv) to strengthen ties and promote co-operation with non-European research workers.
- (v) to organise workshops on particular issues of relevance to Artificial Intelligence research.

Members pay an annual subscription of £2 for students and £4 for non-students, *reduced to £3 if paid by banker's order*. This covers the administrative costs of the Society, together with the cost of producing and distributing the newsletter. Where necessary, a separate charge is made for attendance at meetings.

Anyone wishing to join AISB should fill out an application form and address it to the Treasurer. If you want to take advantage of the arrangement to pay by banker's order, please also complete the banker's order form and forward it to the manager of your bank.

*Treasurer: Dr Alan Bundy*, Department of Artificial Intelligence, Hope Park Square, Edinburgh EH8 9NW.

## Importation of chemicals

For the information of all departments, extract from Department of Trade letter dated 15 December 1977.

The UK is now bound in its duty relief practices under the UNESCO Florence Agreement (for the importation of educational, scientific and cultural materials) by EEC Regulation 1798/75. This Regulation provides, consistently with Florence, only for the relief of duty on scientific instruments and apparatus, rather than articles for use in scientific research or education which had been the rather broader interpretation under UK legislation. Unfortunately therefore we are now precluded from relieving duty on chemicals used for scientific research purposes which had been our practice in the past.

The Department will not be able to accept any further applications for duty relief on chemicals ordered after 1 January, 1978.

## Children at the Staff Club

The Staff Club Committee has announced that in future members may bring their children to the Staff Club on weekday afternoons between 2.45 p.m. and 4.45 p.m. to use the first floor Mural Lounge only, where light refreshments are on sale. Children must however, be accompanied by a parent. Weekend arrangements for members' children remain unchanged.

## Teacher of Hindi wanted

There is a proposal to offer a course in Hindi at the Department of Extra-Mural Studies and a teacher of Hindi with a good background knowledge of Indian arts and culture is needed for one evening a week. The position might suit a postgraduate student or a postdoctoral fellow. Interested candidates please contact Dr P. G. Raman, Department of Architecture, Tel. 667 1011 ext. 4590.

## RHIND LECTURES ON PRE-ROMAN CELTIC ART

The Rhind Lectures for 1977/78 on the topic of Pre-Roman Celtic Art, will be given by Professor Dr Otto-H Frey of the University of Marburg. Professor Frey's six public lectures will be given daily on February 1-3, and 6-8 at 5.30 p.m. in the Lecture Hall of the William Robertson Building. The lectures are presented by the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland in association with the University's Department of Extra-Mural Studies.

