News of Science

International Atomic Energy Agency

Postponement of the first general conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency until 1 Oct. has been announced by the preparatory commission. The meeting had been scheduled to start 19 Aug. The conference is to organize the new agency and make decisions on its program during its first year. The new date will insure sufficient time for participating governments to consider program proposals.

It is possible that the postponement was influenced by the failure of the United States and other atomic powers to ratify promptly the statute of the agency. The following states have so far deposited instruments of ratification with the Government of the United States, acting as depositary government: 29 Mar., Guatemala; 5 Apr., Switzerland; 8 Apr., Byelorussian S.S.R. and U.S.S.R.; 12 Apr., Romania; 2 May, Pakistan; 10 May, Austria. In order to come into effect, the statute must be ratified by 18 states, including three of the following five: Canada, France, the U.S.S.R., the United Kingdom, and the United States.

College Presidency Study

Harold W. Dodds, who retires this month as president of Princeton University, will direct a study of the office of the college and university presidency, with support from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The foundation has announced that it has made a grant for this purpose to the Institute for College and University Administrators, Boston, Mass.

Dodds will begin work on the study, which will probably take 2 years to complete, on 1 Jan. of next year in New York City. He and a small staff expect to look into the historical development of the office in the United States and the nature of the college president's job today. Dodds will visit a number of campuses and will talk not only with presidents but with deans, faculty members, and members of boards of trustees.

In midsummer, after launching the preliminary phases of the study, Dodds will depart for Australia to accept a long-standing invitation of the Australian Vice-Chancellor's Committee. The committee annually invites a distinguished educator from overseas to lecture to Australian universities and to discuss general education problems with Australian educators. Dodds' visit will mark the first time that the Vice-Chancellor's Committee has invited its annual guest lecturer from outside of the Commonwealth. Dodds will arrive in Sydney in late August and will return to the United States sometime in December.

First-Generation Effect of Radiation

An experiment that was designed by W. L. Russell of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory to compare the genetic effects of neutrons from an atomic bomb with those from a cyclotron has led to some observations on the effect of neutron radiation on length of life [*Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* (*U.S.*) **43**, 324 (April 1957)]. Russell exposed male mice, shielded by 7-inch-thick lead hemispheres, to atomic bomb radiation. The lead shielding reduced the gamma-component of the bomb's radiation to such an extent that it would not seriously interfere with estimates of neutron effect. The exposed mice were crossed with untreated females and the offspring kept throughout their life-span. In a summary of his results Russell states:

"Length of life in the offspring of male mice exposed to moderate doses of neutron radiation from a nuclear detonation is shortened by 0.61 day for each rep received by the father over the dose range tested. . . . Extrapolating to a proportional shortening of life in man gives 20 days per rep received by the father as the point estimate and 5 and 35 days as the 95 percent confidence limits. . . . It seems likely that, even when allowance is made for the conditions of human radiation exposure, shortening of life in the immediate descendants will turn out to be of a magnitude that will warrant serious consideration as a genetic hazard in man." Russell attributed the shortening of life largely to the dominant deleterious effects of recessive lethal genes.

NSF In-Service Institutes

Grants totaling $138,000 have been awarded by the National Science Foundation to 18 colleges and universities in the United States and its territories to support in-service institutes designed to improve the training of high-school teachers of science and mathematics. In-service institutes will begin in the fall of 1957 and will run through the academic year 1957–58. Each will offer special courses in the subject matter of science or mathematics especially designed for the needs of high-school teachers.

Institutes will be held in the evenings and on weekends in order that teachers may attend them outside regular teaching hours. Travel expenses, tuition, and fees for each participant will be covered by the grant from the National Science Foundation. Participants in each institute will be selected from high-school teachers within a radius of some 50 miles of the host institution.

This program is an experimental extension of the current programs of summer and academic-year institutes for high-school teachers sponsored by the National Science Foundation [*Science* **125**, 108 (18 Jan. 1957); 981 (17 May 1947)]. The high degree of teacher interest in such work is indicated by the fact that there were more than 25,000 applications for some 5000 openings in the 1957 summer and academic-year institute programs.

Bensley Memorial Fund

A memorial fund in honor of R. R. Bensley, formerly of the University of Chicago, is being established. The American Association of Anatomists will administer the fund, and the proceeds will be available equally to Canadians and citizens of the United States. Bensley made a number of classical contributions to cytology and to cytological chemistry. Contributions for this fund may be sent to Normand L. Hoerr, Western Reserve School of Medicine, Cleveland 6, Ohio.

Biochemistry at Brandeis

Brandeis University in Waltham, Mass., has established a graduate department of biochemistry as a result of a gift made to the university by the Dorothy H. and Lewis S. Rosenstiel Foundation. The initial staff appointments are as follows: Nathan O. Kaplan of the McCollum-Pratt Institute, Johns Hopkins University, professor and chairman of the department; and Martin D. Kamen of the department of radiobiology, Washington University Medical School, professor of biochemistry. Wil-