ELBERT DECOURSEY, brigadier general and commandant of the Army Medical Service School at Brooke Army Medical Center, was made an honorary member of the National Society of Anatomical Pathology of Venezuela when he attended the sixth Venezuelan Congress of Medical Scientists at Caracas 18–26 Nov.

JOHN G. GIBSON, II, research associate in medicine at Harvard Medical School and associate in medicine, Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, has been honored by the American Association of Blood Banks for research that has extended the life of red cells in collected blood. With his associates, Gibson developed a citrate-phosphate-dextrose solution that reduces the damage suffered by red blood cells during and following blood collection.

Working with Gibson were WALTER SCHEITLIN, research fellow in medicine, Harvard Medical School and Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, and WILLIAM P. MURPHY, JR., and SEARLE REES, both of whom were formerly on the school and hospital staffs.

TRUMAN O. WOODRUFF, who has been serving as research associate in physics at the University of Illinois, has been appointed research associate in the metallurgy and ceramics department of the General Electric Research Laboratory, Schenectady, N.Y.

ALBERT I. MENDELOFF of the Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, has been appointed associate professor of medicine at Johns Hopkins Medical School and physician on the staff of Johns Hopkins Hospital. He also has been named clinical chief of the staff in medicine at the Sinai Hospital in Baltimore, Md.

P. M. AUSTIN BOURKE, assistant director of the Irish Meteorological Service and chairman of an international group of experts established by the World Meteorological Organization to deal with plant-disease problems, has recently started a 1-year mission in Chile under the auspices of the United Nations Technical Assistance Program. He will advise the Chilean Government on meteorological control of the potato blight, which in the last 5 years has become a serious menace in Chile.

Necrology

ALBERT R. BECHTEL, Indianapolis, Ind.; 73; emeritus professor of botany and chairman of the department from 1920 to 1950 at Wabash College; 12 Dec.

EDWIN M. BLAKE, Mt. Kisco, N.Y.; 87; mathematician; 20 Dec.

BENJAMIN B. FREUD, Chicago, Ill.; 71; emeritus professor and first chairman of the chemistry department at Illinois Institute of Technology; 12 Dec.

G. RILEY HOUCK, Memphis, Tenn.; 39; associate professor of physiology at the University of Tennessee; expert on kidney function and hypertension; 10 Dec.

SEYMOUR KORKES, Durham, N.C.; 33; associate professor of biochemistry at the Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, N.C.; 10 Dec.

SIEGFRIED W. LANDSBERGER, New Rochelle, N.Y.; 79; chemical engineer and food preservation expert; 12 Dec.

JAMES MCELGIN, Philadelphia, Pa.; 54; chemical engineer with the E. F. Houghton, Co., Philadelphia, Pa.; 7 Dec.

Education

■ The chemistry department of Howard University has inaugurated a graduate program leading to the Ph.D. degree. This is the first department in the university to begin training at this level. The department has 6 doctoral candidates enrolled in the new program.

With the initiation of the additional graduate training, the chemistry department has made arrangements for extending its activities in biochemistry by enlisting the cooperation of the department of biochemistry of the College of Medicine. Lloyd H. Newman, head of that department, and Lawrence M. Marshall and Felix Friedberg, members of the biochemistry faculty, will participate in the new curriculum of the chemistry department by offering advanced courses in special topics of biochemistry and by supervising the research undertaken by graduate students working toward advanced degrees. Together with Victor J. Tulane, associate professor of biological chemistry in the chemistry department, the four men will constitute the biochemical division of the department of chemistry.

■ *The Superior Pupil in Junior High School Mathematics* is the name of a new Office of Education bulletin by Earl M. McWilliams and Kenneth E. Brown. To secure data for this new publication, the authors visited classrooms in 140 junior high schools from Maine to California. Schools were selected because of their educational provisions for the superior pupil. These provisions are described.

The use of class activities such as mathematics clubs, contests, various conferences, and so forth are discussed. Ways of identifying superior students are presented. The publication may be obtained for 25 cents from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C.

