

News of Science

Nuclear Test Petition

Within a few days after Linus Pauling of California Institute of Technology released his appeal for the cessation of nuclear tests, a petition that bore the signatures of some 2000 American scientists [*Science* 126, 1190 (14 June 1957)], he was asked to testify before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee. Subcommittee counsel Robert Morris told the press that Pauling would be questioned in order to determine whether or not "communist organizations are behind" his petition. However, the subcommittee later agreed to postpone the hearing, which had been scheduled for 18 June.

Soviet Satellite

Alexander Nesmeyanov, president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, reports in a recent issue of *Pravda* that Soviet scientists "have created the rockets and all the instruments and equipment necessary to solve the problems of the artificial earth satellite." Nesmeyanov said also that the first satellite launched by the Soviet Union would follow an orbit not more than a few hundred kilometers above the earth's surface (a kilometer is roughly five-eighths of a mile). The *Pravda* article gave no date for the launching of the satellite; however, preparations have aimed at a target date sometime within the International Geophysical Year.

Free Drugs in New Zealand

Because of the increased cost of free medicine, the New Zealand Government has ordered that smaller quantities be supplied in each prescription. The rise in cost has been sharp: in 1941, the first full year of the government's medical program, the total amount for medicine was about \$1.5 million; last year it cost about \$12 million; and for the financial year just ended the bill will be at least \$13.5 million. This final figure represents about \$6 for every man, woman, and child. Expensive new drugs account for part of the increase; however, the prescription rate has now risen to an average of 5.3 per person.

Compton Laboratories at M.I.T.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology has dedicated the Karl Taylor Compton Laboratories, a new building for laboratories in electronics, nuclear science, and computation. There will be no restricted areas in the new laboratory building.

Graduates of M.I.T. have contributed \$3,135,000 toward a \$6-million program to build the laboratory and a nuclear reactor. Alfred P. Sloan, Jr., gave \$1,030,000. There is a penthouse for studying cosmic rays and radio waves on the roof of the five-story structure, which also houses the new I.B.M. 704 computer that the International Business Machines Corp. installed at a cost of \$2,742,000 as a contribution to research and education.

Heading the three sections of the new facility are Philip M. Morse, director of the Computation Center; Jerome B. Wiesner, director of the Research Laboratory of Electronics; and Martin Deutsch, chairman of the directing committee for the Laboratory for Nuclear Science. It will take most of the summer to move the three laboratories into their new quarters.

New York Aquarium Dedicated

The New York aquarium, which has existed only as a small collection of tropical fishes in the Bronx Zoo since the closing of the old aquarium at the Battery in 1941, has been formally dedicated in its new \$1.5 million quarters on the ocean front at Coney Island. The new building is the first stage of an eventual \$10-million facility that has been planned by the New York Zoological Society and the City of New York, which share equally in the construction costs. Construction of the later stages depends on private contributions, which are to be matched by the city.

The new aquarium will specialize in brilliantly colored fishes and invertebrates of the tropical coral reefs and in large and spectacular marine mammals, birds, and reptiles. Several thousand specimens of approximately 200 species were in the aquarium's tanks and outdoor pools on dedication day. The exhibits are to be changed constantly as

new collections arrive from the various distant lands with which the aquarium has made collecting and exchange arrangements.

The end of one hall is devoted to a demonstration exhibit of the electric eel of South American fresh-water streams. Every half hour during the day and evening the electric eels will be stimulated to give off discharges up to 600 volts. The discharges are registered on special lights and on an oscillograph.

The main hall of the aquarium contains habitat tanks for sharks, coral-reef fishes, and invertebrates. Two of the largest tanks have been planted with artificial coral and marine vegetation. Visitors may hear what is going on in the tanks by means of "talking labels," which are heard through headphones.

Christopher W. Coates is director of the aquarium, and his staff consists of James W. Atz, associate curator; Ross F. Nigrelli, pathologist; Myron Gordon, geneticist; Carleton Ray, assistant to the director; and Aage Olsen, superintendent. John Tee-Van is general director of both the zoological park and the aquarium.

News Briefs

A neutron physics section has been established in the Atomic and Radiation Physics Division of the National Bureau of Standards. The new section will be headed by Randall S. Caswell, who has been with the bureau since 1952.

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The Warner-Chilcott Laboratories has announced the integration of the company's microbiological research in its new laboratories at Morris Plains, N.J. The department of microbiology, directed by Benjamin S. Schwartz, is now composed of 21 scientists and assistants. The group that transferred from Nepera Chemical Company, Yonkers, N.Y., included Fred A. Barkley, director of the group at Yonkers.

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Representatives of science, industry, business, and education met in New York on 28 May to hear Henry T. Heald, president of the Ford Foundation, speak at the 150th anniversary dinner of John Wiley and Sons, Inc.

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An animal health products department has been organized at Smith, Kline and French Laboratories, Philadelphia pharmaceutical firm. Samuel F. Scheidy, assistant professor of clinical veterinary medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, has been named veterinary medical director.

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The General Electric Company has dedicated its new Vallecitos Atomic Laboratory, Pleasanton, Calif.