# First Byzantine ecclesiastical estate discovered in Israel

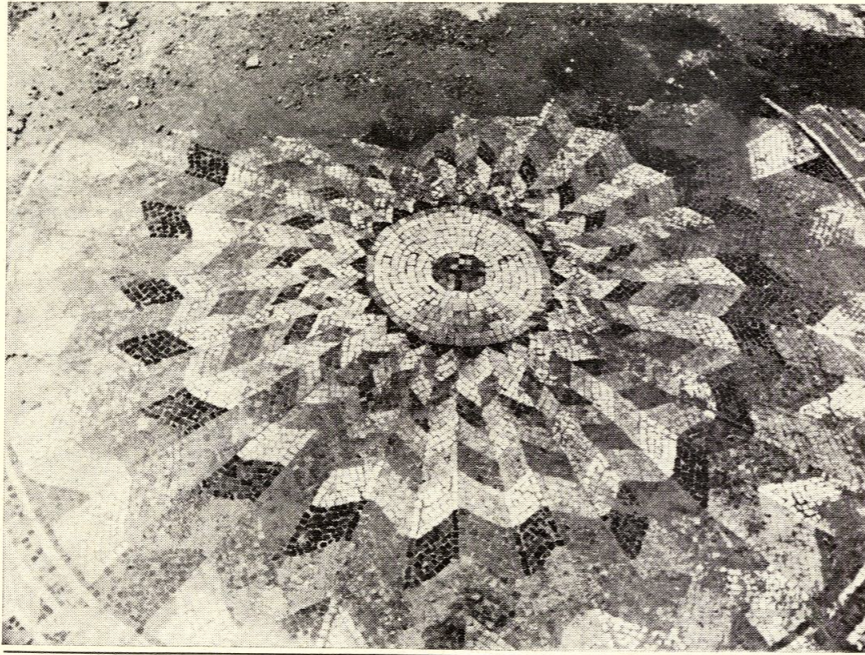
by Edinburgh University students

by Dr Claudine Dauphin

Thirty years after the last killed regiment had left Palestine at the close of the British Mandate, the Scots were returning in full force . . . They wore no kilts and played no bagpipes, but they demonstrated eightsome reels at municipal dance-classes and unmistakable Scottish accents could be heard, floating across Shelomi, a small development town predominantly settled by North African Jewish immigrants, some 2km. south of the Lebanese border, 30km. north of Haifa and 13km. north-east of Nahariya, the main beachside resort of northern Israel.

This new Scottish "force" consisted of seventeen students of archaeology, classics, divinity and history from the Universities of Edinburgh and St. Andrews, who had flown to Israel to participate in the unearthing of a Byzantine ecclesiastical farm—the first ever discovered.

The Israeli Department of Antiquities and Museums had originally intended the excavation as a quick salvage attempt to prevent new housing estates from encroaching onto and completely destroying an ancient site on the north-west slope of Shelomi, a site whose existence had first been recorded in the early 1960s, when a small patch of mosaic pavement



was exposed owing to heavy rainfall. The first season of excavation, which I conducted at Shelomi on behalf of the Israeli Department of Antiquities in 1976, brought to light a Byzantine agricultural estate and notably a large coloured geometric mosaic. These finds were important enough to justify a further season of excavation, hopefully longer and with a more substantial budget than the first season had been.

As a graduate and PhD in Archaeology of Edinburgh University and also a former Research Fellow at the University, I naturally turned for support to my adopted home—Scotland—and to my *Alma Mater*, the University.

The second season of excavations at Shelomi, which lasted two months (March-May 1977), was the result of the combination of Israeli and Scottish funds, with contributions in cash or kind from the Israeli Department of Antiquities, the local Shelomi municipality, and in Scotland from the Russell and Carnegie Trusts and the two Universities of Edinburgh and St Andrews—in particular from their Faculties of Divinity. The Scottish funds were especially valuable in enabling us to conduct an environmental study of the site by retrieving ancient vegetal remains through a flotation technique applied for the first time to Byzantine material in Israel, and by costly laboratory analysis of these remains, which made it possible for us to examine the site within its agricultural and economic context—providing data, which would otherwise have been lost.



The 1977 excavation season revealed there had been five building stages—the first indicated by Early Bronze sherds—covering two archaeological periods.

The next four stages (A-D) took place within the Byzantine period. The 500 square metre complex was founded in the fifth century A.D. as indicated by *terra sigillata* sherds (fine Roman ware) with characteristic roulette decoration. The present appearance of the site, however, is the result of major modifications during stage B.

A courtyard of crude, white mosaic tesserae (cubes), 12.00m. long from north to south, containing a rock-cut cistern, gives access from the west through a threshold to a main room (6.65m. x 7.35m.), paved with a geometric mosaic of refined craftsmanship, which has stylistic affinities with one found in the Byzantine church of Nahariya, 13km. to the south-west, which we excavated in 1976.

In the north-western corner of the courtyard, a room (6.00m. x 4.00m.), perhaps part of a watchtower is associated with a complex of arches and channels and south of the main room lie two additional rooms: one (4.50m. x 3.90m.) paved with a white, pink and grey mosaic floor the other (2.50m. x 3.75m.) had a plaster floor and may have been a store-room in view of the great quantity of fragmentary storage jars found. The Greek inscription within the medallion runs thus: "This work was carried out at the time of Father Thomas, the abbot, in the year 736", (around A.D. 70).

Stage B lasted only four years after which abundant evidence indicates the complex was destroyed by a heavy fire, a conflagration possibly attributable to the Sassanian Persians, who perpetrated wide-scale destruction along the coast of southern Phoenicia and northern Palaestina, as they marched to Jerusalem in A.D. 614. After that date, the entire northern part of the complex, destroyed and burnt, was abandoned, whereas the southern zone of the site was reoccupied. A southern wing in cruder masonry and with a more south-easternly orientation, comprising another courtyard and a plaster-lined cistern, was tagged onto the southern boundary wall of the original complex (stage C) and in stage D, various features were added.

