News of Science

Meteorology and Atomic Energy

The executive committee of the World Meteorological Organization has announced the establishment of a 4-member panel of specialists to study the meteorological aspects of the peaceful uses of atomic energy, with particular emphasis on the movement of radioactive waste products in the atmosphere. The following scientists were named to the panel: A. A. Danilin, U.S.S.R.; B. Guilmet, France; P. J. Meade, United Kingdom; and A. I. Wexler, United States.

The panel's terms of reference mention the need to insure that techniques arising from this field of activity be used to assist the science of meteorology in every possible way. Among such techniques is the use of radioactive tracers in the study of large-scale movements of air masses or ocean currents.

The executive committee has also announced its decision that there is no reason to conclude that the nuclear explosions which have taken place have had any large-scale effect on the weather. The committee therefore agreed to discontinue its inquiry into this question but to keep the matter under review in the light of any information that might be forthcoming in the future.

Junior Academies of Science

With a serious scientific manpower shortage facing our country it is obvious that the young scientist must play a very important part in the world of tomorrow. The junior academy of science movement is one of the active interests of the AAAS Science Teaching Improvement Program in its work of discovering and developing scientific talent in American youth.

Twenty-five states and three cities report having a junior academy of science. The academies may have science-club memberships, individual memberships, or be organized along either of these patterns. Although the junior academies are primarily an activity at the high-school level, 18 of them include junior-high students and one has only junior-college students.

The junior academies are often financially supported by means of dues, registration fees, sponsoring senior academies, bequests, memorials, grants, or other sources. The academies are usually directed by an advisory committee that is under the control of the senior academy. Students occupy the major offices in 18 of the organizations.

All but two of the academies have at least one meeting a year with the senior academy. The contact with the senior scientists of the state is usually the most inspiring part of the program, and the senior scientists are always impressed by the talent observed among the juniors.

The presentations of student research are the most important part of the junior academy meetings. The research may be presented as an exhibit, a demonstration, or a paper. The projects are not always technically accurate and students do not have the scientists' knowledge that would lead them to limit their fields of endeavor. Consequently, some highly technical scientists have expressed their doubt as to the value of projects, but one needs only to talk to junior members at their meetings to recognize the value of such projects in the stimulation of scientific thinking at the high-school level.

Lectures are frequently given at the junior academy meetings by distinguished state or national scientists who are leaders in their fields. Most of the junior academy programs include trips to museums, industrial plants, and other places of scientific interest.

The stimuli of attending meetings, sharing ideas on projects, and meeting senior scientists make attendance at junior academy meetings a coveted trip for students, but in many states further awards are given to participants. These awards may be cash, certificates, scholarships, loving cups, ribbons, plaques, or subscriptions to science magazines. Two honorary annual memberships in the AAAS are available to each academy. In four states outstanding teacher-sponsors are also rewarded by citations, pens, keys, or summer scholarships that may be used for graduate work.

Several of the junior academies publish announcements, information, scientific articles, book reviews, or similar features. The junior academies that have such publications usually maintain a higher level of interest than the others. A few junior academies maintain speaker and counselor committees by means of which college and industrial personnel are made available as speakers and advisers for science clubs, classes, or other meetings.

In some states weekly radio and television programs are prepared. In others Kodachrome slides of projects are available for loan. Coprojects of many kinds with senior scientists have proved attractive to many students.

Junior academies often cooperate with state science education sections to aid in bringing new fields of science to the attention of high-school teachers. A recent education survey points to the secondary-school science teachers as those most responsible for the early identification and channeling of potential scientists. The junior academies of science are designed to assist the secondary-school teacher in appealing to superior students and guiding them along the pathway of science. There is a definite place for these junior science activities in helping to alleviate the manpower shortage.

THELMA HEATWOLE
Woodrow Wilson Educational Center, Staunton, Virginia

Socio-Psychological Prize Judges

Judges for the 1956 AAAS Socio-Psychological prize essay contest are Fred L. Strodtbeck, University of Chicago Law School; Raymond V. Bowers, chief of the social science plans division, Air Force Personnel and Training Research Center, Lackland Air Force Base; and Kimball Young, department of sociology, Northwestern University. Announcement of the contest and the conditions of competition appeared in the 30 Mar. issue of *Science*. The deadline for receipt of entries is *1 Sept.*

Civil Service Science Salaries

Philip Young, chairman of the U.S. Civil Service Commission, made several comments about salaries for scientists and engineers during a recent address before the Society of Personnel Administration. Young said he was convinced "some adjustments in pay" were warranted for scientific positions. He also indicated that the Administration might ask Congress to give it the authority to pay expenses for pre-employment interviews of applicants for hard-to-fill jobs, as well as travel and moving expenses of new appointees to their first posts of duty.

He observed that the salaries paid scientists and engineers working on govern-

ment contracts were "substantially higher" than those paid by the Government. He suggested that Federal agencies, in awarding contracts for scientific research work, "consider the impact of the salaries paid by their contractors on salaries in the whole field."

AEC Headquarters

The U.S. Atomic Energy Commission has awarded to John McShain, Inc., of Philadelphia a contract in the amount of $8,828,000 for construction of the commission's new headquarters building near Germantown, Md. The McShain bid was the lowest of the 13 received. The contractor is expected to begin work at once on the 109-acre site, which is 23 air miles from Washington.

