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31. 8. 1971

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
RESEARCH SCHOOL OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES  
Supplementary Report of Director

The broad picture of the state of the School is not greatly different from that described in my report introducing the Annual Research Report of the Research School of Biological Sciences for 1970. However there are a few additional points which may be made, since Council is considering the report relatively late in 1971.

Our main continuing preoccupations and difficulties arise from being in temporary accommodation, with the School scattered over the campus. Most of the School is in four separate sites essentially one for each Department. Block M holds the Department of Developmental Biology, the Central Services and School Services and the Taxonomy Unit. Block C holds the Department of Neurobiology, while the Department of Genetics continues in the John Curtin School for Medical Research and the Department of Environmental Biology in the Research School of Chemistry. We have stores and a few activities in other places such as Block N, the Magnetometer Hut and now Block I, to which Dr Naora's Unit of Molecular Biology is moving, to allow the JCSMR to fit in its growing Department of Human Biology. Unfortunately, the new building will not be ready for occupation until after mid-1972. The designated completion date is in May, but there is some indication of possible delay beyond this. The precise situation is difficult to assess without knowing what the flow chart in the office of the contractors means in real terms. When the building is ready for occupation, we shall have to move the parts of the School one at a time, so that our workshop staff, who will have to be established first, will be able to assist in the installation of apparatus.



It is worth noting that the standard of workmanship in the construction of the building is extremely good. All those members of the School who have had the privilege of a tour around the building have expressed gratification at the excellence of the construction evident at this stage.

Because of anticipated accommodation problems, the School did not plan for much development in the recruitment of academic staff until the end of this year. The indications are that we shall achieve nearly all of the recruitment which has been planned and which is possible. In this connection it is of interest to note that the School now has two Queen Elizabeth II Fellows, one in each of the Departments of Genetics and Environmental Biology. They will contribute greatly to the strengthening of research in the School.

The Genetics Department has received a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation to support research on methods for improving the content of amino acids in the proteins of cereals. This work is being conducted jointly by the Department of Genetics and the Section of Genetics in C.S.I.R.O. Division of Plant Industry. The part of the work which will be undertaken in the School is concerned with methods of selecting new strains, in the first place using bacteria as model organisms. The purpose of changing amino acid composition, specifically increasing amino acids such as lysine, is to improve the quality of protein in grains.

D.G. Catcheside  
31 August 1971.