The discovery of finds of a domestic nature (door-hinges and parts of door-latches, two latches of boxes or trunks, handles of bronze cauldrons) and of agricultural use: e.g., a scythe, a sickle, a knife, a pitch-fork and an unique iron measuring rod, 2.59m. long, during the first season of excavations, led me to assume that the complex was an agricultural estate. The iron rod, which is exactly five Roman cubits, was a Levantine and Egyptian land-measuring unit used for purposes of taxation, and first of its kind to have been found.

In order to check out the farm theory, an attempt was made to collect all ancient vegetal remains by a flotation method. Apart from the topsoil, all the soil from the

site, once it had been sifted, was dumped into a solution of water, paraffin and low-bubble detergent liquid. Vegetal remains and carbon fragments floated up to the surface in a froth and were scooped out using strainers. Wheat, olive and grape, and an unknown cereal, have been identified by palaeobotanical analysis. This discovery verifies archaeologically the statements of Varro, Columella and Palladius, whose agricultural treatises describe wheat, olive and grapes as the staple produces of Roman farms. Moreover, this evidence supports the interpretation of the site as an agricultural estate. The mention of an abbot, Father Thomas, in the mosaic inscription, does not equate the complex with a monastery—since it does not include a cult place, which is an absolute *sine qua non* for a monastery,—but it links it to a system of monastic landholding well known from the Byzantine sources and still practised by the great Greek and Cypriot monasteries (Mt Athos, St John of Patmos) which hold landed property in the Eastern Aegean. Monasteries derived a great part of their wealth from dues paid by a hereditary caste of lay tenant farmers or "paroikoi", established on extensive agricultural domains owned by the monasteries. The complex at Shelomi is one of these "ecclesiastical" agricultural domains inhabited by Christian local Semites, who spoke Aramean and bad Greek, as evidenced by the phonetic spelling of the mosaic inscription. Its monastic "Mother" or owner is as yet unidentified.

A further season of excavation should complete the uncovering of this ecclesiastical farm. It is hoped that students from the University of Edinburgh will continue to participate in the project, thereby lending their energy and enthusiasm to resurrect a tradition of their University's involvement in Byzantine archaeological expeditions in the Eastern Mediterranean. A tradition upheld, notably at Constantinople and Trebizond by the late Professor D. Talbot Rice, once Professor of Fine Art and Vice-Principal of Edinburgh University, a great Byzantinist—my mentor.



## WATCH YOUR WASTE

The University tries to ensure that, as far as possible, waste paper is recycled: and it also derives a useful small income from this. The cleaning staff play their part by collecting the waste paper from various places around the University, but their work is considerably hampered if members of the University mix in with it other items, such as broken glass, food waste and non-paper containers, and there have been cases in the past where cleaning staff have been injured by unsuitable waste products being placed in waste paper bins and containers.

Staff and students are therefore asked to try and ensure that 'contrary' items such as wood, glass, plastics, food waste, non-paper containers and general rubbish are not put in waste paper bins but are placed in the receptacles for non-paper waste which should be available in departments. (Anyone who does not know where these receptacles are located should contact the servitor for their block).

By keeping the two categories of waste separate members of the University will not only help to ensure that cleaners do not get hands cut unnecessarily, but that waste paper can be used again, to the benefit of all.

## Wardenships in student houses

Applications are invited from male and female members of the University Staff (both teaching and non-teaching) and postgraduate students for appointment as Wardens of the following Student Houses.

*Bush House*, Milton Bridge, Penicuik, which has accommodation for 33 students. The warden's accommodation consists of a kitchen, sitting room and bedroom. The remuneration is £100 per annum (not superannuated) with free accommodation.

*Kenneth Mackenzie House*, 27-29 Lauder Road, which has accommodation for 45 students. The warden's accommodation consists of a kitchen, sitting room and bedroom. The warden is provided with free accommodation in return for his/her administrative duties.

*Cunningham House*, 38 Craigmillar Park, which has accommodation for 13 female students. The warden's accommodation consists of a bedsitting room with the warden sharing kitchen and bathroom facilities with the residents. The warden is provided with free accommodation in return for his/her administrative duties.

