News of Science

CERN Progress in 1955

The report on the work of the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) that was presented at the fourth session of the CERN Council 19–20 Dec. covered the period February to November 1955. It is a record of considerable achievement and progress in all the various activities. In particular, schedules for both the machines and the buildings have been well maintained.

For the proton synchrotron, the chief effort has been devoted to developing the component parts of the machine and investigating the European sources of equipment supply. The main orders for the magnet will be placed early in 1956 and the facility is expected to go into operation in 1960. In the light of further experience, a reassessment of the cost of the machine (including the buildings) has given a figure of F. 86 million (Swiss).

The smaller machine, the synchrocyclotron, is at a more advanced stage. The erection of the magnet in its building at Meyrin was started at the beginning of November. Nearly all the component parts of the synchrocyclotron are in the course of manufacture. Since this machine will be put into operation in 1957, the research program for its use is now being planned.

Instruments, mainly electronic in nature and in some cases of new design, and experimental methods to be used when the machines start working, have been developed during the year. The construction of the two Wilson cloud chambers is well advanced, and the first one has been assembled and is undergoing preliminary tests.

The CERN section in Copenhagen, in addition to carrying out fundamental research in nuclear physics, has continued its program for training young theoretical physicists from member states.

Two important budgetary measures were approved at the council meeting: the estimates for the financial year 1956, and the capital investment program for the period 1952–1960. The budgetary contributions for 1956 have been fixed at about F. 34 million (Swiss) as compared with a figure of F. 25 million for 1955. The coming year will be the period of great activity—a general move to the site at Meyrin, the installation of the laboratories and workshops, and the development of the scientific program in relation to experiments with the machines.

The staff, which is drawn from each of the 12 participating countries, will be increased by about 40 percent. It has grown rapidly in pace with the expansion of the organization and now consists of 285 persons. In 1956 it is expected that the total staff will reach a figure of about 400.

Albert Schweitzer

An extensive collection of Albert Schweitzer memorabilia was placed on exhibition in the Princeton University Library on 14 Jan. in honor of Schweitzer's 81st birthday. The collection includes samples of writings and commentaries by others. The display also has photographs lent by Erica Anderson, coauthor of *The World of Albert Schweitzer,* showing the scientist at work in Alsace and Africa.

Schweitzer's publications, from 1898 to his most recent work in 1955, are divided into sections representing New Testament scholarship, philosophy of civilization, music, medicine, philanthropy, and autobiography. Also included in the exhibition is a selection of letters to Walter Lowrie of Princeton, a member of the class of 1880 who translated one of Schweitzer's books in 1913. The story of Schweitzer's hospital at Lambaréné, French Equatorial Africa, is told in a series of reports printed and translated by his friends.

Rockefeller Institute Graduate Program

The Rockefeller Institute has recently announced the details of its plans for establishing a graduate academic program in the biological sciences [*Science* **122,** 279 (12 Aug. 1955)]. In November 1954 the institute's original charter was amended to permit granting the degrees of doctor of philosophy and doctor of medical science. The institute thus became a graduate university.

All of the resources of the institute will be available to the limited number of selected students who will be admitted. These resources include a faculty numbering approximately 150, to which group more members will be added as fields of research expand; large well-equipped laboratories; a hospital for the study of disease in man; and a comprehensive scientific library. These physical resources are located in six modern buildings on a campus of more than a dozen acres close to the Cornell Medical College, New York Hospital, Memorial Hospital, and the Sloan-Kettering Institute. To the present facilities there will be added new laboratories and a residence hall for students. The present value of the institute's endowment approximates $150 million.

Two types of students will be admitted: those who have just completed their undergraduate training for the baccalaureate, and those who are doctors of medicine and wish to prepare for careers of research and teaching. Both groups will be candidates for the Ph.D. degree after a period of no less than 3 years, although those who already hold the M.D. degree may elect the degree of doctor of medical science.

Probably no more than 15 to 20 students will be admitted each year. Accordingly, the student body will ultimately number approximately 60 to 75. This small group will be able to have close association with a large faculty. The educational program will be adjusted to fulfill the needs of each student.

Throughout the first academic year 2 hours of each morning will be devoted to lectures, seminars, and discussions of related subjects in many fields of science; together these sessions will comprise an orientation course in the pattern and structure of biology and the related sciences. Each week a topic will be discussed by one or a group of the faculty who are actively engaged in research in that area of science.

In order to broaden further the students' intellectual horizons, many distinguished scientists from this country and abroad have been appointed visiting lecturers. They include: Lord Adrian, master of Trinity College, Cambridge, England; Jan A. Böök, Statens Rasbiologiska Institut, Uppsala, Sweden; John C. Bugher, director for medical education and public health, the Rockefeller Foundation; M. Demerec, director, department of genetics, Carnegie Institution of Washington; Ludwig Edelstein, professor of humanistic studies, Johns Hopkins University; David R. Goddard, chairman, department of botany, University of Pennsylvania; Samuel A. Goudsmit, chairman, department of physics, Brookhaven National Laboratory; Ragner Granit, professor of neuro-