Average length of life increased substantially in every section of the country during the decade of the 1940's, according to life tables computed by statisticians from data provided by the National Office of Vital Statistics and the Bureau of the Census. The largest gains were made in the areas that formerly had the least favorable records. For example, in the Mountain States the increases were 4.4 years for white males and 5.9 years for white females. This compares with increases of 2.6 and 4.1 years, respectively, in the West North Central region.

■ The Navy is testing a miniature meteorological instrument that can substitute for permanent weather stations. The device is designed to record data automatically in both total darkness and under severe weather conditions. It weighs 6 pounds and is 23 inches high.

The instrument measures and records surface atmospheric pressure, temperature, relative humidity, wind speed, and wind direction. The equipment was developed for the Navy Bureau of Aeronautics by the Friez Instrument Division of the Bendix Aviation Corporation.

■ The World Health Organization, as one of the specialized agencies of the United Nations, helped to promote the celebration of United Nations Day on 24 Oct. This was the tenth anniversary of the day on which the U.N. Charter came into force in 1945.

The operations of WHO are now decentralized in six regional offices. In the western hemisphere the Pan American Sanitary Bureau serves also as WHO's regional office for the Americas. In the October issue of the *United Nations Review*, M. G. Candau, director-general of WHO and formerly assistant director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, reviews the work of WHO and PASB in an article entitled "The role of health in guaranteeing a secure world."

Scientists in the News

HAROLD S. VANCE, former chairman of the executive committee of the Studebaker-Packard Corporation, South Bend, Ind., was sworn in as a member of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission on 31 Oct. Vance's interim appointment for the term ending 30 June 1960 was announced recently by President Eisenhower.

Six Albert Lasker awards for outstanding achievement in medical research and public health administration have been announced by the American Public Health Association in New York. Presentation of the $1000 prizes will be made on 17 Nov. during the 183rd annual meeting of the APHA in Kansas City, Mo. Given for the 10th year and considered among the nation's highest medical honors, the 1955 Lasker awards will be conferred on:

KARL PAUL LINK, professor of biochemistry, University of Wisconsin, for "fundamental contributions to our understanding of the mechanism of blood clotting and for the development of methods for the improved treatment of thrombo-embolic conditions." Link is the discoverer of the anticoagulant, dicumarin.

ROBERT D. DEFRIES, director, Connaught Research Laboratories, University of Toronto, Canada, for "distinguished leadership" in the development of preventive medicine and public health in Canada. Connaught, under Defries, prepared and supplied nearly all the virus used in the field trials of the Salk poliomyelitis vaccine in 1954.

C. WALTON LILLEHEI, associate professor of surgery, University of Minnesota, jointly with MORLEY COHEN, HERBERT E. WARDEN, and RICHARD L. VARCO, of the same institution, for "advances in cardiac surgery making possible more direct and safer approaches to the heart." Lillehei and his associates originated the "cross-circulation" surgical technique for the correction of congenital heart defects.

Menninger Foundation and Clinic, Topeka, Kan. group award citing KARL A. and WILLIAM C. MENNINGER for "a sustained and highly productive attack against mental diseases, bearing fruit in better hospitals, better trained staffs and greatly improved care of the patient."

Nursing Services of the U.S. Public Health Service, Washington, D.C., group award citing LUCILE PETRY LEONE, PEARL MCIVER, and MARGARET ARNSTEIN, for "distinguished contributions to the advancement and well-being of the nation" through their leadership in public health nursing.

A team of tuberculosis researchers, group award to WALSH MCDERMOTT and CARL MUSCHENHEIM, New York Hospital–Cornell University Medical Center, New York, EDWARD H. ROBITZEK and IRVING J. SELIKOFF, Seaview Hospital, New York, together with Hoffmann-La Roche Research Laboratories, Nutley, N.J., and The Squibb Institute for Medical Research, New Brunswick, N. J., for "contributions of the first order to our knowledge of the principles of the treatment and control of tuberculosis" with the isoniazid drugs.