The 4-story, wing-type structure of monolithic reinforced concrete faced with brick is scheduled for completion in late 1957. It will house about 1600 people, including commission employees, military personnel, and others assigned to work at AEC headquarters.

In addition to the main building, there will be a cafeteria designed to accommodate 450 people and a 300-seat auditorium. Auxiliary buildings include a warehouse, garage, boiler house, and cooling tower. Cost of the entire project, including all buildings, land, landscaping, and utilities and other expenses is estimated at $10 million. The architect for the project is Voorhees, Walker, Smith, and Smith of New York.

New Canadian Clinics

Canada's first clinic for sex deviates was opened in May by the Ontario Department of Health. Called the Forensic Clinic, it is to function as an adjunct of the University of Toronto in 14 rooms that have been especially set aside.

A modern examination and treatment center is planned, and although initially the director will have only two full-time assistants, the staff is expected to expand rapidly as the courts and the public become more familiar with the services available.

The clinic is the first of a series that is to be established in university cities across the province. The second will probably be in London, where it would operate in cooperation with the University of Western Ontario.

Heart Disease Mortality in Women

Heart attacks now kill as many women as men, according to Stanley W. Hartroft, chairman of the department of pathology at Washington University (St. Louis). He presented some results of recently completed statistical studies at the annual meeting of the American Chemical Society's New York Section.

Data assembled on 8000 autopsies showed that between 1910 and 1940 twice as many men as women died from myocardial infarction, whereas from 1940 to 1955 approximately as many women as men succumbed. The narrowing of the gap between the sexes was attributed to the finding that, in the age group over 60 years old, more women than men had become victims of heart disease. Hartroft commented:

"I almost hesitate to suggest it, but perhaps these women over 60 who are now dying more frequently of myocardial infarction than are the men, represent a group of our population that started smoking for the first time twenty years ago."

Wilbur Thomas and Kyu Lee, also of Washington University, collaborated in the study.

Pygmies in New Guinea

The Rev. Martin Gusinde, professor of anthropology at Catholic University of America, has left on a 4-month expedition to New Guinea, where he will study a group of pygmies who live in a remote region which has never been visited by a white man. The American Philosophical Society is sponsoring the trip.

The Australian government has extended a special invitation to Gusinde to enter the interior of the unmapped and unexplored territory, which is 12,000 feet above sea level in the Schrader Mountains south of the Ramu River in the Northeast section of New Guinea. To reach his destination, Gusinde anticipates a 4- or 5-day walking trip up the mountains accompanied by a few native Papuans, a friendly people living near the sea. He will have to travel through areas inhabited by bands of head-hunters.

News Briefs

■ Some Soviet scientists hold a hope that someday there will be a transcontinental railroad across the Bering Strait to link the United States and the U.S.S.R. They also envision a dam project that might create artificial warm currents in the Bering Sea and perhaps change the climatic conditions in the northern regions of both countries.

These ideas were discussed recently before a civic group in Hyattsville, Md., by Aleksandr I. Zinchuk, first seceretary of the Soviet Embassy. He also commented that his nation has been speculating about a project to divert Siberian rivers into arid Central Asia instead of permitting them to empty into the Arctic Ocean.

■ The Central Laboratories for Scientific and Industrial Research of Hyderabad State, India, have been taken over by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Government of India. Under the new name of Regional Research Laboratory, Hyderabad, the facility becomes the council's first regional laboratory.

S. Husain Zaheer remains as director, and the research staff continues as before. However, the change assures the fulfillment of plans that were originally made for the laboratory 4 years ago. These plans could not be executed because of the state's financial difficulties.

■ The Associated Press reports that Bruno Pontecorvo, the Italian-born atomic scientist who joined the U.S.S.R., appeared on 16 May in Moscow at a conference on the physics of high-energy particles. Twelve American nuclear physicists, including Emilo Segrè, with whom Pontecorvo once collaborated, attended the conference. This is the first time that Pontecorvo has been seen by non-Communist Westerners since he held a news conference in Moscow 14 months ago. More than 400 Soviet physicists, and some 60 others from Britain, France and other countries, participated in the meeting.

Scientists in the News

BART J. BOK, codirector of the radio astronomy project at the George R. Agassiz Station of Harvard University, and a member of the university's staff for 27 years, has accepted an appointment to direct the Commonwealth Observatory of Australia, effective 1 Feb. 1957. He will be professor of astronomy in the Research School of Physical Sciences, Australian National University, Canberra. Control of the observatory is expected to be transferred to the university shortly. Bok succeeds R. v. D. R. WOOLLEY, who has gone to Great Britain as Astronomer Royal in charge of the Royal Greenwich Observatory at Herstmonceux.

The Commonwealth Observatory is a principal center for the observation of the most intricate part of the Milky Way, which can be studied only in the Southern Hemisphere. The new 74-inch reflector telescope is one of the two largest such instruments in the Southern Hemisphere. Associated with the observatory are the Yale-Columbia Station, and a station of the Uppsala Observatory of Sweden.

Bok has had a life-long interest in