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THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY

ANNUAL REPORT 1967

List of Staff:

Professor : L.M. Birt, B.Ag.Sc., B.Sc., Ph.D.(Melb.),
D.Phil.(Oxon.).

Head Technician : B. Thorpe

Three academic posts advertised during the year attracted a large number of well qualified applicants. Thus, it was possible to appoint the following staff members, with some community of research interests; they will arrive in 1968.

Senior Lecturer : L. Dalgarno, B.Ag.Sc., Ph.D.(Melb.).

Lecturers : A.J. Howells, B.Ag.Sc., Ph.D.(Melb.).

: F. Bygrave, M.Sc.(Otago), Ph.D.(Qld.).

Introduction

The Department of Biochemistry was formally established in September 1967, on the arrival of Professor Birt in Canberra. A number of departmental activities had, however, commenced in April, following a brief visit by Professor Birt: equipment and materials for establishing basic facilities for teaching and research have been accumulating from that time onwards.

During the entire year, the Department has been fortunate in receiving a generous measure of assistance from many members of the Science Faculty and Administration.

The Department will undertake a series of research programmes with a common interest in the development and differentiation of non-microbial organisms and, therefore, will be able to make a distinctive contribution to the already wide spectrum of biological research within the university. Undergraduate instruction will provide firstly, a basic course in biochemistry and secondly, a series of more detailed units describing areas of particular importance in modern biochemistry. This approach will permit students of biology to deepen their understanding of the fundamental chemical properties of living matter and will introduce students of chemistry to the application of chemical concepts to metabolic processes.

Accommodation:

The Department is at present confined to the western end of I block (Old Administration Buildings), as a number of delays have occurred in the conversion of H block (which will

house research laboratories and associated rooms) and in the release of the rest of I block (which will be used largely for teaching). Consequently, the preparation of equipment and materials for practical classes has been impeded considerably and it is likely that these classes may not commence until the middle of the first term in 1968.

Post-Graduate Students:

A number of enquiries from prospective Ph.D. students interested in departmental research topics was received; however, none of these students was awarded a suitable scholarship. The problem of obtaining post-graduate workers during the first few years of the Department's existence will be a considerable one and causes some anxiety, as the vigour of a teaching department is in many ways dependent on an adequate representation of graduate students.

Research Grants:

A grant of \$12,600 has been obtained from the Australian Research Grants Committee, in support of the project "Biochemical Aspects of Development during Insect Metamorphosis".