

Folsom, Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, said:

"I am advised that there are 53 million persons in the top priority group of children under 15 and expectant mothers. Enough vaccine has now been released to provide two injections for three-fourths of this group.

"The period of acute shortage of vaccine now appears to be over in many parts of the nation. In areas where demand still exceeds supply, we may look forward to an easing of the shortage soon if production continues at the present rate.

"I urge parents, physicians, and health officials to cooperate in making maximum use of the increasing supply of vaccine as it becomes available. We should all remember that vaccination in July may prevent polio in August or September—the months when the danger is greatest."

Altogether, states and territories have now been allotted 64,747,305 cubic centimeters; the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis has received 13,732,134 cubic centimeters; 16,281 cubic centimeters have been licensed for export; and 562,740 cubic centimeters went into commercial channels before controls were established.

Scientists Serve High Schools

In order to determine what efforts are being made by science departments and scientists to maintain specific contact with potential science students, the AAAS Science Teaching Improvement Program (STIP) sent a questionnaire to 809 4-year colleges. A total of 733 replies have been received for a 90-percent return.

The most common method for providing contact between the high-school student and the scientist is on the college campus. Career days are sponsored by 374 colleges as one way to enable students to understand science and scientists. Engineering and/or science expositions are held by 174 colleges. Mathematics or science assemblies are convened by 102 colleges. The assembly programs may be provided by students but commonly involve senior scientists. Science fairs are sponsored by 235 colleges in cooperation with Science Clubs of America, the State Academies of Science, and/or other groups.

Less commonly the approach is of a more individual nature and usually for a longer time. Thirty-eight of the colleges hold workshops for high-school students. These may be held after the junior or the senior year of high school. Fifteen of the colleges give tests for high-school students to aid in the selection of the major field by the student and to give

both the student and his counselors some idea of his chances of success in his chosen field.

Direct contact between the scientist and the student is helpful in dispelling a common notion that scientists are "peculiar." One of the most significant findings of the survey was that scientists are active in student guidance at 423 of the colleges.—I. E. WALLER

Placebos versus Reserpine

Blank placebo pills had the same effect as reserpine, a tranquilizing drug, when they were used to relieve anxiety of patients before surgery, it was reported by three Northwestern University doctors, Roy M. Whitman, assistant professor of neurology and psychiatry, Morris A. Lipton, assistant professor of medicine, and Eva Kavan, former instructor in surgery.

In a "double blind" study with 30 patients, one group received the placebos and the other received reserpine, also called rauwiloid, for 6 days before surgery. About one-half of both groups showed "a significant change in anxiety," whether they received the drug or blank pill, the report said. The pills were identical in appearance, and "neither the doctor, nurse, anesthesiologist, nor patient knew which pill was the real thing."

The study was part of a search to find more satisfactory drugs for use before operations being performed in the Veterans Administration Research hospital at the Northwestern medical center. The report was made in the summer issue of the *Quarterly Bulletin* of Northwestern University Medical School.

News Briefs

■ On the Ishibashi brothers' ranch in Torrance, Calif., plastic film spread on the ground to keep strawberries from touching the moist soil and to prevent the soil from drying out has reduced fruit losses resulting from mold rot by 75 to 85 percent. The Ishibashis felt that plastics might succeed where other types of mulches were prohibitively expensive or did not last long enough. The plastic film, which is specially perforated for this job, is made from Bakelite polyethylene, a product familiar to growers and consumers alike as a material for packaging fruits and vegetables.

■ According to a recent report in the July issue of *Medical Times* by Paul Williamson of Albuquerque, N.M., a newly developed polyethylene tape is superior to suturing in closing wounds. The advantages described are improvement in the rate of wound healing and reduction in the incidence of infection

and scarring. Application of the tape is described as painless, and the tape usually may be freely removed when healing is complete.

■ In an amendment approved 4 June to the U.S. Information and Educational Exchange Act of 1948, Congress ruled that exchange visitors in this country under provisions of the act may not apply for either an immigrant or nonimmigrant visa or for status as an alien admitted for permanent residence until 2 years have elapsed following their departure from the United States. However, the attorney general, if he finds it in the public interest, may waive this requirement on the request of an interested Government agency and the recommendation of the Secretary of State. The title of the U.S. Information and Educational Exchange Act of 1948 reads "An Act to promote the better understanding of the United States among the peoples of the world and to strengthen cooperative international relations."

■ A group of four Stanford Research Institute industrial economists headed by Raymond H. Ewell will aid India in the development of small industries as a part of India's second 5-year plan. The project is being carried out under a contract between the institute and the Indian Department of Commerce and Industry.

■ A step toward meeting the long-felt need for a properly housed National Library of Medicine [*Science* 123, 869 (18 May 1956)] was taken by the Senate on 11 June, when it passed bill S. 3430 as amended. The bill provides for the establishment of a National Library of Medicine in the U.S. Public Health Service, under the supervision of a 17-member board, and authorizes construction of a new building for the library in or near the District of Columbia. The identical bill introduced in the House, H.R. 11524, has been approved by the Subcommittee on Health and Science of the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee and has been sent to the full committee for further action.

■ A new large-diameter deep-sea corer has been developed by Maurice Ewing, professor of geology at Columbia University and director of the Lamont Geological Observatory at Palisades, N.Y. The new instrument has a diameter of 11.5 inches and will penetrate about a foot of the ocean floor. The large sample thus obtained can be subjected to more precise analysis than the cores obtained by the smaller instruments previously available. The corer has been tested in the Hudson River and in 13,000 feet of water off the Canary Islands and is at present being used in the Mediterranean. The

samples obtained will, upon analysis, give information about the concentration of such trace elements as copper, lead, nickel, zinc, and chromium in deep-sea muds as well as material for radiocarbon dating and for study of the bottom-dwelling fauna.