■ Lowell Technological Institute has established a new 4-year course leading to the B.S. degree in general engineering. The course will train graduates who wish to cut across the traditional lines of engineering specialization; it will be available to incoming freshmen in September. It does not require the introduction of new subjects or equipment but primarily regroups present engineering courses.

■ A nurse-midwife school, perhaps the first to be offered in a university obstetrical clinic, will be resumed at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, with the aid of a $75,000 grant from the China Medical Board of New York, Inc. The object is to train as many foreign students as possible, as well as American nurses planning to serve abroad, in this field of special importance in underdeveloped regions.

The board's work in China, which was primarily support of the Peking Union Medical College, has had to be discontinued since 1950 because of the prevailing political conditions. It now concerns itself with problems of medical education in all of Southeast Asia. Grants to institutions in the United States have been made primarily to further this policy.

■ A series of television programs demonstrating a fundamental medical teaching technique, the grand-rounds tour of hospital wards with discussions of significant cases by outstanding clinicians, will be telecast from Boston, Mass., on a series of closed circuits to some 50 cities throughout the country. The series will originate at the New England Medical Center and at Tufts University School of Medicine. It is being sponsored by the Upjohn Company and is a part of the Bingham Associates Program of Postgraduate Medical Education at the New England Medical Center.

The first telecast, which will take place on the evening of 18 Jan., will give physicians who view it an opportunity to watch a group of specialists participate in the "Management of acute abdominal emergencies." This program will be devoted to abdominal problems that occur in everyday practice—for example, massive gastrointestinal hemorrhage, acute appendicitis, perforated viscus, and acute gall bladder.

Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

■ The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, Inc., has awarded the first group of a series of grants that will be made in the future from the foundation's fund for basic research in the physical sciences. This fund, which was established earlier this year, was made possible by a personal gift of $5 millon from Mr. and Mrs. Alfred P.

Sloan, Jr. The grants just announced totaled $235,000 and were awarded to 24 faculty members who are engaged in basic scientific research at 16 colleges and universities.

■ Ten predoctoral and four postdoctoral National Science Foundation scholarships will be available for study and research at the Duke University Marine Laboratory, Beaufort, N.C., for the summer of 1956. The predoctoral scholarships are open to graduate students from any institution; the postdoctoral scholarships are limited to applicants from the Southeast. Applications must be completed *by 1 Apr.* Blanks and information may be secured from Dr. I. E. Gray, Department of Zoology, Duke University, Durham, N.C.

■ Two predoctoral fellowships are offered jointly by the Geophysical Laboratories of the Carnegie Institution, Washington, D.C., and Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md. The fellowships cover a 2- to 3-year period. The stipend for the first academic year is $2400. During this year the fellowship holder is chiefly engaged in course work at the university.

Starting with the second year, he will spend most of his time at the Geophysical Laboratory working on a problem for his dissertation. The duration of this period is variable and may amount to approximately 2 years. The stipend starts at $200 per month, plus provision for university tuition, and is increased to $225 per month during the concluding period of tenure.

Application for the fellowship, supported by transcripts and recommendations, must be sent *before 1 Mar.* to Prof. Ernst Cloos, Geology Department, Johns Hopkins University, Balitmore 18, Md.

■ The Office of Naval Research Advisory Panel for Microbiology will meet next spring; proposals for ONR support of research in microbiology to be reviewed at that meeting must be submitted *before 1 Mar.*

■ Postdoctoral research associate appointments are being offered at Brookhaven National Laboratory that provide opportunities for research in physics, chemistry, biology, and engineering. Those phases of research are emphasized which deal with studies of the structure of the nuclei of atoms, high-energy particles, the utilization of the new nuclear techniques in basic chemical and biological problems, and in engineering studies of the utilization of nuclear energy.

A research associate may formulate and carry out his investigation either independently or in collaboration with a senior member of the laboratory staff. All usual and many special instrumental facilities are available.

Research associate appointments are made for a period of 1 year; they may be renewed for an additional year. During his term, the research associate is extended all the privileges afforded to regular members of the laboratory's scientific staff. Those interested should submit their applications *by 15 Feb.* to Dr. R. C. Anderson, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, N.Y.

