fered with by several independent gene mutations at different loci. Other mutations may, however, mimic the effect of a lack of gibberellic acid. This might be because the response of stem and leaf cells to gibberellic acid is in some way lessened, or it might be because there are other essential growth-promoting substances necessary for cell elongation. Gibberellic acid is a tetracyclic dihydroxylactonic acid, $C_{19}H_{22}O_6$.—B.G.

Amazon Fossil Search

Members of the paleontological expedition to the Juruá River, one of the major tributaries of the Amazon, left New York recently on a journey that will take them more than 2000 miles into the interior of Brazil. George Gaylord Simpson, chairman of the department of geology and paleontology at the American Museum of Natural History, is coleader of the expedition. The group has joined a party of Brazilian scientists from the National Department of Mineral Production and the Goeldi Museum that is led by Llewellyn Ivor Price. The expedition is traveling up the Juruá to the Peruvian border in search of fossil remains of early animal life.

Before his departure Simpson commented that "Although no previous paleontological study of the Juruá region has ever been attempted, small scraps of fossils brought out by traders and explorers indicate that the area may be rich in fossil deposits. Since almost nothing is now known about the evolution of the fauna of the region, any material we find should be of considerable scientific importance."

Atomic Power Plants

The British Atomic Energy Authority has announced that the first of two atomic piles at the Calder Hall atomic power station in Cumberland has begun to work. Construction of the experimental station began 3 years ago. Queen Elizabeth is to open the station officially 17 Oct.

The Authority's statement said: "For the first time in the history of the world electricity on a large scale will then be supplied from a nuclear power station to a national electricity network." In a few weeks the first electricity will be generated, but the plant will not be on full power until later. Its projected capacity is 50,000 to 70,000 kilowatts.

The only United States counterpart to the British installation at Calder Hall is the plant of approximately 60,000 kilowatts capacity that is being constructed at Shippingport, Pa. According to present plans it will be completed in late 1957. Power from Shippingport will be distributed by the Duquesne Light Company of Pittsburgh, which is contributing substantially to construction costs of the plant.

The Soviet Union plans to install five new atomic power stations in Moscow, Leningrad, and the Urals. The size of these power plants will range from 400,000 kilowatts to 600,000 kilowatts each. They are expected to be in operation by the end of the current 5-year plan in 1960. Several pilot atomic installations, each with a capacity of 50,000 kilowatts, will be operating by 1959 or 1960. A 200,000-kilowatt pilot plant also is being planned in addition to the big commercial installations.

News Briefs

■ President Eisenhower recently began a series of meetings with an advisory committee to consider the possibilities of creating some type of decoration, comparable to the Order of the British Empire and the French Legion of Honor, for citizens who distinguish themselves in the arts, letters and sciences. The President is discussing his plan with a committee consisting of Harold W. Dodds of Princeton University, Leonard Carmichael of the Smithsonian Institution, Percival Brundage, budget director, Sherman Adams, and Howard Pyle.

■ The U.S. Air Force plans to build a large solar furnace at approximately the 9000-foot level in the Sacramento Mountains near the Holloman Air Development Center, Alamogordo, N.M. This furnace, a system of mirrors that will bring the sun's rays to a focus, will be used for high-temperature research and for testing of materials and components of weapons. France has a comparable solar furnace, probably the largest there is, that is located on Mount Louis in the Pyrenees.

■ Wilhelm Reich, who developed the "orgone energy accumulator," and his colleague Michael Silvert, have been held in contempt of court and sentenced to prison. Having filed an appeal, the two men were released on $15,000 bail each.

The contempt charges grew from their failure to comply with a Federal injunction that prohibited shipment of orgone accumulators in interstate commerce and the distribution of literature concerning orgone energy. Reich used his accumulator, pronounced worthless by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, as an adjunct to psychiatric therapy. He maintained that a patient sitting in a box he devised could build up lost energy.

Scientists in the News

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has presented Distinguished Service Awards to seven of its employees for their achievements in research and improved administration. The recipients are as follows:

LYLE T. ALEXANDER, chief of the Soil Survey Laboratories, Soil Conservation Service, Beltsville, Md., who is a leader in soil science. He has done considerable work on the use of radioactive material in agricultural research and on the effects of radioactive fallout on soils.

MERTON R. CLARKSON, deputy administrator, Agricultural Research Service, Washington, who has played a major part in control and eradication of foot-and-mouth disease in Mexico during the past several years.

ELWOOD L. DEMMON, director of the Southeastern Forest and Range Experiment Station, Ashville, N.C., who has directed forest management work in several areas. Among his achievements is leadership in developing new methods of harvesting gum naval stores and in improving the management of several million acres of industrially owned forest throughout the pine region of the South.

CLARENCE M. FERGUSON, administrator, Federal Extension Service, Washington, who has promoted development of new extension educational methods for reaching and serving rural people.

JAMES B. HASSELMAN, director of information, Commodity Stabilization Service, who has spent nearly 40 years in state and federal agricultural information work. He now directs the information program that is required for the operation of acreage adjustments and price supports and for the sale, barter, and donation of Government-owned agricultural stocks.

SYLVESTER R. SMITH, director, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, who provided the leadership and vision that resulted in a continuation of acreage and production guides for commercial growers after the war. These guides have helped to keep vegetable production in line with market needs.

PERCY A. WELLS, chief of the Eastern Utilization Research Branch, Wyndmoor, Pa., who directed research that led to development of new uses for many abundant farm products such as white potatoes, animal fats, and tobacco.

LEO E. MELCHERS, formerly head of the department of botany and plant pathology at Kansas State College, will retire from active duty on 1 July. He will have completed 43 years of service as teacher, administrator, and research worker at the college.