News of Science

Advance Payments for Subscriptions

"Long term advance payments for subscriptions," an article in the 15 Oct. issue of the *Library Journal* by William H. Kurth of the Library of Congress, calls attention to the possibility of important administrative savings for the publishers of periodicals and journals and for subscription agencies and libraries, if the present annual payment-in-advance arrangement were replaced by a longer term payment schedule. The article stresses the enormous volume of expensive paper work now necessary, under the 1-year term, to expedite the movement of periodicals from publisher to library. It also emphasizes that the library is actually not a year-to-year purchaser of a modest number of periodicals and journals but rather a consumer of periodical literature on a regular continuing basis, suggesting the feasibility of a long-term payment plan.

The article indicates that a saving in administrative expenses of approximately 60 percent could be achieved if a 3-year advance-payment plan were adopted. This saving would extend to renewal notices, invoicing operations, recording of payments, and correspondence; the subscription agency and library counterparts of these operations would also be subject to the same reductions in costs. Under the proposed plan, more favorable subscription rates for libraries would be possible, and for the publisher there would be a longer term guaranteed circulation. (Of 2500 periodicals and journals listed in a national subscription agency's catalog, 65 percent now list rates for no more than a 1-year term and 21 percent offer no more than a 2-year term.)

Kurth points out that the primary impetus for establishing the 3-year term must come from the libraries; he suggests further that the development of the plan could be carried out by a special committee made up of representatives from publishers associations, subscription agencies, and library associations.

The article urges prompt adoption of the proposal and presents a schedule illustrating a procedure through which libraries, over a period of years, could change from a 1-year term to the 3-year one. The schedule outlines the orderly shifting of a uniform group of 1-year payments each year until the conversion is concluded.

Mellon Institute, 1954–55

During the past year the Mellon Institute's expenditures for pure and applied research amounted to $4,784,344. Of this sum $1,033,172 was spent in support of investigations in pure science in the institute's six research departments, and the remainder supported 12 fellowships. Altogether, 147 members of the institute were engaged in various pure science research projects.

The applied science research of the institute was conducted by 390 scientists and engineers who were employed by 64 other fellowships. On all the 76 fellowships there were 479 fellows and aides.

An electron microscope laboratory was added to the department of research in chemical physics and a division of microanalysis was formed in the department of analytical chemistry. A totally new department devoted to applied mathematics was established, and the facilities for microbiological research were expanded.

Pure research investigations were conducted in the following areas: vibrational analysis of trifluoromethyl acetylene, selection rules for ethanelike molecules having free internal rotation, temperature dependence of hydrogen bonding in hydrogen chloride-ether solutions, development of crystallinity in elastomers, crystal structure of antimony pentachloride, and instrumentation in x-ray diffraction. Also, studies of separation and purification were advanced.

In instrumentation, a new recording balance, a recording friction instrument, an automatic recording sward rocker, and automatic surface tension equipment were developed. Construction of the digital computer continued.

Other pure science researches were concerned with air pollution, pharmacological and toxicological problems, orthopedic appliances, fundamental problems in glass science, the synthesis of a new series of alicyclic hydrocarbons, the properties of synthetic elastomers, special resins and solvents for the care of paintings, the study and development of components employed in digital data-handling systems, and the importance of standards in government and the industries.

Eleven fellowships were initiated in 1954–55: aerosols, bituminous coal, carbon black, electronic printing, fatty alcohols, fiber glass, film properties, food packaging, information processing, life preservers and plate glass. Five fellowships completed their research programs: agglomeration, coal-waste control, fine wire and flat strip, garment filling materials, and thread.

Holders of continued applied science fellowships investigated problems in measuring fluid flow, in developing selenium power rectifiers, in improving structural clay products and castable refractories, and in metal forming techniques. Other projects were carried out in many other fields, embracing natural gas, petroleum, foods, insecticides, corn products, textiles, and paper. Work in synthetic organic chemistry was concerned with new and improved resins and organic coatings, silicones and medicinal preparations.

News Briefs

■ Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson recently ordered that the security risk classification be removed from the USDA file on Wolf Ladejinsky, agricultural expert who was dismissed from the department last January. Ladejinsky had conducted outstanding land reform work in Japan during the occupation; after he had been suspended he was employed almost immediately by the Foreign Operations Administration (now the International Cooperation Administration) to act as an agricultural adviser in Vietnam.

At his own request, Benson appeared on 27 Sept. before a Senate subcommittee that is conducting an investigation of Government security procedures. In response to a subcommittee counsel's statement that it had been "gratuitous and unnecessary" to disqualify Ladejinsky on security grounds, Benson replied: "Yes, I think that is essentially correct." The Secretary of Agriculture stated further that he knew that the USDA had made mistakes in its administration of the security program "but they were honest and conscientious mistakes."

With regard to Agriculture's recently revised security procedure, he added: "I feel very good about the changes we've made, the committee we've set up and