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## CURRENT SCIENCE—FIFTY YEARS AGO

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### A SCHEME FOR ADVANCING SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN INDIA

by Hem Singh Pruthi, D.Sc.

**I**N a recent issue of the *Current Science*<sup>1</sup> Prof. Gideon has put forward an elaborate scheme for the organization of research work in India. If I understand him right, the most important point he urges is that research in applied sciences like Agriculture, Medicine, etc., should not be restricted to a few central research institutions, but that some of the activities of such institutions should be retrenched and the teachers in the numerous mofussil colleges in the different provinces of India should be invited to work on research problems which have *direct* economic value from the Agricultural, Medical and Veterinary points of view. Only big university centres, according to him, should carry on research of purely academic nature. I request the hospitality of the columns of the *Current Science* for making some remarks on Prof. Gideon's scheme, especially in reference to research in entomology, admittedly the largest and most important section of economic zoology.

Presuming that there is enough justification for Prof. Gideon's statement that "the majority of mofussil colleges teaching science are free centres for research, having trained men with leisure for such

work", it is very doubtful if they have well-equipped laboratories and libraries for doing research of direct economic value. A man working on the control of insect pests has often to consult literature not only on entomology but on several other sciences like Physiology, Biochemistry, etc. Few research workers will deny that small annual grants for the purchase of literature are in any way adequate and that frequent getting of books by post from a far off library hardly conduces to well-sustained and concentrated work. Nor does a short visit to a big library in the beginning or at the end of research work meet the needs, as literature has to be consulted simultaneously with the progress of work. Regarding the equipment of laboratories, the mofussil colleges will each at a time be able to undertake the study of one or two pests and the necessary apparatus, etc., required by several of them will often be similar. It will be readily understood that this multiplication of the same kind of apparatus in a province and the consequent considerable unnecessary expenses can be easily avoided if the study of all the pests is restricted to a few well-equipped central institutes in the province.

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

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### TWELFTH CONGRESS OF THE WORLD ENERGY CONFERENCE (WEC)

The Twelfth Congress of the World Energy Conference (WEC) hosted by India will be held at New Delhi during September 18-23, 1983 and the tentative programme of conference is as follows: 1. Innovative Techniques and Technologies for Improved exploitation and development of resources, 2. Resources availability and strategic management of energy and economic resources, 3. Energy and quality of life—The impact of energy development on society,

4. International collaboration and contribution to Global Energy Strategy

In addition to technical discussions pre-congress and post-congress study tours are also arranged. For details please contact: Col. B. T. Nagrani, Executive Director, 12th Congress of WEC INC-WEC Secretariat (New Delhi), The Institution of Engineers (India) Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi 110 002.