thought, art and literature, economic progress, and so forth. Essays dealing with medical subjects are not acceptable, although papers dealing with the relations between medicine and the natural sciences will be welcomed.

Papers submitted for competition should be sent *before 1 June* to the chairman of the prize committee, Prof. Harry Woolf, Department of History, University of Washington, Seattle 5, Washington. The announcement of the prize-winning essay will be made at the annual meeting of the History of Science Society, which occurs in December each year.

Atomic Insurance

Protection up to $60 million against liability and personal property damage claims will be provided for each atomic energy unit in the country by the three insurance syndicates. The syndicates are the Nuclear Energy Property Insurance Association, which will provide maximum coverage of about $60 million for each reactor unit; the Nuclear Energy Liability Insurance Association, which will grant coverage to those eligible for personal liability insurance up to about $50 million; and a third syndicate now nearing completion, which will issue up to $15 million to cover both personal and property liability arising from any possible incidents that might be attached to the operation of private nuclear facilities.

Although the syndicates will provide the necessary basic coverage for atomic insurance, additional protection is needed. The cost of a catastrophic accident might be considerably higher than $60 million. A bill now on the Congressional calendar calls for the United States to pay, in return for a reasonable charge to the atomic energy units, up to $500 million for damages above the amount covered by private insurance.

Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants

Dissension over the provisions of the current edition of the *International Code of Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants (1952)* has prompted the International Union of Biological Sciences to activate its International Commission on the Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants. The commission is composed of eight representatives each of horticulture, agriculture, and forestry, plus a chairman and rapporteur général. American members of the commission, which held its first meeting in Utrecht, 22–24 Nov. 1956 under auspices of IUBS, are Martin Weiss (agriculture) U.S. Department of Agriculture, Elbert L. Little (forestry) U.S. Bureau of Forestry, and George H. M. Lawrence (horticulture) Bailey Hortorium, Cornell University.

Scores of proposals for changes in the present code had been studied previously and were voted on at this session. Paramount among the decisions adopted unanimously was that to retain the name *cultivar* as the international term for all cultivated variants (reserving the technical term *varietas,* and its abbreviation *var.,* for the well-known botanical category), and to authorize use of the alternate term in various national languages (such as *Sorte* in German, *razza* in Italian, and *variety* in English).

The commission agreed on the need for a single code for all concerned with cultivated plants and took steps to simplify the present one. Ample opportunity will be provided all interested groups to study the new edition now in preparation, following which it will be submitted to several international bodies for endorsement and adoption. Persons desiring further information on the work of this commission or wishing to submit proposals for its consideration are invited to communicate with the secretary, Dr. Harold R. Fletcher, Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, Scotland, or any one of the aforementioned American representatives.

Union Carbide Nuclear Research Center

Plans for the construction of a nuclear research center in Sterling Forest, New York (about 40 miles from New York City) have been announced by the Union Carbide and Carbon Corporation. The major facilities on the site will include: a 5-megawatt pool-type reactor, a radioactive materials laboratory, an ores and engineering laboratory, and a building for allied research operations and administrative functions. The architect-engineer for the center is the Osborn Company in Cleveland, Ohio.

The center will be operated jointly by the Union Carbide Nuclear Company and Union Carbide Ore Company, two of the corporation's divisions. It will serve as the focal point for nuclear research activity within Union Carbide. Research programs will be geared to the study of the effects of radiation on products and processes involving plastics, gases, metals, carbons, and chemicals.

The research reactor will be a modified version of the bulk-shield testing facility pioneered by Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Smaller reactors of this type have been installed at several colleges throughout the country. The Union Carbide reactor will be designed and built by AMF Atomics, Inc., a subsidiary of American Machine and Foundry Company. A formal request for the construction permit has been submitted to the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission for approval. Completion of the research center is scheduled for late 1958 or early in 1959.

Avco Laboratory

Avco Manufacturing Corporation has started work at Wilmington, Mass., on its $15-million Research and Advanced Development Division. The facility will serve all the corporation's research and development programs and also will undertake specific projects for private research laboratories and teams. The center is expected to be in full operation by mid-1958.

Tissue Culture Fellowships

Fellowships for short courses in tissue culture are being offered by the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. Postdoctoral investigators and teachers and graduate students, as well as experienced laboratory personnel with the baccalaureate degree, are eligible to apply. The latter should be currently employed in a laboratory position and have the intention of utilizing this experience in tissue culture in a specific laboratory position upon completion of the course.

Fellowships may be used only to support study in formal courses designed to teach the principles, techniques, and application of tissue culture. Funds will be awarded for the period necessary to complete such a course, but in general the time is not expected to exceed 6 weeks.

Financial assistance will be based on the individual applicant's need. For application forms and further information, write to the Division of Professional Education, National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, 120 Broadway, New York 5, N.Y.

Positions in IGY Tracking Program

The Astrophysical Observatory of the Smithsonian Institution, 60 Garden St., Cambridge 38, Mass., is accepting applications from scientists and technicians for positions in the Optical Satellite Tracking Program of the International Geophysical Year. Qualified personnel will be assigned as observers to IGY stations in the United States and in foreign countries for periods of from 1 to 2 years. Prior experience in physics, astronomy, or electronics is mandatory and an academic degree in one of these fields is desirable. Interested persons should write to the Associate Director, Satellite Tracking Program at the address given earlier.