SAMUEL L. MEYER, head of Botany and director of the Marine Station of Florida State University, has resigned those posts to become dean of Central College, Fayette, Mo.

W. MALCOLM REID has joined the poultry department at the University of Georgia to carry out a research program in poultry parasitology. Reid recently returned from Egypt, where for 3 years he was head of the Poultry Unit under the Point Four program.

RONALD N. BRACEWELL has been appointed associate professor of electrical engineering at Stanford University. He was a research officer for a number of years with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization at Sydney, Australia; last year he served as a visiting faculty member at the University of California.

MERVIN J. KELLY, president of Bell Telephone Laboratories and GORDON RADLEY, director general of the British Post Office, were selected by the City of Genoa, Italy, to receive the first Christopher Columbus International Communication prize, which was conferred in Genoa on Columbus Day. Kelly and Radley received the prize in recognition of "the planning, now being placed into practice, of the submarine telephone cable which will make it possible to establish 36 telephone circuits across the Atlantic between Scotland and Canada with extension to New York, 'intending furthermore to reward hereby the numerous scientists, research workers and engineers who have contributed in the planning, production and placing in operation of the intercontinental submarine telephone line.' "

HOWARD F. HUNT has been appointed chairman of the University of Chicago department of psychology. A member of the faculty since 1948, Hunt specializes in animal psychology. He has done extensive work on the psychological and physiological effects of electroconvulsive shock treatment in animals.

JOHN S. BURLEW has been named director of the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, Pa. HENRY B. ALLEN continues as executive vice president and secretary. Burlew joined the institute in July of 1954 from the Cambridge Corporation, Cambridge, Mass., where he was technical director.

EDGAR C. BRITTON, director of the Edgar C. Britton Research Laboratory of the Dow Chemical Company, Midland, Mich., and past president of the American Chemical Society, is to receive the highest award in American industrial chemistry, the Perkin medal of the American Section, Society of Chemical Industry. The award will be the 50th impression of the Perkin medal, which is bestowed annually for outstanding

achievement in applied chemistry in the United States.

Established in 1906, the medal honors Sir William Henry Perkin and commemorates his discovery of the first synthetic dye in 1856. The 1956 medal will be presented to Britton in September 1956 at a dinner in his honor that will form part of the centenary celebration of Perkin's synthesis. Perkin's contributions provided a base for the synthetic dye industry.

Britton is honored for many outstanding contributions to industrial organic chemical development. His early work on the synthetic production of phenol made this raw material abundantly available for a large segment of the plastics industry. Derivatives also form such products as weed killers, insecticides, fungicides, and preservatives.

Britton also was a pioneer in the commercial development of silicone resins, the basis for an entirely new industry. Dow Corning employed his processes in making the first high-temperature silicone resin insulation for airplane engines. Subsequently the company produced silicone products for tanning leather, lens cleaners, polishes, and lubricants, as well as silicone rubber.

Agriculture is indebted to Britton not only for his development of phenol derivatives, but also for his synthesis of eight of the essential amino acids; seven of these are being studied as food supplements for man and animals. One of them, methionine, is the only essential amino acid now in commercial production; it is widely used in feed supplements, particularly for poultry.

CECIL H. WADLEIGH, career scientist and administrator in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, has been named chief of the soil and water conservation research branch of the Agricultural Research Service. He fills a position that has been vacant since the death of Robert M. Salter in September.

In his new post, Wadleigh will direct and coordinate USDA soils research in 41 States, representing all important soils regions of the United States. Headquarters of his branch are at the USDA Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md.

WARREN C. JOHNSON, professor and chairman of the University of Chicago department of chemistry, became dean of the division of physical sciences on 1 Nov. He succeeds Walter Bartky, who last June was appointed vice president of the university in charge of special scientific programs.

THOMAS N. A. JEFFCOATE, professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Liverpool, Liverpool, England, is visiting professor this month at the State University of New York College of Medicine in Brooklyn. He also delivered the Sir Arcot Mudaliar Lectures in Madras, India, this year and has recently completed a visiting professorship at the Royal Prince Albert Hospital in Sydney, Australia.

