This aim is, to our mind, the survival and progress of civilized society; and the analysis of the facts of the atomic age seems to show convincingly that this survival depends on the development of ethical standards at once broader and higher than practical men have been prepared to accept and live by—broader in that they have to embrace all mankind and not just a single nation; and higher, in that they have to renounce selfishness and the resort to naked power, not only in relations between individuals within a nation, but also between nations."

Sea Water Conversion

Progress toward low-cost conversion of sea water and brackish inland waters to fresh water was reported by Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay in his annual report to the President and the Congress on the conversion program. McKay stated that:

"Estimates of the probable cost of large-scale conversion of sea water show that it is approaching the maximum existing costs of municipal water in the United States and is considerably below those of industrial water, although still several times higher than those of currently used irrigation supplies. At the same time economical improvement of brackish waters for many irrigation uses, which is inherently less expensive than conversion of sea water, is definitely in sight."

During the past year, eight additional research contracts were entered into, bringing the total to 30. In all, 25 projects were in progress during part or all of the year. With few exceptions, the contracts call for specific performance. Their duration generally is for a year or less. Investigations are being carried out on distillation and sealing; performance of membranes, both electric and osmotic; solar distillation; freezing processes; and several processes not yet fully explored, including chemical, physical, and electric.

U.S. Population, 1955

The population of the United States, including the Armed Forces overseas, reached 166,740,000 by the end of 1955. This marked an increase of 2,810,000 during the year, only 13,000 less than the record set in 1954. Thus, the high rate of population growth that began in 1946 has continued unabated for a decade. About 26 million people have been added to our population in the past 10 years, a larger number than in the preceding 21 years.

Infant mortality declined to a new low rate of 26.4 per 1000 live births. This is about 1½ percent below the previous minimum established the year before and 30 percent under the rate in 1945. The death rate for the population as a whole was about 9.3 per 1000, or only a shade above the all-time low of 9.2 recorded in 1954.

Scientists in the News

AHMED MUSTAFA, organic chemist and a professor at Cairo University, Cairo, Egypt, is spending a semester at Indiana University as a research associate under the auspices of the U.S. State Department. He is participating in a research program on organic sulfur chemistry.

During the next semester, Mustafa will be at the University of Rochester for research on photochemical aspects of organic sulfur chemistry. Mustafa has held guest fellowships at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1948–49, and at Columbia University, 1949–50.

CHARLES OBERLING, Roussy Institut anti-cancereuse, Ville Juif, Paris, France, is another of the participants in the decennial review Conference of the Tissue Culture Association that will take place in Woodstock, Vt., 8–12 Oct. [*Science* **122**, 32 (6 Jan. 1956)].

MORRIS M. LEIGHTON, chief emeritus of the Illinois State Geological Survey, was honored on 11 Oct. at a dinner commemorating the survey's 50th anniversary. He was presented with a bound volume of nearly 200 letters from the mineral industries of the state and from colleagues throughout the nation expressing their appreciation of his services and scientific contributions during the past 36 years.

HARRY F. OLSON, director of the acoustical and electromechanical research laboratory of the R.C.A. Laboratories, David Sarnoff Research Center, Princeton, N.J., has received the John Scott award for a 25-year-old invention —the velocity microphone. This instrument revolutionized the technique of sound pickup in the early 1930's and is still the standard microphone throughout the broadcasting and motion picture industries. The $1000 prize was presented during a dinner meeting of the Engineers' Club of Philadelphia. The award, which is administered by the city of Philadelphia, was established in 1816 by John Scott for "ingenious men and women who make useful inventions."

HANS J. TRURNIT, for more than 8 years staff scientist at the Medical Laboratories, Army Chemical Center, Md., has joined RIAS, Inc.

HENRY B. BIGELOW, oceanographer and professor emeritus of Harvard University, was honored on 24 Jan. on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, which he helped to found. He served as its first director from 1930 to 1940.

A leatherbound copy of the *Bigelow Volume,* a collection of 48 original scientific contributions that was prepared by colleagues and former students, was presented to Bigelow by Columbus O'D. Iselin in a ceremony that took place in the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard, where Bigelow has been working since the early 1900's. The 500-page honorary volume is a supplement to *Deep Sea Research* and will be distributed to all who subscribe to that periodical.

SAMUEL MARTIN will assume his new post as head of the department of medicine in the College of Medicine at the University of Florida on 1 Apr. He also will be coordinator of the J. Hillis Miller Health Center Study, which is supported by the Commonwealth Fund of New York.

At present Martin is associate professor of medicine and assistant professor of bacteriology at Duke University School of Medicine, where he was a Markle scholar from 1950 to 1955. He has conducted research on leukocytes and on tissue reaction to infection.

FRED HONKALA, associate professor of geology at Montana State University, was appointed chairman of the department on 5 Jan.

THOMAS COCKBURN, who has been in charge of research projects at the Communicable Disease Center, Atlanta, Ga., has accepted an appointment with the World Health Organization. During the next 2 years he will be epidemiologist to a communicable disease control project in Colombo, Ceylon. Cockburn left the United States early in January; communications should be sent care of the Ministry of Health, Colombo.

MARK W. ALLAM, dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania, has left for Mexico as international consultant to the National School of Veterinary Medicine there. His assignment is being carried out under the auspices of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, Regional Office of the World Health Organization. At the invitation of Latin American countries, a project is being established that is designed to assist in raising the teaching levels within the schools of veterinary medicine and to incorporate more practical aspects into the curricula.