

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.

Congress appropriated \$5.5 million for the program during the current fiscal year.

These grants may be used for financing an approved reactor project, providing the total of \$350,000 is not more than one half of the actual cost. In addition to the reactor itself, a project may include experimental equipment, and supporting facilities and activities necessary to make it an operable and useful training and research facility. The grants are payable when the recipient nation certifies that the project has been completed.

Another International Conference on Atomic Energy

At the United Nations recently the Secretary-General's Advisory Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy discussed plans for another conference such as that held in Geneva in 1955. The committee recommended that this second conference meet on or about 1 Sept. 1958 for a 2-week period. The decision on the site of the conference will be made later.

In addition, the committee recommended that the conference, like the first one, be generally broad in scope and deal with technical aspects of the atomic energy field, particularly those related to nuclear power and the ecological problems it creates. Detailed plans for the 1958 program will be considered at a subsequent meeting of the seven-nation committee, which probably will be held in May 1957.

Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld presided at the recent committee meeting, which was attended by the following delegates: Jayme de Barros and J. de Costa Ribeiro, Brazil; W. B. Lewis, Canada; Bertrand Goldschmidt, France; Homi J. Bhabha, India; John Cockcroft, United Kingdom; I. I. Rabi, United States; and V. S. Emelyanov, U.S.S.R. This advisory committee, which assisted in planning the 1955 international conference, was continued by the Tenth General Assembly when that body called for a second technical conference.

Latin American Agricultural Information

The Scientific Communications Service of the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Turrialba, Costa Rica, with the backing of the Rockefeller Foundation, has initiated an information project on current agricultural research for the benefit of Latin American research men. The technical editor of the Scientific Communications Service is Mario Gutiérrez Jiménez.

A central file has been established at

Turrialba to record all current research work. Scientists in the various research centers in Latin America who wish to participate in this project should send information about their work to Turrialba in order to have it included in the central file. Later, progress reports should be submitted, and eventually, brief descriptions of final results.

The information that is received is condensed and distributed in leaflet form to participating institutions. Each of these participants receives a binder that permits the classification of leaflets by subject. The new publication series is named *Comunicaciones Científicas Agrícolas*.

In addition, a bimonthly news letter is issued. Also, lists of scientists, classified by fields of specialization, are distributed periodically in order to establish a catalogue of research workers. This is kept up-to-date and records the changes of personnel in each country.

In such manner, it is hoped that agriculturalists will be kept informed of the current events in agricultural research in the participating nations. Scientists have the benefit of rapid access to information about recent advances so that they may orient the research programs in their respective countries. Jiménez has toured a large part of Latin America and has found considerable interest among the research men who have been interviewed. The majority of the research centers visited are taking part in the program. The development of this information exchange was first suggested by a group of geneticists that met in São Paulo, Brazil, in 1952.

News Briefs

■ The U.S. Atomic Energy Commission recently conducted an 18-day tour of uranium deposits and ore processing facilities in the western United States for 36 foreign geologists and engineers. The group, which represented 22 nations, began the trip on 27 Sept. at Albuquerque, N.M.

The purpose of the tour was to acquaint the visitors with the various types of uranium deposits found in the United States and with applied exploration techniques, milling procedures, and laboratory methods. This dissemination of information is part of the program for international cooperation in uranium exploration that was announced by the commission on 8 Sept.

■ The East German Government announced on 25 Sept. that a group of German scientists and technicians had been repatriated to East Germany on 23 Sept. under a Soviet-East German agreement. This action was apparently the result of a recent note to the U.S.S.R. in which

the West German Government charged that German scientists were being detained. The Bonn Government now reports that the East German regime is seeking to detain members of the group who wish to return to West Germany. The scientists, who were captured after World War II, include nuclear physicists and rocket specialists.

■ Thirteen more of the young Japanese women who came to this country for plastic surgery after having survived the Hiroshima explosion have returned home. Altogether, the 25 members of the group underwent 140 operations.

Scientists in the News

CARROLL V. NEWSOM, a mathematician, has been elected president of New York University. Newsom, executive vice president of the university since July, succeeds Henry T. Heald, who has become president of the Ford Foundation.

FRANK G. MILLER, formerly head of the systems engineering department in the Hughes Aircraft Company guided missile laboratories in Culver City, Calif., has been appointed head of the engineering laboratory of the company's guided missile laboratories in Tucson, Ariz.

VICTOR A. SUTTER, assistant director-general of advisory services for the World Health Organization, has resigned to accept appointment as minister of public health and social assistance in his own country, El Salvador. Sutter, who studied at San Salvador National University and Johns Hopkins University, has been a member of the WHO staff since 1950.

HENRY R. KREIDER, JR., former assistant director of research at William S. Merrell, Inc., Cincinnati, Ohio, has been appointed director of research at Chesebrough-Pond's, Inc., New York. He will coordinate the world-wide research facilities of the firm and direct development of new products.

EDWARD A. MARTELL, until recently research associate in radiochemistry at the Enrico Fermi Institute for Nuclear Studies, has joined the staff of the Air Force Cambridge Research Center, where he has been appointed chief of the atmospheric nuclear chemistry section of the Geophysics Research Directorate. Martell, a West Point graduate and former engineer officer, is a specialist in studies of the atmospheric distribution and fallout of atomic fission products.