workers have also identified a neopallial cortex; but this at best is small and poorly differentiated. In addition, portions of the hyperstriatal area of the corpus striatum have been regarded as homologous to neopallial cortex. Most of the avian corpus striatum, however, has been equated with parts of the mammalian corpus striatum composed of the so-called basal ganglia. Thus the total neopallial component of the bird's brain has been thought to be rudimentary when compared with that of mammals.

Such a concept of the bird's neopallium has been challenged by Stingelin [*Experientia* **12,** 242 (1956)], who states that recent embryological studies by Kallén [*Acta Anat.* **17,** 72 (1954)] show that only the deepest part of the avian striatal complex (palaeostriatum primitivum and palaeostriatum augmentatum) —rather than most of the striatum, as hitherto supposed—is homologous to the mammalian corpus striatum or basal ganglia, whereas by far the major part of the avian striatum (hyperstriatum, neostriatum, archistriatum) is homologous to the neopallium of mammals. This concept, Stingelin thinks, is supported by recent investigations in morphology, physiology and animal psychology. The stratified arrangement of the avian striatum in highly cerebralized forms, moreover, indicates that it is a structure of integration. Hence, concludes Stingelin, the neopallial complex of birds is strictly comparable to that of mammals in both function and organization.—W. L. S., JR.

Galapagos Research Station

European biologists are attempting to establish an international biological research station on one of the Galapagos Islands, which are in the Pacific 658 miles west of Ecuador. The project is being sponsored by the International Union for Cooperation, Brussels, Belgium. The union has received approval of the plan from the Ecuadorian Government, which will provide part of the staff and an island site if funds can be raised elsewhere.

The Galapagos were first surveyed more than a 100 years ago by Charles Darwin during his round-the-world voyage. He noted on his return to England "the manner in which closely allied animals replaced one another in proceeding southward" and considered that the Galapagos fauna in particular had provided him with "the origin" of his views on the creation of species.

Subsequent surveys have shown that 37 percent of the coastal fish, 40 percent of the plants, and 96 percent of the reptiles on the islands were not found anywhere else in the world. This is thought to be a result of geographic isolation.

The great tortoises on the islands, weighing up to 400 pounds, and the iguana lizards, are now reported to be in danger of extinction from semiwild dogs and pigs that eat their eggs.

U.S. Physician and Laos

Thomas A. Dooley, a young physician from St. Louis, Mo., has gone to Laos, where he has offered his services to the Laotian Public Health Department. During the war Dooley served as a naval physician at a refugee camp at Haiphong in northern Vietnam. His return trip has been financed by proceeds from the sale of his book on his experiences. United States companies have given Dooley drug supplies and other equipment, and he is accompanied by three former Navy medical corpsmen who served with him at Haiphong.

In an interview in Hong Kong on 27 Aug., Dooley commented that the Communists who are infiltrating the underdeveloped Asian countries "appear to practice exactly what we preach." For example, they have sent 22 physicians to Cambodia.

Radioactive Reserpine

Reserpine, a drug extracted from the *Rauwolfia* plant and used for the treatment and cure of certain mental disorders and for the reduction of high blood pressure, has been produced in a radioactive form at Argonne National Laboratory. The new drug was produced by growing the plant in an atmosphere containing radioactive carbon dioxide.

The research team that carried out the work consisted of Edwin A. Peets and Arthur Schulert, of Columbia University's Lamont Geological Observatory, and John Skok and William Chorney, of Argonne's biological and medical research division. Radioactive reserpine will be used at Columbia in studies that involve physiological and biochemical actions in the animal body.

Arctic Flora Study

A "coldhouse" to study arctic flora is to be built at the Botanical Gardens in Copenhagen, Denmark. A refrigerator will be used to keep temperatures just below freezing in winter and at a maximum of between 55 and 60°F in summer.

The Copenhagen University Institute of Biology estimates the cost of the project at approximately 250,000 kroner (about $35,000). The Rockefeller Foundation has contributed $20,000 and Danish foundations will provide the balance.

The coldhouse was planned by two Copenhagen University botanists, Tyge Boecher and Thorwald Soerensen, both of whom have made botanical expeditions to Greenland. Last month Boecher visited Copenhagen University's Arctic Institute on Disko Island off the coast of Greenland to collect seeds and plants for the coldhouse. Plans are also being made to grow seeds collected from other parts of the Arctic, Canada, Norway, and the Alps, and other mountain areas.

Nuclear Energy Notes

The U.S. Atomic Energy Commission has approved the negotiation of a contract for limited development work on a unique nuclear power reactor system that was proposed jointly by the Chugach Electric Association of Anchorage, Alaska, and the Nuclear Development Corporation of America of White Plains, N.Y. The proposal is for a power reactor of 10,000-kilowatt capacity that would use heavy water as moderator, liquid sodium as coolant, and slightly enriched uranium as fuel. The plant would be located at Anchorage.

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The Danish Atomic Energy Commission has purchased a farm on the island of Risoe, west of Copenhagen, where a nuclear research station is to be erected. The farm will be used for experimental work in such projects as the application of radioisotopes to the improvement of crops and the storage of farm products.

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The European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) has recently accepted a $400,000 grant from the Ford Foundation, to be spent over 5 years, to help in strengthening cooperation in nuclear physics research, primarily with the United States and with other countries not members of CERN. The grant is expected to be used mainly to enable guest professors to visit CERN and to give young scientists opportunities to work in its laboratories.

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Construction of France's first electronuclear power plant for peaceful uses will begin soon in the Loire Valley. The installation will be built by Electricity of France, the nationalized electric power industry, at Voine, between the Vienne and Loire Rivers. The plant's reactor, which is to be completed in 1959, will have an initial capacity of about 60,000 kilowatts, with a probable expansion to 300,000 kilowatts.

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The U.S. Atomic Energy Commission has reduced its prices for carbon-14 and iodine-131. The cost of carbon-14 is now $28 per millicurie for shipments in amount of 199 millicuries or less; for shipments in amounts greater than 199