*Findlay House*, 29 Cameron Park, which has accommodation for 25 female students. The warden's accommodation consists of a bedroom and a sitting room, with the wardens sharing cooking facilities with the students. The warden is provided with free accommodation in return for his/her administrative duties.

The wardens are responsible to the Senior Warden of the Outward Halls and Houses for securing good order and compliance with University regulations in the Houses. Application forms are available from Mr M. Gillanders, Secretary to the Selection Committee for Wardens, Old College, and should be submitted by 10 February.

## KB Minibus service

The attention of members of staff and students who use this service is drawn to the new timetable which comes into operation on 30 January 1978. The timetables will be displayed on the buses and departmental notice boards.

The timetable has been revised in an endeavour to minimise time lost by staff between classes.

## Teaching journal

The recently published issue of *Impetus*—the forum of the central co-ordinating committee for the training of university teachers—contains articles on the teaching development programme at Birkbeck College; Thoughts on Propagating Study Skills; University Teacher Training in Sweden; Staff Development by Post or 'The Mountain to Mohammed'; Please try to Understand our Defence Mechanisms, and Development and Discourse.

Those interested in seeing a copy of this issue should contact Miss P. A. Rodgers on 667 1011 ext. 4265.

## Wain research fellowships for younger scientists

The Agricultural Research Council has decided to offer annually 6 Wain Fellowships to enable younger research scientists, or those who expect to become research scientists, to work or study abroad at an academic, industrial or agricultural institution of their choice for up to three months. The Fellowships may be awarded in any science relevant to agriculture including animal and veterinary sciences.

The closing dates for applications are 1 April and 1 October annually. Further particulars are available from the Faculty of Veterinary Science and the Faculty of Science or direct from the ARC, 160 Great Portland Street, London W1N 6DT.

## European integration research grants

The Commission of the European Communities is offering grants in 1978/79 for research into European Integration. Fifteen research grants may be offered of a maximum of BF 180,000 to young University teachers at the start of their careers who, individually or as a team, are doing research work on European integration. Applications must be submitted by 31 March 1978 to the Commission in Brussels and application forms are available within the UK from the Information Office of the EEC at 20 Kensington Palace Gardens, London W8 4QQ.

## Wolfson grants for industry—linked R and D

This year the Wolfson Trustees are prepared once again to assist University groups who have practical proposals for R and D projects—including design—which have a real bearing on industrial production. Projects related to any aspect of UK industrial activity will be considered, given that the industries to which they relate are potentially competitive, and that so far as is possible, those who seek support have confirmed that similar projects are not covered elsewhere in the UK by Government grants. Particular consideration will be given to projects aimed at the rapid development of commercial products through the transfer of existing technology to the many small industrial firms who form so critical a part of UK manufacturing industry as a whole. The Foundation therefore invites applications for R and D projects which would be carried out by teams which contain individuals acquainted and interested in industry and commerce, and which are strongly led. The projects should be realistically costed and those who apply should be confident that they can assemble a staff of appropriate size, calibre and range of expertise to carry out the job they propose. The teams should be capable of taking, in collaboration with an appropriate and interested firm, their results, if successful through to the stages of prototype and small batch production, and would be expected to maintain a close liaison with potential industrial customers and other bodies able to advise on industrial and economic development.

Applications will be assessed by a panel of experts chaired by Lord Zuckerman, and grants up to a total of £2 million will be made. The first payment towards the cost of the project will be made no later than January 1979.

Further details are available from Mr R. R. Bent, Senior Administrative Officer, Accountant's Office, Old College. All applications should be lodged with him by 15 March, 1978.

## Scanning electron microscopy in the Faculty of Science

### INTRODUCTION

In January 1978, a new Scanning Electron Microscope will be delivered to the University. This instrument, a Cambridge Instruments S150, will be situated in the Department of Electrical Engineering and will be available for use by members of all Departments in the Faculty of Science. Users from other Departments and from outside the University will also be allowed access depending upon availability of time on the instrument.

