

the College of Forestry. The institute will also promote conferences, seminars, and forums.

The new organization will be housed in the Hugh P. Baker Memorial Wood Products Laboratory building of the college, which has just been completed at a cost of nearly \$4 million. This modern laboratory, which is to be dedicated 2-3 May, will have numerous rooms equipped for organic and physical chemical studies of cellulose, wood, and polymers. Membership in the institute is open to all companies manufacturing cellulose products such as rayon, film, lacquers, plastics, and so forth, as well as companies making chemical pulps, and all other companies interested in research on cellulose.

### **Powder Diffraction, a Note to Authors**

When authors submit for publication papers that describe investigations in which x-ray powder measurements were made, but which omit the actual x-ray data, it is requested that these data be sent to the editor of the Joint Committee on Chemical Analysis by Powder Diffraction Methods for possible inclusion in the *X-ray Powder Data File* that is published by the American Society for Testing Materials.

The data should contain accurate listings of *d* values and intensities of reflections. Other items of information of value for the data file are: *hkl* indices and lattice parameters if known, radiation used, type of x-ray recording employed, method of estimating intensities (visual, photometric, Geiger-counter), plus any relevant information concerning the nature and preparation of specimens studies. For additional details, communicate with the editor of the Data File, G. W. Brindley, College of Mineral Industries, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pa., U.S.A.

### **Japanese Protesting British Tests**

A public debate is being held in Tokyo, Japan, on whether to send a "suicide sitdown fleet" to the forbidden waters around Christmas Island, the site of the forthcoming British hydrogen bomb tests. Premier Nobusuke Kishi and the All-Japan Seamen's Union have come out publicly against the proposed venture.

The *New York Times* reports that numerous fanatic opponents of nuclear demonstrations have offered to man small ships that would hover in the danger area. The first object of the expedition would be to prevent the British test blast, but if that failed the crusaders

would risk their lives as a protest against the development of advanced weapons.

This proposal for action against nuclear tests, made at a meeting of the Japan Council for Prohibition of Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs, has been criticized by more conservative Japanese. The idea for the protest is reported to have originated with a British pacifist journal called *Peace News*. The magazine is said to have written to the Japanese antibomb organization last week to state that five Britons had volunteered to take a suicide ship to the waters around Christmas Island if Japan would supply the vessel.

While the suicide fleet was being debated, the Japanese Government was reported to be preparing a third note to London, requesting advance notice of every blast, urging that "adequate measures" be taken to prevent damage and casualties, and asking that compensation be paid for any damage or casualties suffered by the Japanese.

Previous Japanese notes have asked the British to call off the tests. Japanese fishing interests have protested strongly that the exclusion of their ships from the waters around Christmas Island for the 5-month period of the tests will cost millions of dollars to the marlin and tuna industries. They demand compensation.

### **Chromosome Count**

Confirmation of the previously noticed revision of the count of human chromosome numbers [*Science* **124**, 576 (28 Sept. 1956)] has not been long in forthcoming. On 10 Nov. 1956, *Nature* carried an article by C. E. Ford and J. L. Hamerton reporting extensive studies carried out on testis tissue from three adult males. Very clear spermatogonial and spermatocytic counts showed 23 bivalents (or 46 chromosomes) in all but 14 among 188 cells. In those few cells one or more chromosomes had apparently been lost. No counts of 48 chromosomes, the formerly accepted number, were found.

It was noted that the two sex chromosomes, X and Y, were terminally associated in the great majority of cells, but in one cell they were held together by a subterminal chiasma. For the totality of chromosomes, an average of 55.9 chiasmata per cell, or between one and two chiasmata per chromosome pair, were observed at late diplotene to mid-diakinesis. The total amount of genetic recombination by crossing over can consequently be estimated to be half again as much as in the mouse, although it must be stated that the present data apply only to middle-aged and elderly males. Ford and Hamerton, who presented these studies at the first International Congress

of Human Genetics in Copenhagen last summer, believe that the formerly accepted number of 48 was arrived at because of some exceptionally long centric constrictions in certain chromosomes, which may have led them to be counted doubly; or else because in spermatocytes the X and Y chromosomes may have disjoined precociously, so that 24 instead of 23 bodies were counted.

Meanwhile verbal communication has come from Japan that M. Kodani has found various numbers in different individuals or in different tissues. Additional studies will be required before the question is finally resolved.—B. G.

### **Wisconsin's Bardeen Laboratories**

The University of Wisconsin Medical School will dedicate the Bardeen Medical Laboratories on 17 May. This unit, named for Charles Bardeen, first dean of the Wisconsin Medical School, will afford space for the department of anatomy and physiological chemistry. The entire top floor will contain animal quarters. Speakers for the dedication, which will coincide with Alumni Day, will include Eugene Opie, George Corner, and Willard Rappleye.

### **Proposed Legislation**

From 3 Jan. through 24 Feb., 1532 bills and resolutions were introduced in the Senate and 5809 in the House. Some of these have a special relevance to science and education. A list of such measures follows:

HR 783. Authorize and direct Secretary of Interior to undertake continuing studies of effects of insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides upon fish and wildlife for purpose of preventing losses of those natural resources. Metcalf (D Mont.) House Merchant Marine and Fisheries.

S 511. Establish deferred grazing program and protein feed program as parts of relief available to drouth-stricken areas under P.L. 875, 81st Congress. Johnson (D Tex.) Senate Agriculture and Forestry.

HR 1080. Provide for standards to be prescribed by Secretary of Agriculture governing imported agricultural food products. Byrnes (R Wis.) House Agriculture.

HR 1107. Provide for emergency federal financial assistance to states and territories in construction of public elementary- and secondary-school facilities urgently needed because of overcrowding, and encourage full and efficient use of state and local resources in meeting school-construction needs. Donohue (D Mass.) House Education and Labor.