

cian should learn that fundamental scientific research is essential for technical progress, but that the results of basic research do not lead directly to application, rather they fill up the reservoir of knowledge at one end while that reservoir is being drained at the other end by technical advances. He should learn that scientists can make reasonably accurate predictions about technical possibilities and the rate of technical development, that scientists because they are intelligent and imaginative human beings, trained in objectivity and skepticism, can play a useful role in helping solve political problems. Finally the politician should learn that scientific discovery is slow and uncertain. It cannot be used to solve high priority immediate problems but only long-range questions."

### Stevens Institute

Stevens Institute of Technology has begun construction of a seven-story science-engineering building. The \$2-million structure, which is expected to be ready for occupancy in the fall term of 1958, will house the departments of physics, metallurgy, and electrical engineering.

### Purdue's Thermophysical Properties Research Center

At the first of the year Purdue University announced the establishment of a Thermophysical Properties Research Center with two long-range objectives: (i) To serve as a world center for research and to collect, analyze, correlate, and disseminate data on thermophysical properties; (ii) to provide unique facilities and opportunities for graduate study and research on thermophysical properties.

In this project, Government agencies and industry are cooperating by providing financial support. Each sponsor contributes approximately the amount of aid that might be given to a single graduate student, yet this amount allows participation in a major research program covering a broad field of application. This method of financing enables the university to enter upon interdisciplinary programs that otherwise could only be launched with great difficulty.

The program is under the immediate direction of Y. S. Touloukian, professor of mechanical engineering. At present he is forming a research staff of specialists in physical chemistry, physics metallurgy, chemical and mechanical engineering, and library science. By fall the staff will consist of ten full-time scientists and engineers assisted by graduate students. An advisory committee has been established

to serve as a consulting body and to coordinate all research on thermophysical properties conducted at Purdue.

The program is budgeted at \$75,000 annually for its first 3 years, and the list of founder-sponsors is constantly growing. A brochure describing the center's activities in detail is available to organizations interested in thermophysical properties. Inquiries should be addressed to Touloukian.

### Loubat Prizes

Columbia University has announced the Loubat prizes. These prizes, established in 1892 through the generosity of Joseph F. Loubat, are awarded in recognition of the best works printed and published in the English language on the history, geography, archeology, ethnology, philology, or numismatics of North America. The two awards, one of \$1200 and one of \$600, are made by the university at the close of every quinquennial period. To be considered for the 1958 award, books must be published before the first of that year. The competition is open to all persons, whether or not they are connected with Columbia, and whether they are citizens of the United States of America or any other country.

Four copies of each work submitted in competition should be sent to the Secretary of Columbia University, New York 27, by 1 Jan. 1958. The address should state that the books are for the Loubat prize competition.

### June Scientific Monthly

Articles appearing in the June issue of *The Scientific Monthly* are "Oil Shale and Bituminous Sand," F. L. Hartley and C. S. Brinegar; "Nautical Charting (1807-1957)," A. L. Shalowitz; "Sinkholes, Bottomless Lakes, and the Pecos River," E. R. Harrington; "Some Implications of the Study of Animal Behavior," W. H. Thorpe. Eight books are reviewed.

### Proposed Legislation

Of the many bills introduced in Congress, some have a special relevance to science and education. A list of such bills introduced recently follows:

S 1699. Provide for establishment of a dairy research laboratory. Wiley (R Wis.) Senate Agriculture and Forestry.

S 1747. Provide for compulsory inspection by U.S. Department of Agriculture of poultry and poultry products. Ellender (D La.) Senate Agriculture and Forestry.

S 1756. Authorize Secretary of Agriculture to impose quarantines under cer-

tain circumstances in order to protect public from communicable poultry diseases. Williams (R Del.) Senate Agriculture and Forestry.

S 1763. Provide for research with respect to soil-water-plant relationships. Stennis (D Miss.) Senate Agriculture and Forestry.

HR 5948. Facilitate regulation, control, and eradication of plant pests. Roberts (D Ala.) House Agriculture.

HR 6422. Require use of humane methods in slaughter of livestock and poultry in interstate or foreign commerce. Loser (D Tenn.) House Agriculture.

HR 6512. Permit Secretary of Agriculture to prohibit exportation of national-forest timber. Pfost (D Idaho) House Agriculture.

HR 6684. Amend Soil Bank Act to permit grazing land to be included in conservation reserve program. Knutson (D Minn.) House Agriculture.

HR 6714. Amend Soil Bank Act of 28 Mar. 1956 in order to provide for greater utilization of technical services and facilities of state game and fish agencies in administration of conservation reserve. Jones (D Mo.) House Agriculture.

S 1727. Establish a program of Federal loans and loan insurance and encouragement of similar state programs for purpose of encouraging and assisting individuals to obtain college or university education. Javits (R N.Y.), Ives (R N.Y.), Cooper (R Ky.), Payne (R Maine), Beall (R Md.) Senate Labor and Public Welfare.

S 1731. Promote welfare of people by authorizing appropriation of funds to assist states and territories in further development of their programs of general university extension education. Hill (D Ala.) Senate Labor and Public Welfare.

S 1922. Authorize a 5-year program of grants for construction of medical and dental educational and research facilities. Hill (D Ala.), Kennedy (D Mass.), Neely (D W.Va.), Humphrey (D Minn.), Smathers (D Fla.) Senate Labor and Public Welfare.

HR 6164. Provide for establishment of U.S. Science Academy. St. George (R N.Y.) House Education and Labor.

HR 6420. Provide for construction of a fish and wildlife marine laboratory and experiment station in Brevard County, Fla. Herlong (D Fla.) House Merchant Marine and Fisheries.

HR 6771. Amend section 314 (c) of Public Health Service Act, to authorize Surgeon General to make certain grants-in-aid for support of public or nonprofit educational institutions which provide training and services in fields of public health and in administration of state and local public health programs. Rhodes (D Pa.) House Interstate and Foreign Commerce.