emy's charter, the direction of its basic scientific work is supposed to be decided by majority vote at general meetings of its members.

This has not been true in past years, Tamm said. Most general meetings of the academy, he said, have been purely for show purposes. The annual comprehensive reports of the academy's chief scholarly secretary never have been discussed. As a result, the membership has not been able to exercise the directive role it is entitled to under the charter.

The dissenters won a partial victory. The academy publication reports that the present president, Alexander N. Nesmeyanov, was reelected, though not by unanimous vote, without any postponement in the election date. At the same time academy members adopted a resolution instructing their president to draw up a detailed report on the proposed future development of Soviet scientific research and to deliver this report at a general meeting of the academy.

## Cooperative Abstracting

On 1 Jan. *Biological Abstracts* and *Psychological Abstracts* initiated a modification of their 28-year-old agreement for the exchange of abstract reprinting privileges. This modification, it is hoped, will serve as a pattern for an attack on the problem of the costly and inefficient duplication of abstracting efforts that plagues the documentation of science today. Although the two services have exchanged abstracts since 1929, heretofore there has been no systematic attempt to apportion responsibility for coverage so that duplicate abstracting efforts could be avoided.

Now, however, in keeping with the "General principles of cooperation on biological abstracting" [*Science* **123**, 578 (1956)] the two services have agreed to share abstracting responsibility through a guaranteed coverage of certain journals that are essential to their respective fields of interest. Thus, for example, those journals primarily concerned with physiology or neurology that contain occasional articles of psychological interest will be the abstracting responsibility of *Biological Abstracts*. *Psychological Abstracts* will refrain from abstracting these journals but will reprint in its pages those *BA* abstracts that are pertinent to its audience. Similarly, *Psychological Abstracts* will assume full responsibility for the complete abstract coverage of those psychological journals that contain occasional articles of physiological and neurological interest, and *Biological Abstracts* will reprint those *PA* abstracts that are of value to its readers.

Initially this shared abstracting responsibility will involve a total of about 50 journals. It is expected that elimination of the former duplication in abstracting will enable each service to redirect the efforts thus saved into areas incompletely covered at present. In addition to covering a group of specific journals, each service will be free to reprint an additional number of abstracts selected at random from the pages of the other service. The limit set for these reprints is 500 abstracts for *Biological Abstracts* and 1000 for *Psychological Abstracts*.

## German Archeological Find

West German archeologists have discovered 750 burial urns dating from about 100 B.C. to A.D. 100. Traces of funeral pyres also were found. These included some rare specimens—wooden containers, unharmed by rot because they were charred. In addition, the graves contained iron swords, bronze armlets, Roman coins, and glass vessels.

Near the site, which is at Wederath in the Hunsrueck Mountains, is another burial ground containing 42 burial mounds thought to date from about 400 B.C. Excavations have ended for the winter but will be resumed in the spring.

## Science Secretary Proposed

A proposal to include a Secretary of Science in the Cabinet of the President because of the importance of science to the survival of democracy was advocated in the science section of the *Saturday Review* (2 Feb. 1957). In the event that interdepartmental rivalry in Washington blocks creation of a new Cabinet post, the *Review* proposes the appointment of a Science Commission in the Executive Department, with authority and prestige equal to the Bureau of the Budget, the Board of Economic Advisers, and the National Security Council.

## Nuclear Power Plant Ceremony

The first nuclear power system in the United States designed and built solely for experimentation in the generation of electric power was formally put into operation at the Argonne National Laboratory of the Atomic Energy Commission on 9 Feb. Participants in the ceremony included members of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy of the Congress, AEC officials, members of the Argonne staff, and representatives of the University of Chicago, which operates the laboratory for the AEC.

Now that it is in continuous full operation, the experimental boiling-water reactor (EBWR) is supplying 5000 kilowatts of electric power to the laboratory. Of the original five reactor projects in the AEC civilian power reactor development program launched in 1954, the EBWR is the first to be completed and to generate electricity.

## Radiation Dose Standards

The National Committee on Radiation Protection and Measurement (NCRP) has introduced new recommendations on permissible radiation exposure. In making the new recommendations, the committee reviewed its past recommendations in the light of increased knowledge about the long-range effects of radiation exposure on the genetic make-up and life-expectancy of man. The recommended changes will be incorporated in revised editions of the NCRP Handbooks of the National Bureau of Standards.

## International Atomic Energy Statute

The 90-day period during which the Statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency was open for signature ended at midnight, 23 Jan., with the signatures of the representatives of 78 countries affixed to the document. Seventy countries signed the statute on 26 Oct. 1956, the last day of the 81-nation conference at United Nations headquarters at which it was unanimously approved, and the eight others have signed since then.

Under Article XXI of the statute, signatory states become parties to the statute when they deposit an instrument of ratification. The statute will come into force when 18 states have deposited ratifications, provided that three of the following states are included: Canada, France, the U.S.S.R., the United Kingdom, and the United States. The instruments of ratification, which are expected to start coming in during the course of the next few months, will be deposited with the Government of the United States, which has been designated as the depository government.

After the statute has come into force, a general conference will be called in order to bring the International Atomic Energy Agency into existence. The statute provides that the objectives of the agency shall be "to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world" and to insure that assistance provided by it "is not used in such a way as to further any military purposes."

For the interim period, until the first board of governors is elected by the first general conference, a Preparatory Commission of 18 governments has been cre-