

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 secretary 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 Emilio 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