Cebidae—*Ateles paniscus, Alouatta seniculus, Cebus apella*—and thus approximately the same length as that of marmosets and tamarins; but, in view of the unacceptable estimates that this author gives for some other mammals, these values are certainly open to question.

Published estimates of gestation length in lemurs vary widely, and most of these must be viewed with suspicion. The values for the true lemur (*Lemur*), about 126 days (Schultz, 1956, collected from various sources), and for the lesser galago (*Galago senegalensis*), about 120 days (that is, 4 months) [Lowther, *Zoologica* **25**, 433 (1940)], are probably reliable. The gestation period of *Tarsius* is quite unknown. In the tree-shrew, *Tupaia,* which may or may not be regarded as a primate, depending on one's point of view, the period is said to be only 3 weeks, as in rats and mice [Mann, *Ann. Rept. Smithsonian Inst. for 1953* (Washington, D.C., 1954)].

The reported ages of the Columbus gorilla parents, 9 years for the mother and 11 years for the father, if even approximately correct, indicate that both of these animals are young adults. According to data collected by Schultz (1956), menarche in the gorilla female occurs at 9 years, and completion of growth in length in the gorilla male occurs at 11 years. Yet it must be realized that the estimated ages of these Columbus gorillas at best are reasonable approximations; for the animals are said to have been brought to this country only 6 years ago [AP dispatch in *Baltimore Sun,* 23 Dec. 1956]. Their reported weights—380 or 400 pounds for the male and 260 or 280 pounds for the female—are of little help in age diagnosis. Captive gorillas, moreover, tend to be much heavier than wild-shot ones, owing probably at least in part to accumulation of fat as a result of inactivity.

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## Archbold Expedition to New Guinea

Leonard J. Brass, associate curator of the American Museum of Natural History, has reported that the fifth Archbold Expedition to New Guinea has successfully concluded 10 months of field work in the D'Entrecasteaux Group, Woodlark Island, the Louisiade Archipelago, and the Trobriand Islands in the Territory of Papua. Brass, the leader and botanist, says that important collections of plants and mammals were obtained from all of the larger islands. Russell F. Peterson was responsible for the mammal collection, which will be of great interest in the speciation studies in progress at the American Museum of Natural History. Insects, amphibians, reptiles, fresh-water fish, and mammalian ectoparasites were also collected.

During the past 25 years Archbold Expeditions have been carrying out the systematic biological exploration of New Guinea and the adjacent islands. In 1948 an expedition also investigated the Cape York Peninsula of Queensland, Australia. Brass has participated in all six of these expeditions. His botanical collections go to the Arnold Arboretum, which in turn distributes the material to the other important herbaria throughout the world. Richard Archbold, Research Associate of the Museum, and head of the Archbold Biological Station near Lake Placid, Fla., is the sponsor of these expeditions.

## Thermophysical Properties

On 1 Jan. Purdue University established a Thermophysical Properties Research Center with two long-range objectives: (i) to serve as a world center for the collection, analysis, correlation and dissemination of data on thermophysical properties; (ii) to provide unique facilities and opportunities for graduate study and research on thermophysical properties. The program is under the immediate direction of Y. S. Touloukian, professor of mechanical engineering. Administration of the program will be handled by the School of Mechanical Engineering (H. L. Solberg, head). An advisory committee has been established to serve as a consulting body and to act as coordinating group for all research on thermophysical properties conducted at Purdue.

## Union Carbide Research Institute

The formation of the Union Carbide Research Institute to engage in basic scientific research has been announced by the Union Carbide and Carbon Corporation. It will be located on the corporation's Westchester property near Tarrytown, N.Y. The institute will be under the administration of Augustus Kinzel, vice president for research.

E. R. Jette, formerly head of the chemistry and metallurgy division at Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, Los Alamos, N.M., has been appointed director of the institute. His assistants are S. R. Aspinall, formerly with the U.S. Office of Naval Research, and A. J. Stosick, formerly division chief of the rockets and material division of the Jet Propulsion Laboratories at California Institute of Technology.

A major purpose of the new unit will be to study the physical and chemical behavior of matter under ordinary as well as extreme conditions of pressure and temperature. This work will complement and extend the basic research now being carried on in the existing research laboratories of the Union Carbide and Carbon Corporation. The facilities for the institute are expected to be completed by the spring of 1958.

## Wildlife Refuges

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service records show that from 1 Jan. 1953 until 30 June 1956, a total of 162,398 acres has been acquired for wildlife purposes by purchase, lease, donation, or public land order. This figure includes the new Snake Creek National Wildlife Refuge, a 24,623-acre wildlife area on Garrison Reservoir in North Dakota. The Snake Creek Refuge is the largest single addition; Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge in Florida is second with 16,978 acres and Kirwin National Wildlife Refuge in Kansas is third with 10,864 acres.

## Du Pont Education Program

The Du Pont Company will give more than $1 million in grants to 122 universities and colleges in its program of aid to education for the next academic year. More than half of the entire program is for the improvement of teaching in universities, colleges, and high schools. This phase of Du Pont's program is in three parts.

1) Grants of $4000 each have been awarded to 70 colleges that have records of strength in undergraduate chemical or technical education. Of each grant, $2500 is to strengthen the teaching of chemistry and $1500 is to aid the teaching of other subjects that contribute to the education of scientists and engineers. Grants of $4000 each go to 23 major universities in order to strengthen the undergraduate teaching of those courses that contribute to scientific and engineering education.

2) An allocation of $149,000 is for 39 postgraduate teaching assistantships mostly in chemistry, to be shared by 35 universities. The assistantships will go to graduate students who have demonstrated their ability to teach undergraduates in their universities and who will continue teaching during the time they have the grants.

