

tion of plants for the chemical recycling of spent fuel elements from civilian reactors. Of prime interest to American industry is the newly authorized declassification of information on civilian power reactors.

The major release of data on research reactors dates back to November 1950. Many categories of restricted data have been available to cleared individuals and organizations in this country under the Atomic Energy Commission's Civilian Access Permit Program. The latest action will permit publication of a large portion of that information which hitherto has been governed by access permits. For example, among the facilities that become declassified under the new guide is our first full-scale civilian nuclear power plant now nearing completion at Shippingport, near Pittsburgh, Pa.; also the experimental sodium reactor at Santa Susana, Calif.; and the second-stage homogeneous reactor at Oak Ridge, Tenn. However, the access permit program remains as an important aid to the continued integration of U.S. industry and management in the atomic energy program on a free competitive basis.

In addition, and clearly related to the reactor data which will become available, is the declassification of the technology of the manufacture of heavy water; final stages of the separation of zirconium and hafnium, two metals used in reactors, and the liquid thermal diffusion process of isotope separation, which may be used to make slightly enriched uranium fuel.

Of interest to our friends abroad, especially those now participating in the program of cooperation in peaceful uses of nuclear energy through bilateral agreements, is the fact that the United States can now effectively cooperate with other friendly nations on an unclassified basis for civil power purposes. This will greatly facilitate the conclusion of agreements for cooperation.

Uranium mining operators, underwriters and investors in the United States and in other uranium producing countries will benefit by the removal of all tripartite restrictions on the publication of statistics on over-all uranium ore reserves, and present and future ore concentrate production figures. The world uranium industry, which now represents a private investment of many millions of dollars, will be able to participate in planning for nuclear power development.

Putting a new declassification guide into effect does not declassify any documents. The releasable information becomes publicly available when reports, drawings, photographs, and so forth are reviewed and certified to be declassified under the new guide. The commission will move ahead rapidly in its review of classified information of interest to in-

dustry. The commission expects to institute shortly an accelerated review program similar to the one that examined more than 30,000 documents and reports early this year. Following this accelerated rate of review, publication will be encouraged, and the most useful of the declassified material should be available within 6 months or less.

The information to be released will provide a practical basis for enlarging and improving high-school, college and university curricula on nuclear science and engineering, and textbook publishers will be enabled to produce new, updated texts and general study aids on the applications of nuclear energy.

News Briefs

■ The American Foundation for Allergic Diseases has reported that, although more than 17 million people in the United States suffer from allergic diseases, not more than 1500 physicians are practicing in the field of allergy. Two recent surveys by the foundation indicate that little improvement in this shortage can be expected in the immediate future. The surveys, made possible by grants from the New York Community Trust, were concerned with both graduate and undergraduate medical education in the field of allergy.

■ The American Medical Association reports that, during the academic year 1955-56, 1573 women were studying medicine in the 76 approved 4-year medical schools in the United States. This is a 2.3-percent gain over the previous year.

The Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania had the highest enrollment of any school—182. The medical schools of Columbia University and State University of New York each enrolled 40 or more women.

■ More than 100 geologists, biologists, oceanographers, and other scientists have participated in the preparation of the Geological Society of America's *Treatise on Marine Ecology and Paleoecology*. Volume 2, *Paleoecology*, edited by Harry S. Ladd, will be available in January or February 1957. Advance orders may be placed with the Geological Society, 419 West 117 St., New York, N.Y.

Volume 1, edited by Joel Hedgpeth, will be published later in 1957.

■ The Department of Agriculture has reported that the total production of crops in the United States during 1956 was 6 percent above the average for the base period of 1947-49. This production, which equals the record of 1948 and 1955, was attained despite the reduced

number of acres in cultivation and the losses due to a late spring and widespread drouth. The harvest was derived from 314 million acres, or some 29 million fewer acres than the average for the decade of 1945-54. The increase is attributed to the intensive use of farm machinery and fertilizer. The average yield per acre for 1956 was 123 percent of the average for 1947-48.

Scientists in the News

JAMES C. THOMSON, until recently medical consultant of the World Health Organization in Iran and Pakistan, has accepted a joint assignment under both WHO and the Food and Agriculture Organization to make nutritional status assessment surveys of the school children of Turkey. His address is UNTAB Office, P.K. 407, Ankara, Turkey.

CHARLES KITTEL, professor of physics at the University of California in Berkeley, has received the 1957 Oliver Buckley solid-state physics prize of the American Physical Society, for his applications of magnetic resonance methods to investigations of the electronic structure of solids. This \$1000 prize is presented by the society "to a person who has been adjudged to have made a most important contribution to the advancement of knowledge in solid-state physics within the 5 years immediately preceding the award." The award will be presented at the annual meeting of the American Physical Society in New York at the end of January 1957, at which time Kittel will give the Buckley lecture on the subject "The role of magnetic resonance studies in the physics of solids."

THEODORE BERLAND, former assistant director of public relations at the Michael Reese Hospital Medical Center, Chicago, Ill., has joined the office of public relations of the University of Chicago as science writer. He succeeds GEORG MANN, who resigned to take another position.

The two A. Cressy Morrison prizes in natural science, which are awarded annually by the New York Academy of Sciences for original research, were presented to WILLIAM LOW, Enrico Fermi Institute for Nuclear Studies, University of Chicago, for his paper on "The paramagnetic resonance and optical spectra of some ions in cubic crystalline fields," and to GUY-LAURENT REMILLARD, Université de Montreal, Montreal, Canada, for his paper entitled "Histochemical and microchemical observations on the lipids of interscapular brown fat of the female vesperilionid bat."