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, analyse, 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 certain 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.

HR 6804. Encourage expansion of teaching and research in education of mentally retarded children through grants to institutions of higher learning and to state educational agencies. McGovern (D S.D.) House Education and Labor.

S 1917. Amend provisions of Public Health Service Act *re* grants for construction of research facilities to increase their duration from 3 to 5 years and to authorize grants for medical and dental teaching facilities. Smith (R N.J.), Purtell (R Conn.) Senate Labor and Public Welfare.

H Res 212. Appoint select committee to conduct full and complete investigation and study of use of chemicals and other additives in food and medicine, and beverages with view to ascertaining what deleterious effects such chemicals have on human life and health. Burdick (R N.D.) House Rules.

HR 7100. Revise, codify, and enact into law, title 21 of U.S.C., entitled "Food, Drugs and Animals." Willis (D La.) House Judiciary.

HR 6976. Provide for establishment of a Bureau of Senior Citizens within Department of Health, Education, and Welfare; provide for Assistant Secretary in such Department to direct said Bureau. Cramer (R Fla.) House Education and Labor.

Scientists in the News

LIEUWE J. DIJKSTRA, native of the Netherlands who has been serving since 1953 as an advisory physicist at the Westinghouse Electric Corporation's research laboratory, has been appointed to the staff of General Atomic Division of General Dynamics Corporation's John Jay Hopkins Laboratory for Pure and Applied Science, San Diego, Calif. He is a specialist in the properties of metals.

GEORGE W. BROWN, mathematician, will head the University of California's newly established Western Data Processing Center. He has been appointed professor of business administration and engineering and director of what is perhaps the first university computer center devoted primarily to the study of business management problems. The center, known as WDPC, was jointly announced last fall by UCLA and the International Business Machines Corporation.

The new facility is located on the university's Los Angeles campus, but it will be used by researchers and students from colleges and universities in 11 western states and Hawaii. Some 30 colleges and universities have already signified their intention of becoming participating members in the project.

MICHAEL HEIDELBERGER, visiting professor of immunochemistry at the Institute of Microbiology of Rutgers University, has been elected a member of the Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters. Heidelberger, member of the staff of the institute since 1955, became emeritus professor of immunochemistry at Columbia University in 1956.

ROBERT D. FRANCIS, formerly in charge of the Poliomyelitis Diagnostic Unit at the Communicable Disease Center of the U.S. Public Health Service in Montgomery, Ala., has been appointed associate professor of microbiology at the University of Alabama Medical Center in Birmingham.

JOACHIM W. MUEHLNER, developer of several advanced missile electronic instrumentation systems, has been appointed a consulting scientist in Lockheed Missile Systems division's research and development branch at Palo Alto, Calif. He joined the missile division after more than 5 years as technical director of the range instrumentation development division, Army Ordnance, at White Sands Proving Ground in New Mexico.

Muehlner was one of the first German scientists brought to the United States after World War II, accepting a post with the War Department in 1945. Before coming to this country he was in charge of operation and field development of the velocity and position measuring system at the German Rocket Development Center, Peenemunde, from October 1942 to July 1945. This system was used as a long-range electronic trajectory-measuring system for the German V-2 rockets.

TRUMAN G. YUNCKER, emeritus botany professor and herbarium curator at DePauw University, has been granted a leave of absence from his curatorship for the year 1957–58 to participate in a continuing study of Jamaican flora at the University College of the West Indies in Jamaica. A specialist in the Piperaceae plant family, Yuncker served as DePauw's botany-bacteriology department head from 1921 until his retirement last June.

HARLAN I. FIRMINGER, professor of pathology and oncology at the University of Kansas Medical Center, has been appointed professor and chairman of the department of pathology at the University of Maryland. The new appointment is a part of the reorganization of the department begun last June when the former pathology head, HUGH SPENCER, retired after more than 40 years of service.

ROBERT M. HEXTER, assistant professor of chemistry at Cornell University, has been appointed a senior fellow in fundamental research at the Mellon Institute, Pittsburgh, Pa., effective 1 July.

WINIFRED ASPREY, chairman of the department of mathematics at Vassar College, has been granted a leave of absence for the academic year 1957–58 to accept a postdoctoral industrial research fellowship that has been granted to her by the International Business Machines Corporation. Fellowship recipients are furnished with working space at one of IBM's laboratory locations where they may attend internal seminars and meetings and share in the use of all facilities, including the most advanced IBM data processing machines.

Fellows receive individually determined financial support and are provided with the full-time assistance of one or more technicians, as their projects require. Dr. Asprey will conduct her research at the IBM Research Center in Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

NIELS BOHR, Danish physicist and Nobel prize winner who is to receive this year's $75,000 Atoms for Peace award, has been appointed the Karl Taylor Compton lecturer at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He will be the first person to hold the Compton lectureship, which was established in honor of the late Dr. Compton, former president and chairman of the institute. Bohr will be in residence at M.I.T. during November.

EARL A. LONG, professor of chemistry, has succeeded CYRIL S. SMITH, professor of metallurgy, as director of the Institute for the Study of Metals of the University of Chicago. Smith, who has headed the institute since it was formed in 1945, resigned his administrative duties to devote full time to basic research in the physical structure of metal alloys. Long, a member of the institute since 1946, is in charge of its low temperature laboratory.

CHARLES R. MISCHKE, associate professor of mechanical engineering at the University of Kansas, has been appointed professor and head of the department of mechanical engineering of the Pratt Institute Engineering School, effective next September.

HOWARD H. NIEDERMAN, formerly principal propellant development engineer for the Aerojet-General Corporation, Azusa, Calif., has joined the staff of the Western Division of the Atlantic Research Corporation, which has its main office in Alexandria, Va.