An earlier version of this instrument, a Cambridge Instruments S2, has been in use in the Department of Electrical Engineering since July 1967. This was the first SEM to go into operation in Scotland, and has remained the only one in this University. It will continue in use on Electrical Engineering research topics rather than in the dual purpose research/service function that it has been performing since its installation.

### THE INSTRUMENT

There are two main categories of electron microscope which are commonly encountered, and these have rather different fields of application. In order to avoid confusion, these will be briefly described.

a. *The Conventional Transmission Electron Microscope (CTEM)*. This is the older type of instrument, first developed in the 1930's, and is used to examine specimens which have been cut into very thin sections. It has very good resolution, of the order of 0.2 nm, and the best of such instruments have been used to resolve individual atoms.

b. *The Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM)*. This has been commercially available only since 1965 and is used to examine the surface of specimens which have usually been subjected to very little or no preparation prior to being placed in the microscope. Its ultimate resolution is considerably worse than that of the CTEM but its ability to examine a wide variety of specimens with great depth of focus has led to its use in solving a vast

range of engineering and scientific problems. The new instrument will have a resolution of about 7 nm and will normally accommodate specimens of up to about a one centimetre cube.

### USERS

Apart from its use for examining micro-electronic devices and materials connected with research in the Electrical Engineering Department, the old instrument has been extensively used by the local microelectronics industry, by other University Departments and by other universities and research organisations. It is of potential use to those involved in practically all investigations where any form of microscopy is used at present.

### THE FUTURE

It is hoped that the new instrument will enable more users to discover the benefits of the SEM in their own work. The new microscope will be a fairly basic one, though with excellent performance. It is expected that as time goes on it will be possible to add extra facilities in the form of special specimen stages and X-ray microanalysis, for example, if there is sufficient demand from users.

The performance and reliability of SEM's has been shown to be adversely affected when used by untrained persons, so that only properly qualified individuals will be allowed to operate the machine themselves. Those who wish to do this may be allowed to do so after following a course of instruction in the Electrical Engineering Department and showing themselves to be competent.

Users from outside the Faculty of Science will be charged at an appropriate rate for time on the instrument and for necessary services and materials. Charges for instrument time will not normally apply to users from within the Faculty of Science.

Those wishing to use the SEM or who believe it might be of help to their investigations should initially contact Mr J. Goodall, SEM Laboratory, Department of Electrical Engineering, King's Buildings. Tel. 031-667 1081 ext. 3280.

## Mr Henry Ord

Henry W. Ord, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Economics and Centre of African Studies, died after an illness, borne with dignity, on Christmas Eve. A graduate of St. Catherine's College, Cambridge, he entered the public service in Kenya before joining the University of Edinburgh as Research Fellow in 1961. With the setting up of the Centre of African Studies, Henry Ord was appointed to a Lectureship in 1962, and promoted to Senior Lecturer in 1971. Mr Ord served

## Obituary

### Miss Jean Hodgson

The *Bulletin* regrets to record the death of Miss Jean M. Hodgson, on 11 January, her fiftysecond birthday, at the home of her sister in Devon after a period of illness borne with characteristic cheerfulness and fortitude. She was a native of Yorkshire and her University Education was at the Royal Holloway College, London, where she obtained an Honours Degree in French with subsidiary German. Subsequently she took a secretarial course at the Yorkshire Ladies College in Leeds and from 1947 to 1955 she was Secretary to the Modern Languages Department in the University of Leeds, where her duties included acting as chauffeuse to the Professor of French! From 1955 to 1962, she was Assistant Secretary, Durham Colleges in the University of Durham and, from 1962 to 1967, Registrar of Bedford College, London. The many friends which she made in these places were frequent visitors to Edinburgh.

From 1967, as Senior Administrative Officer in the Faculty of Science, she won the regard and friendship of six successive Deans and the affection of all who worked with her in the Faculty and the University. The memory of her good sense, quiet efficiency and warmth of personality will remain as an inspiration to us.

on a number of University Committees, notably the Finance, Catering, Overseas and Press Committees. During 1968 and 1969 he was seconded as Economic Advisor to the Government of Malawi. His published work includes *An Introduction to East African Economics* and *An Introduction to West African Economics* both written in collaboration with Ian Livingstone, now Professor in the University of East Anglia.

