

fowl on the North American continent. Conservationists are concerned about the future of these birds, whose habitat is gradually decreasing owing to the encroachments of agriculture and industry.

■ A report to the Inter-American Economic and Social Council of the Organization of American States recommends the establishment of an Inter-American Institute of Oceanography in the Galapagos Islands. A special committee has suggested that the institute, in addition to serving as a base for marine-life studies, could function as a weather observatory. It is estimated that the institute's initial cost would be \$1 million and that from \$300,000 to \$350,000 would be required annually for maintenance.

The Galapagos are 500 miles west of the mainland of Ecuador and are administered by that country. The islands are overrun with giant turtles, some of which weigh as much as 400 pounds. Charles Darwin studied the flora and fauna of the islands in developing his theory of natural selection.

■ Seventeen of Great Britain's largest firms have established a fund of \$4 million to aid scientific education. Assistance will take the form of capital grants for the building, expansion, and equipment of science buildings in independent schools and in other schools lacking public funds. It will assist the teaching of pure and applied science and mathematics in secondary schools.

■ North Carolina State College has been chosen as the site for the records center of the National Science Foundation's National Register of Scientific and Technical Personnel.

■ India and Canada have signed an agreement under which Canada will help finance a nuclear reactor for India. Canada will contribute about \$7.5 million of the \$14-million cost.

## Scientists in the News

JOHN VON NEUMANN, member of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, has received the Enrico Fermi award. This \$50,000 tax-free award was made in recognition of von Neumann's contributions both to the theory and to the design and construction of fast computing machines. Conferral of the award was recommended by the AEC General Advisory Committee and approved by the President.

RALPH D. LILLIE, medical director, U.S. Public Health Service, and

chief of the laboratory of pathology and histochemistry at the National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases, left on 30 Apr. for South America. His trip is being made under the sponsorship of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau of the World Health Organization. He will visit medical schools in Lima, Santiago de Chile, Buenos Aires, Montevideo, São Paulo, Ribeirao Preto, and Rio de Janeiro. He has been invited to give short lecture courses in histochemistry in Buenos Aires and Montevideo and to present lectures at Santiago and São Paulo.

IAN TERVET, plant pathologist and operations director of the Biological Warfare Assessment Directorate at the Army Chemical Corps testing center of Dugway Proving Ground, Utah, has been named deputy for scientific activities at Dugway.

JOSEPH S. SMADEL has assumed the post of associate director of the National Institutes of Health. He was previously director of the division of communicable diseases and chief of the department of virus and rickettsial diseases at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research.

JOHN G. SEELEY, professor of floriculture at the Pennsylvania State University has been appointed professor of floriculture and head of the department of floriculture and ornamental horticulture at Cornell University, effective 1 June. L. H. MACDANIELS, head of the department at Cornell since 1940, will retire on 30 June.

UGO FANO, chief of the nuclear physics section of the National Bureau of Standards, has been granted a Rockefeller Public Service award which will allow him to complete a book on quantum physics for nonphysicists. The award will also make it possible for Fano to accept an invitation to spend the 1956 academic year teaching at the University of Rome. He has been invited to lecture on subjects of his own choice, working in line with the university's program for developing peaceful applications of atomic energy. He plans to leave for Rome at the end of the summer.

GEORGE KELEMEN of the Harvard Medical School has been elected président général adjoint for the United States by the Haut-Colège International pour l'Etude Psychophysiologique et Psychopathologique des Langues, des Langues et de la Pensée, University of Paris, France, for the discipline of comparative anatomy and physiology of the larynx.

EDWIN PLOWDEN, chairman of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, visited atomic power reactor sites and development laboratories in the eastern United States this month as the guest of Lewis L. Strauss, chairman of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission. Strauss visited British atomic energy research and development establishments last year.

NORBERT A. LANGE, a chemist and vice president of Handbook Publishers, Inc., Columbus, Ohio, has received the Ohio award of the Ohio chapter of the American Institute of Chemists. Lange is the publisher of *Handbook of Chemistry*.

WILLIAM B. TUCKER, chief of Medical Service at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Durham, N.C., and professor of medicine at Duke University, has been appointed director of the tuberculosis service in the VA Department of Medicine and Surgery in Washington, D.C. His appointment will become effective on 1 Sept.

DAVID E. LISTON, colonel (ret.), U.S. Army Medical Corps, has been appointed assistant director of the University of Texas M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute. He fills the vacancy left by the retirement last September of ROY C. HEFLEBOWER, who will remain at the hospital as consultant on grants and special projects.

GEORGE K. DAVIS, head of the laboratory of animal nutrition at the University of Florida, has received the Florida award of the American Chemical Society for his work in trace-element nutrition. In 1943, radioisotope studies using radioactive cobalt were started by Davis and his coworkers, and the group gained the distinction of having carried out the first large animal studies using radioactive tracers.

HENRY F. SMYTH, Jr., administrative fellow, chemical hygiene fellowship, Mellon Institute, has received the 10th annual Donald E. Cummings award of the American Industrial Hygiene Association for his contribution to industrial hygiene. Smyth directs the industrial toxicology research for Mellon Institute and also for the Union Carbide and Carbon Corporation.

W. R. RHOADS, chief staff engineer of the Georgia Division of the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation, Marietta, Ga., has been appointed director of the nuclear aircraft test laboratories to be operated for the U.S. Air Force by Lockheed on a 16-square-mile tract near Dawsonville,

Ga. He will direct the work of some 500 staff members.