3) A total of $61,000 in fellowships and scholarships will be used to encourage able young people to become high-school teachers of science and mathematics. This includes 26 fellowships for postgraduate students at seven universities and 20 summer scholarships for undergraduates at two colleges. The company also awarded 98 teachers' fellowships to five institutions for the com-

ing summer to help in-service teachers who are taking summer work for advanced degrees. Awards were made to institutions in which curricula for master's degrees in teaching include substantial emphasis on subject content in science and mathematics.

In addition to its grant to improve teaching, the company will give $290,000 to universities for fundamental research and $165,000 for postgraduate fellowships in science and engineering, including grants-in-aid of $15,000 each to ten universities and $10,000 each to nine others. There are also summer research grants of $1500 each to 20 universities. These are to enable younger staff members of university chemistry departments to undertake research of their own during the summer months.

Finally, the company is awarding 43 fellowships for the next academic year, 13 in chemistry, 16 in chemical engineering, six in biochemistry, four in mechanical engineering, and two each in physics and metallurgy. As in previous years, Du Pont is making the awards to the colleges and universities, with the detailed use of the funds left up to them.

## Lafayette's Olin Hall

Lafayette College's new Olin Hall of Engineering Science, built with a $1,250,000 grant from the Olin Foundation, was dedicated recently. It will house the physics, chemistry, and mathematics departments. The building contains 15 offices for 36 faculty members; two drafting rooms for 90 students; 15 laboratories for 295 students; ten classrooms for 340 students; a chemistry lecture room for 200 students, and a physics lecture room for 100 students.

## Laryngoscope in Music

The laryngoscope has apparently found a useful place in the field of music. William A. C. Zerffi, a voice and speech teacher at the New School for Social Research, has reported that he uses the instrument to determine a singer's voice type.

Voice identification is usually left to the teacher's judgment. But because of bad singing habits or because of the human ability to imitate various sounds, a voice is sometimes misidentified. This can lead to improper training, bad singing habits, or even the shortening of a singer's career. These difficulties can be avoided by using the laryngoscope. The teacher simply looks at the length of the vocal cords. The shorter the cords, the higher the voice; thus a soprano has shorter cords than a contralto, and a tenor has shorter cords than a bass.

## Technical Publication Index

A new *Index of Technical Publications* has been published by the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, 1512 H St., NW, Washington 25, D.C. The 222-page volume is the fifth supplement to the basic 1919–49 index.

The new index covers NACA research reports issued from June 1955 through June 1956, and reports published previously but declassified in the same period. The arrangement lists reports in numerical and chronological order of subjects, and includes alphabetical indexes of subjects and authors.

## Aerojet Reactor Training Program

Aerojet-General Nucleonics, San Ramon, Calif., reactor manufacturer, has announced that it is establishing a reactor training program that will be available to industry, colleges and universities, the medical field, and power utilities. The new 1-week course will allow the participant to handle nuclear controls and reactor hardware, such as control rods and fuel elements, in addition to receiving instruction in nuclear reactor theory, operations, and licensing requirements. Students will participate in assembling a reactor and seeing it go critical.

## G.E. Summer Fellowships at Stanford

The General Electric Educational and Charitable Fund for high-school teachers of mathematics, chemistry, or physics will establish a summer fellowship program at Stanford University. Fifty high-school mathematics teachers, to be selected by the university from high-school faculties in 14 western states, will have an opportunity to study new aspects of their subject as well as the application of mathematics to science and industry.

Paul W. Berg of Stanford's mathematics department will direct the program, which will consist of three courses: the first will survey number theory, projective geometry, and other fields bordering on high-school subjects; the second will deal with the fundamental concepts of the calculus; the third will be a seminar on the methods of problem solving. The seminar will attempt to help the teachers in their twofold job of challenging the curiosity of high-school students and developing in them a scientific temper.

In addition to classroom work, the fellows will take field trips to General Electric laboratory and manufacturing facilities in the San Francisco Bay area. Special lectures will be given by members of the company's management, scientific, and engineering staffs.

Instruction will begin late in June and last 6 weeks, with the company paying all expenses, including transportation. This is the firm's sixth summer fellowship program and the first in a western university.

## Drop in Shock Therapy

The Veterans Administration reports that electric and insulin shock treatment for mental illness has been reduced by an estimated 90 percent at VA mental hospitals through use of the new tranquilizing drugs. Ivan F. Bennett, chief of psychiatric research in the VA central office at Washington, D.C., made the estimate from a representative sampling of VA neuropsychiatric hospitals throughout the nation.

## Microbiologists Join IGY in Antarctica

The U.S. National Committee for the International Geophysical Year has approved the Society of American Bacteriologists' project for a microbiological survey in Antarctica to be undertaken during 1957–58 in conjunction with the IGY program that is already planned for the region. This is the first officially recognized biological program to be included in this country's IGY plans. The National Committee considers that the project, "while nongeophysical in nature, offers the prospect of providing very important and significant scientific information concerning the microbiological aspects of Antarctica."

The SAB participation in the Antarctic program is being formulated by a committee composed of Claude E. ZoBell (chairman), Richard H. McBee, and Frederick D. Sisler. Inquiries should be directed to Dr. Claude E. ZoBell, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, Calif.

## RCA Special Systems Department

The Radio Corporation of America has established a special systems and development department that will be devoted to the planning and development of electronic systems for future military needs. C. B. Jolliffe, vice president and technical director of R.C.A., has been appointed manager of the new department. Other executive posts in the department are as follows: A. W. Vance, chief systems engineer; G. L. Dimmick, chief development engineer; A. C. Gay, manager, projects engineering; and E. W. Pritchard, administrative engineer.