■ A patent has recently been issued to Donald F. Jones, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, and Paul C. Mangelsdorf, Harvard University, for a genetic process that eliminates or greatly reduces hand removal of tassels in the production of hybrid seed corn. In the hand process, which at the peak of the season requires the labor of more than 125,000 people, tassels are removed from the seed-producing corn in order to assure pollination from another inbred line of corn in adjacent fields.

In the genetic process, the seed-producing line of corn has bred into it a cytoplasmic gene for male sterility. Accordingly, it does not produce pollen and does not have to have its tassels removed. To produce double-cross hybrid seed, the process is more complicated. Hand removal of tassels may be used at one stage, or a dominant gene for restoration of male fertility may be introduced into one of the stocks to be crossed to the product of the first male-sterile cross.

The patent, thought to be the first in the United States for the control of an industrial process by genetic means, has been assigned to the Research Corporation, a non-profit foundation that administers patents that originate in college or university research. The foundation disburses the royalties from its patents in the form of research grants.

■ Experiments by the U.S. Department of Agriculture on the control of sagebrush by the herbicide 2,4-D have been carried on for the past 10 years on range lands in the Lassen and Modoc National Forests of northern California. The sprays could be effectively applied by ground rig, airplane, or helicopter. Where sagebrush was sparse, application of 2,4-D was more economical than plowing or burning. Following treatment, kill of sagebrush in large-scale tests ranged from 88.5 percent to 99 percent. With deferment of grazing for 1 year and good grazing management thereafter, native grasses and reseeded species will become established, and the return of sagebrush will be delayed.

■ The National Geographic Society-*Calypso* expedition will try to obtain photographs from the deepest levels ever attained at two sites: in the deep of about 18,500 feet 350 miles off the Liberian coast, and in the Romanche trench, which lies some 500 miles west of the

first site and reaches a depth of about 25,000 feet. The society has sponsored the work of the French oceanographic vessel, the *Calypso*, captained by Jacques-Yves Costeau, for the past 4 years. In the present expedition, a new 100-pound camera invented by Harold E. Edgerton of Massachusetts Institute of Technology will be lowered on a 0.25-inch nylon line 28,000 feet long. The camera is equipped with electric lights and a position indicator that will determine distance from the bottom by reflected sound waves.

Scientists in the News

LEONARD M. GOLDMAN, nuclear physicist and for the past 4 years a member of the staff at Princeton University, has been appointed research associate at the General Electric Research Laboratory, Schenectady, N. Y.

MARSHALL W. JENNISON, professor of bacteriology in the department of plant sciences at Syracuse University, has been named chairman of that department.

GORDON E. GIBBS has been appointed professor and chairman of the department of pediatrics at the University of Nebraska College of Medicine. His special interests are in cystic fibrosis of the pancreas, juvenile diabetes, pediatric gastroenterology, and pediatric endocrinology and metabolic diseases.

MILTON LEVY has been appointed chairman of the department of biochemistry and CHESTER W. HAMPEL has been appointed chairman of the department of physiology and biophysics at New York University.

MERL M. MUSSELMAN has been appointed chairman of the department of surgery at the University of Nebraska College of Medicine.

ARNOLD COURT, former chief climatologist of the Office of the Quartermaster General, Department of the Army, has joined the staff of the California Forest and Range Experiment Station of the U.S. Forest Service in Berkeley, Calif., as meteorological adviser. He will participate in a new 5-year cooperative research project that is being carried out by the Forest Service and the state of California to determine how timber in the Sierra Nevada should be harvested to provide the best possible yield of water from the winter snow pack.

RICHARD W. WALLEN, associate professor of psychology at Western Re-

serve University, has accepted appointment as senior associate for Creelman Associates, Cleveland, Ohio, consultants in the management sciences.

ROBERT GLASER, former program director at the American Institute for Research, Pittsburgh, has been appointed associate professor of psychology at the University of Pittsburgh.

WILLIAM S. BENNINGHOFF, chief of the U.S. Geological Survey's Alaska Terrain and Permafrost Section, has been appointed associate professor of botany to head the program of ecology at the University of Michigan's department of botany. He succeeds PIERRE DANSEREAU, who is now dean of faculties at the University of Montreal.

MARTIN L. STONE has been appointed professor and director of the department of obstetrics and gynecology at New York Medical College, where he has been a faculty member since 1949.

JOHN OSBORNE, professor of prosthetics at the University of Birmingham, England, has been named visiting professor of dental materials at Northwestern University Dental School.

Recent Deaths

GEORGE P. DIXON, Alexandria, Va.; 67; communications engineer; executive vice president of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association; 9 July.

HARRY J. EPSTEIN, Philadelphia, Pa.; 54; associate professor of medicine at Hahnemann Medical College; 9 July.

EARL H. MORRIS, Boulder, Colo.; 66; research associate in archeology for the Carnegie Institution of Washington since 1924; lecturer in anthropology at the University of Colorado; 24 June.

WILLIAM WELKER, Oak Park, Ill.; 75; retired head of the biochemistry department of the University of Illinois College of Medicine; 7 July.

Education

■ A new national organization will seek more effective training for teachers and students in basic subjects, especially English, mathematics, science, history, and foreign languages. Incorporated in the District of Columbia, the group will be known as the Council for Basic Education.

Starting with a nation-wide membership of 110 prominent laymen, educators, editors, writers, and industrialists, the council plans to expand its individual