FRANK A. BROWN, JR., professor of biological sciences, has resigned the chairmanship of the department of biological sciences at Northwestern University in order to devote more time to research. The department is being administered by RAY WATTERSON (chairman) and ORLANDO PARK, professors of biological sciences, and HANFORD TIFFANY, Deering professor of botany.

OTTO A. REINKING, professor emeritus of plant pathology, New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Cornell University, and foreign agricultural adviser for the International Cooperation Administration, has returned from Central America, where he served as field crops consultant to the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the General Services Administration. He visited Costa Rica, Honduras, and Guatemala to study abaca (Manila hemp) problems and two new banana diseases, infectious chlorosis and bacterial wilt.

GIULIO NATTA of the Instituto di Chimica Industriale del Politecnico, Milan, Italy, and CHARLES SADRON of the Centre de Recherches sur les Macromolécules, Strasbourg, France, will participate in the symposium on synthetic polymers that will take place at the University of Notre Dame, 16-17 July.

### Recent Deaths

AAGE GUSMER, Summit, N.J.; 71; chemist; 1 May.

WILLIAM M. JOHNSON, Avon, N.J.; 79; mechanical engineer; 26 Apr.

R. ELMER MINTON, Huntington, N.Y.; 48; mechanical engineer; management controls administrator for Republic Aviation; 27 Apr.

PHILIP I. NASH, Brooklyn, N.Y.; 80; professor emeritus of clinical medicine at Long Island College of Medicine; 25 Apr.

LEON G. TEDESCHE, Miami, Fla.; 78; pathologist; professor at Eclectic Medical College, 1914-29; 29 Apr.

G. EDWIN WHITE, New York, N.Y.; 52; chairman of the department of chemical engineering at City College; 2 May.

### Education

■ A new radio telescope is being built at Stanford University under the sponsorship of the Air Research and Develop-

ment Command's Air Force Office of Scientific Research. The instrument, a microwave spectroheliograph, consists of 32 parabolic aluminum antennas, which will be aligned in two rows to form a cross that will occupy a 2-acre meadow. It will record solar microwave radiations in the 3000-megacycle region.

As the antennas scan the sun's surface, a photographic record of the chromosphere will be produced. A photograph of the entire solar orb will be completed in about 2 hours. Clouds will not affect antenna efficiency.

The chromosphere is a billowing layer of incandescence that rises to heights of 6000 miles above the sun's surface. Although it was discovered many years ago at the time of solar eclipses, little is known about the chromosphere. It is believed to have some connection with sunspots, which in turn are related to the magnetic storms that interrupt radio communications.

■ The establishment of a Central Index of Educational Exchangees has been announced by the Institute of International Education, New York. The index is a roster of Americans who have gone abroad and of foreign visitors who have come to the United States for educational purposes during the last 36 years. Records have been obtained on more than 210,000 persons who have studied, trained, or taught in countries other than their own during the period 1919 through 1954-55. Information on an estimated 25,000 to 30,000 new exchanges will be added annually.

The institute has published a 21-page booklet, the *Population Involved in International Education*, that describes the contents of the index and suggests its possible uses. It should be of value in research, program planning, and personnel recruitment. The index was established with financial assistance from the Ford Foundation.

■ Nine laboratory refresher courses covering the serology of syphilis, management and control of syphilis serology by the regional laboratory, and tests for syphilis using the *Treponema pallidum* will be offered at the U.S. Public Health Service Venereal Disease Research Laboratory in Chamblee, Ga., from August 1956 to May 1957. Applications for any of the courses must be signed by a state health officer or state laboratory director unless the applicant is a PHS employee. In such cases application must be approved by the medical-officer-in-charge.

Reservations are made as soon as applications are received, and lists are closed 1 month before course starting dates. Correspondence should be addressed to the Director, Venereal Disease

Research Laboratory, Division of Special Services, PHS, Box 185, Chamblee, Ga.

### Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

■ Award of 28 unclassified physical research contracts with universities and private research institutions has been announced by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission. Seven are new contracts, and the remainder are renewals.

■ The Society for Psychical Research has announced that a prize of £50 (or \$140) will be awarded for an essay of less than 3000 words on one of the following topics: (i) the best program of research for the first 100 hours of work with the next successful card-guessing subject discovered (if there is one), with the design supported by argument; (ii) the best discussion of the logical and/or scientific implications of precognition, assuming this to be established statistically from the work of card-guessing subjects.

The judges, who will be assisted by S. G. Soal, will be D. J. West, psychiatrist, London; H. H. Price, professor of logic, Oxford University; Denys Parsons, Scientific Branch, British Patent Office. Entries should be submitted under a pseudonym, together with a sealed envelope containing the entrant's actual name and address. Competitors may send in more than one entry. Papers should be typewritten with double-spacing. They must be received *before 1 Oct.* by the Secretary, Society for Psychical Research, 31 Tavistock Square, London W.C.1, England.

■ As a stimulant to voluntary support of medical schools—public and private—the Ford Foundation has appropriated \$10 million to match unrestricted contributions through the National Fund for Medical Education. The matching formula, designed to encourage increases in both the size of gifts and the number of contributors, will function as follows.

At the end of the calendar year, fund campaign receipts will be totaled and compared with the previous year. For every dollar of receipts up to the previous year's total, the fund will receive a specified percentage—beginning at 70 percent in 1956 and diminishing slightly each year. Everything above the previous year's total will be matched dollar-for-dollar. The first award will be made at the end of 1956 and will cover all unrestricted contributions received this year.

This appropriation, coming on top of the Ford Foundation's recent \$90-million grant to privately supported medical schools, is further recognition of the strain under which the nation's 81 medi-