## FIRE SAFETY

Now that the emergency period of the Firemen's strike is over, thanks should go to all members of the University who took special action against fire risk. Continuing attention to fire precautions by all will help to maintain the safe record.



## BULLETIN CONTACT

The Editor of the Bulletin is Ray Footman, University Information Officer.

**Contributions** — including letters — intended for the Bulletin, are welcomed. Items for the next issue should reach the Editor as soon as possible and not later than morning post on Wednesday, 8 February.

Readers may wish to be reminded that the following supplements to the *Bulletin* have been issued since the previous checklist was published in March last.

**1977**

**27 April** Report of 25 April Court Meeting, referring to the financial position and tuition fees. Also reproducing DES 28 March announcement of University grants for 1977/78 (and provisional sums for the following three years) and subsequent UGC letter to the Principal announcing Edinburgh's 1977/78 grant.

**1 June** Report of 30 May Court Meeting reviewing various development matters and announcing Composite Fees for 1977/78 and new loan-financed residential scheme.

**18 July** Reporting the University's message of congratulations to the Chancellor on his 25 years of Office, also the Court and Senatus meetings of 11 and 6 July, with further references to tuition fees, and summing up the financial position at the end of the academic year.

**September** Special issue of the *Bulletin* for schools.

**October** List of standing committees of the University Court and Senatus and their membership.

**26 October** Report of 24 October Court Meeting announcing the approval of the ordinances on the Rectorship and the composition of Court (with both ordinances being reproduced) and the appointment of Mr Alex Currie to succeed Mr Charles Stewart as Secretary.

**12 December** Information Office notice reporting the sudden death of the Principal, Professor Sir Hugh Robson.

**21 December** Report of 12 December Court Meeting announcing a Memorial Service for Sir Hugh on 21 January and the establishment of a small group to recommend the appointment of an Acting Principal by January.

**1978**

**9 January** Report of appointment of Professor Berrick Saul as Acting Principal.

**Information Office, Old College.**  
Tel.: 667 1011, Ext. 4254.

## University of Edinburgh OFFICE OF PRINCIPAL

The Curators of Patronage have held their first meeting and have decided:

1. to advertise the appointment, and
2. to issue this general invitation to all members of the University staff to communicate any suggestions or proposals which they may have as to the names of suitable candidates for appointment to this office.

The advertisement will be in the following terms:

The Curators of Patronage of the University, in consequence of the untimely death of Sir Hugh Robson, now invite any individual of appropriate experience and background, who is interested in this post, to communicate with the undersigned from whom further information is available.

**CHARLES H. STEWART**, Secretary to the Curators of Patronage, Old College, South Bridge, Edinburgh EH8 9YL.

It is the intention of the Curators to provide themselves with the means of obtaining the benefit of further consultations within the University and are taking action to enable that to be effectively done.

*The appointment to the University Principalship is the responsibility, under the Universities of Scotland Acts, of the Curators of Patronage. The Curators consist of four nominees of the University Court and three of the City of Edinburgh, appointed by the District Council. The Secretary to the University is also the Secretary to the Curators. The present members of the Curators are:*

*The Honourable Lord Cameron, DSC*

*The Right Honourable the Lord Provost of Edinburgh  
Councillor W. K. MacFarlane*

*Councillor D. Drummond-Young, MBE*

*Professor W. H. Walsh*

*Professor Sir Frederick Stewart*

*There is at present one University vacancy following the retirement last session of Professor Sir John Crofton, and it is likely that the University Court will, at its 30 January meeting, make an appointment to fill this vacancy.*

## Medical Faculty Ball

The Medical Faculty Ball will be held on Thursday 16 February and will start with a sherry reception at 8 p.m. followed by dinner. A Cabaret will be performed later in the evening and music to cater for all tastes will be provided with live bands, groups and a disco.

Tickets are £10.50 for a double meal ticket (£5.50 without meal) and are available from the Faculty Office, Teviot Place.

## Peter Wilson Lecture

Professor L. C. Vaughan of the Royal Veterinary College, University of London, will deliver the Peter Wilson Bequest Lecture on the subject of "Growth Plate Disturbance in Dogs" in Lecture Hall B of the David Hume Tower at 5.15 p.m. on Friday, 17 February.