

are loaned to other libraries throughout the United States.

In administering the National Library of Medicine, the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service will be assisted by a board of regents consisting of ten persons to be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. Ex-officio members of the board will be the surgeons general of the Public Health Service, and the Army, Navy, and Air Force, the chief medical director of the Department of Medicine and Surgery of the Veterans Administration, the assistant director for biological and medical sciences of the National Science Foundation, and the Librarian of Congress.

The National Library of Medicine Act also authorizes the construction of adequate facilities to house the library on a site to be selected by the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service at the direction of the board of regents.

U.S.S.R. Opens New Research Center

The Joint Nuclear Research Institute that has been established by the Soviet Union and 11 satellite countries was officially opened at the end of last month. It is located in the small town of Pubna, U.S.S.R., approximately 95 miles northeast of Moscow. Institute officials estimate that the buildings and equipment cost about \$125 million.

The purpose of the new center is to conduct high-energy research and to provide research facilities for training of nuclear physicists from all member states. In a press conference, Dmitri Blokhintsev stated: "There will be no secret work here. The results of all research done here will be published." Foreign correspondents from all over the world, including the United States, were taken on an extensive tour of the new institute. They were permitted to see all the important pieces of equipment and laboratories.

India Makes Penicillin

India's first penicillin plant, and in fact the first such plant in the whole of South Asia, was formally opened in August. The new \$4-million facility, Hindustan Biotics, is in Pimpri, Bombay State. Seven factory buildings, some accessory structures, and a housing colony have been erected on a 200-acre site.

The World Health Organization assembled an international staff of construction engineers, chemical engineers, and medical officers who collaborated with Indian engineers on the plans. The United Nations Children's Fund which has supplied substantial amounts of peni-

cillin to India, provided all the major items of machinery and equipment needed for the plant, at a cost of about \$850,000. The expenses of land and building construction were borne by the Indian Government.

New Zealand Oil Search

More than \$4 million is being spent by two groups of oil companies in a search for oil in commercial quantities in New Zealand. The British Petroleum Company has joined forces with another New Zealand company to carry out a search of the east coast, including offshore, extending over an area of 12,000 square miles. The two companies are spending an initial \$1.4 million. At the same time, another joint company exploration, which calls for an expenditure of \$2.8 million, is taking place on the west coast of North Island.

Several searches in the past have failed to uncover deposits in sufficient quantities to make recovery feasible. However, there are surface indications of the presence of oil in parts of New Zealand and, since New Zealand now imports all the oil the country uses—1.5 million tons of petroleum products last year—the discovery of oil would be of very great economic importance.

Molecular Chemistry of Mental Disease

The molecular chemistry of mental disease, a new area of research, is being investigated at California Institute of Technology under the direction of Linus Pauling. The program is underwritten by a \$450,000 grant from the Ford Foundation, which will support the project for 5 years.

The research will be carried out largely in C.I.T.'s newly constructed Norman W. Church Laboratory for Chemical Biology. A part of the work will also be done in Pacific State Hospital of the California State Department of Mental Hygiene, with the collaboration of George Tarjan, superintendent and medical director of the hospital; Stanley Wright of the School of Medicine, University of California at Los Angeles; and Richard Morgan, statistical research officer of the State Department of Mental Hygiene. Pauling said last year when delivering the Edsel B. Ford lecture at the International Symposium on Enzymes:

"I foresee the day when many of the diseases that are caused by abnormal enzyme molecules will be treated by the use of artificial enzymes. When our understanding of enzyme activity becomes great enough, it may be possible, for example, to synthesize a catalyst for the

oxidation of phenylalanine to tyrosine. A small amount of this catalyst could be attached to a framework inside a small open ended tube, which could be permanently placed within the artery of a newborn child who had been shown by chemical tests to have inherited the mental disease phenylketonuria. Through the action of the artificial enzyme, the child could then develop in a normal way."

In commenting on the probable course of the new research program at C.I.T. Pauling said: "We shall in general attempt to uncover basic principles rather than to attack specific practical problems. Nevertheless, it is expected that practical discoveries useful in specific fields may be made incidentally in the course of the fundamental investigations, and these discoveries are not to be ignored. Our major emphasis will be on basic research, but we hope to develop ideas that will provide the basis of clinical research on the medical problem of mental retardation."

Suicide in Denmark

An interesting comment on suicide in Denmark is contained in a letter from Milton I. Levine, M.D., that appeared in a recent issue of Ciba's *Medical News*. After describing Denmark's remarkable interest in pediatrics, Levine comments: "It is surprising that the suicide rate in Denmark is the highest in the world. According to WHO statistics, nearly one-fourth of all deaths among males are suicides in the 25-34 age group, while 13% of the deaths among females are suicides in the 15-19 age group. This fact seems almost incredible to anyone meeting these friendly people."

AEC Assistance for Foreign Reactors

The U.S. Atomic Energy Commission and the State Department are distributing to interested embassies and this country's industrial organizations the details of the program for U.S. grants of up to \$350,000 for research reactor projects undertaken by friendly nations that have Agreements for Cooperation with the United States. The procedures are substantially those already used and tested in handling the first requests for assistance received following the offer made by President Eisenhower last year to strengthen the atomic research programs of those nations included in the bilateral agreement program.

As previously announced, grants of \$350,000 each have been made to Brazil, Spain, Denmark, and the Netherlands. Negotiations for similar commitments are in progress with several other nations.