The following are among those who have recently received honorary doctoral degrees from Drexel Institute of Technology: ROGER ADAMS, head of the department of chemistry, University of Illinois; GEORGE R. HARRISON, dean of science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; C. GLEN KING, executive director, Nutrition Foundation; GEORGE P. LARRICK, Commissioner of Food and Drugs; HOWARD A. MEYERHOFF, executive director, Scientific Manpower Commission; ALEXANDER C. MONTEITH, vice president, Westinghouse Electric Corporation; C. GUY SUITS, vice president and director of research, General Electric Company; ROBERT E. WILSON, chairman of the board, Standard Oil Company (Indiana).

Necrology

WILLIAM J. CROZIER, Belmont, Mass.; 63; professor of general physiology at Harvard University and research authority on human vision; 2 Nov.

JULIUS H. HESS, Chicago, Ill.; 79; professor emeritus of pediatrics at the University of Illinois College of Medicine; 2 Nov.

NORMAN D. HUMPHREY, Detroit, Mich.; 44; professor of anthropology at Wayne University; 30 Oct.

HOWARD M. MARJERISON, Boston, Mass.; 59; specialist in preventive dentistry and lecturer at Harvard University; 4 Sept.

JOHN C. TRACY, New Haven, Conn.; 86; professor emeritus of civil engineering at Yale University; 1 Nov.

Education

■ The Atomic Energy Commission has approved the loan of 2 tons of natural uranium metal and a neutron source to New York University for use in constructing a facility for a nuclear engineering education program. The university will use the material in a subcritical assembly—a facility in which a neutron flux can be produced, but which is incapable of sustaining a nuclear fission chain reaction. The assembly will consist of an arrangement of natural uranium metal rods in ordinary water. If a neutron source is introduced, nuclear fissions occur in the assembly, but the reaction cannot be sustained without the presence of the neutron source.

The facility requires no controls and will be safe at all times. Neither expensive shielding nor heat removal equipment will be necessary. It may be used for many laboratory exercises in nuclear engineering.

Simultaneously, the AEC announced that it has approved a policy of assistance to nonprofit educational institutions interested in establishing programs using subcritical nuclear assemblies. Such assistance will consist of supplying certain materials for assemblies without a use charge being made, subject to availability and to a deetrmination that such materials loans will result in a net advantage to the commission's program. The plan is designed to help to alleviate the current shortage of nuclear scientists and engineers.

■ Sixty-six students have been accepted for the second session of the new School of Nuclear Science and Engineering in Lemont, Ill., which opened on 7 Nov.; 45 are from foreign countries and 21 from the United States. The school is operated for the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission by the Argonne National Laboratory. It is one of the major projects undertaken by the AEC in cooperation with the State Department and the International Cooperation Administration in support of President Eisenhower's atoms-for-peace program.

Twenty-one nations are represented among the foreign enrollees. Of the U.S. students, 18 are sponsored by American industry and three are from the AEC. Plans are under way for a third session to begin next spring.

The second class, like the first, represents a cross section of scientists and engineers from Europe, Latin America, and the Near, Middle, and Far East, and brings the total of foreign enrollees for the two sessions to 75 persons from 29 countries.

Listed for the first time are students from Burma, Chile, the Republic of China, the Federal Republic of Germany, India, Iraq, Italy, Lebanon, Norway, and Turkey. Nations having students at both sessions are Belgium, Egypt, France, Israel, Japan, Mexico, Pakistan, the Philippines, Spain, Sweden, and Thailand.

Most of the new students arrived in Washington, D.C., on 31 Oct. for a week of general orientation under the direction of the International Cooperation Administration. They were given background lectures on U.S. history and culture and on atomic energy. The School of Nuclear Science and Engineering has a full-time faculty headed by Norman Hilberry, deputy director of Argonne National Laboratory. J. Barton Hoag, who is on leave from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, is associate director.