■ The Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies has recently issued a new brochure describing the Oak Ridge graduate fellowship program. The brochure explains that a graduate student in mathematics, chemistry, physics, engineering, biology, or other scientific field may, on application of his graduate dean, receive a fellowship appointment in order to carry out his thesis research at Oak Ridge National Laboratory or one of the other Atomic Energy Commission laboratories at Oak Ridge.

Although a fellowship may be awarded before a student has completed his academic work, it does not become effective until he has completed the course and language requirements and the preliminary or qualifying examinations at his university. His research is supervised by a committee appointed by his graduate dean and, on successful completion of research and the fulfillment of other university requirements, the fellow is awarded his degree by the university.

Basic stipend for doctoral candidates is $2100 for 12 months; there is an additional annual allowance of $300 for a wife and $300 for one or more dependent children. Master's degree students in certain sciences may also be awarded fellowships; the basic stipend for master's candidates is $1600 for 12 months, with an additional annual allowance of $400 for a wife and $300 for one or more dependent children. Initial appointments are for 1 year and are renewable. Fellows may not be engaged in any other work for remuneration during the term of their appointments. Copies of the brochure and additional information may be obtained by writing the University Relations Division, Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies, P.O. Box 117, Oak Ridge, Tenn.

Miscellaneous

■ The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature has announced that on 30 June it will start voting on the following cases involving the possible use of its plenary powers for the purposes specified against each entry. Full details were published on 30 Dec. 1955 in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* in parts 9 and 10 of volume 11.

1) *Bithynia* Leach, 1818 (cl. Gastropoda), validation.

2) *Osmerus* (cl. Pisces) as from Linnaeus, 1758, validation.

3) *Phillipsinella* Novak, 1886 (cl. Trilobita), validation.

4) *Gempylus* Cuvier, 1829, and *serpens* Cuvier, 1829 (*Gempylus*) Cl. Pisces), validation.

5) *Seguenziceratidae* Spath, 1924 (Cl. Cephalopoda, Order Ammonoidea), suppression.

6) *Lepisma* Linn., 1758 (Cl. Insecta), gender.

7) *Pagurus* Fab., 1775, and associated family-group name (Cl. Crustacea, Order Decapoda), suppression.

In addition, an application for the use of the plenary powers in the following case was published this month in part 12 of volume 9 of the *Bulletin*: Curtis, 1837, ed. 2 of *Guide arrangement Brit. Ins.*, suppression of, for the purpose of selection of type species of genera.

Comments should be sent as soon as possible to the commission's secretary, Francis Hemming, secretary to the commission, 28, Park Village East, Regent's Park, London, N.W.1.

■ The smallest and earliest human embryo, consisting of only two cells and no more than 5 days old, has been added to the collection of the Carnegie Institution of Washington's department of embryology in Baltimore, Md. This two-celled embryo—and one of 12 cells, another of 58 cells, and a fourth of 107 cells—close the last gap in the collection. It now has human embryos from the earliest stage of development to the end of the embryonic period.

■ A list of chairmen of departments of mathematics has been compiled and is now available upon request at the headquarters office of the American Mathematical Society, 80 Waterman St., Providence, R.I. Requests may also be sent to the office of the secretary of the society, Prof. E. G. Begle, Leet Oliver Memorial Hall, Yale University, New Haven 11, Conn.

■ The first article in the January issue of *The Scientific Monthly* is "Recent developments in the detection and measurement of infrared radiation" by R. A. Smith. The other articles in this issue include "Some merits and misinterpretations of scientific method" by Paul F. Schmidt, "Survey of the Gothic Natural Area" by Herbert A. McCullough, and "A biologist looks at human nature" by Ludwig von Bertalanffy.

In the "Science on the March" section there is an account of a "New attempt to cross Antarctic" by D. G. Stratton. A report by Hilary J. Deason on the AAAS traveling high-school science libraries is contained in "Association Affairs." Nine books are reviewed in this issue.