cently retired. Isbell, who joined the Bureau staff in 1927, will direct such work as development of methods for the production of carbon-14 and tritium-labeled materials, stereochemistry, polarimetry, saccharimetry, and utilization of modern physico-chemical principles for rationalization of the reactions of organic substances.

THOMAS J. O'DONNELL of the Central Division Shops of the University of Chicago's Physical Science Division was recently guest of honor at a luncheon in the Quadrangle Club that was attended by more than a hundred of the Chicago faculty and staff. The luncheon marked his reaching the retirement age of 65, but not his actual retirement, for he will continue as a specialist in the Central Division Shops, where he has worked since 1919.

Though he had comparatively little formal education, O'Donnell is an outstanding optical specialist. The devices O'Donnell has created and the problems he has helped solve run into the hundreds. He turned out for Albert A. Michelson the ruling machine that produced interferometer gratings, metal plates with as many as 1500 parallel lines to the inch that broke up light waves and furnished a highly exact means of measurement. In the last decade he has extended the use of this optical method to precision industrial measurements, and many companies are now manufacturing such devices.

The building of the first atomic pile under the west stands of Stagg Field was delayed by the problem of making uranium oxide blocks. The oxide, with no cohesive qualities, could not be contaminated with a binder and fell apart when pressed in ordinary molds. O'Donnell devised a steel die that could be taken apart without jarring and that was so optically polished that the oxide blocks could be removed intact for insertion in the pile.

It was also O'Donnell who created a "scale" used by Chemist Glenn Seaborg to measure the millionth of a gram quantity of the first plutonium produced. He spun quartz into a gossamer filament, measuring by optical means the torsion produced in the filament by the speck of plutonium. The distortion was a measure of the weight. This microbalance was later used by Seaborg in discovering other transuranium elements such as americum and curium.

Before the test bomb was exploded at Alamagordo, the research team needed a roentgen meter much larger than any that had been previously developed; O'Donnell produced it in 10 days.

When there was a delay in completing the 82-inch mirror for the McDonald Observatory of the University of Texas, which is staffed by the University of Chicago, O'Donnell and his colleague, the late Fred Pearson, took charge. Their methods and supervision completed the job in 2 weeks.

For Raymond E. Zirkle, professor of biophysics, O'Donnell produced two plates of such precision that they could be adjusted within 1 second of arc to permit focussing a beam of radiation on a specific part of a cell, itself only 1/2500 of an inch in diameter.

O'Donnell served in the Navy in World War I, being assigned to optical work on range finders and other devices. After the war the Navy wanted to send him to Vickers, Ltd., England, to continue study on fire-control devices. However, while in the Navy he had worked with Michelson, who suggested that he join the University of Chicago instead.

BENEDICT F. MASSELL, research director of the House of the Good Samaritan, assistant clinical professor at Harvard Medical School, and chief of the Rheumatic Fever Division of the Children's Medical Center in Boston, has received the American Heart Association award of merit in recognition of service in advancing the association's national program to reduce death and disability from diseases of the heart and circulation.

PAUL GYORGY, professor of pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, received the sixth Goldberger award in clinical nutrition during the recent annual meeting of the American Medical Association. The award, consisting of a gold medal and $1000, is presented annually by the AMA Council on Foods and Nutrition, and is provided by the Nutrition Foundation, Inc.

Gyorgy's many significant accomplishments and sustained interest in nutrition are the basis of his selection. He has long recognized the importance of vitamins for the growing body, and is the discoverer of riboflavin, pyridoxine (vitamin B_6), biotin, and a new microbiological growth factor in milk. Gyorgy also is actively engaged in studying the interrelated problems of protein and amino acid nutrition.

LOUIS J. SOFFER, head of endocrinology at Mount Sinai Hospital and clinical professor of medicine at the State University of New York College of Medicine, has been awarded the university's alumni achievement medal. The citation which goes with the medal reads: "For outstanding contributions to medicine." Last fall he received a similar citation when he was presented with the Harlow Brooks medal of the New York Academy of Medicine.

JAMES R. GILBREATH has been named assistant director of Argonne National Laboratory. He formerly was an executive assistant to Norman Hilberry, laboratory director, and also had served as associate director of the laboratory's chemistry division.

Recent Deaths

FLOYD J. CARTER, Chevy Chase, Md.; 64; lifetime director of the Maryland State School for the Deaf, formerly president of the New York College of Chiropractic; 19 June.

FRANK A. COWAN, New York, N.Y.; 59; assistant director of operations for Long Lines Department of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, inventor and leader in the scientific and engineering divisions of the communications field; 23 June.

MAURICE DEUTSCH, Hollywood, Fla.; 73; consulting engineer and president of the Thirty-five Maiden Lane Corporation; coinventor of the seismograph; designed the suspension construction of tracks for Grand Central Station; 20 June.

JOHN DICKSON, New York, N.Y.; 67; chemist and technical consultant; retired technical analyst for the U.S. Rubber Company's textile division, New York City; formerly technical director of A. G. Spalding and Brothers, Chicopee, Mass.; 24 June.

HENRY ERIKSON, Miami, Fla.; 87; head of the physics department at the University of Minnesota, 1915–38; author of textbooks on chemistry and physics, including *Elements of Physics,* used in many universities; 22 June.

HENRY GODDARD, Santa Barbara, Calif.; 90; retired professor of abnormal and clinical psychology at Ohio State University, author of *The Kallikak Family*; 19 June.

ALAN GREGG, Big Sur, Calif.; 67; retired vice president of the Rockefeller Foundation, formerly chief of the foundation's medical science division; chairman of AAAS Section N–Medicine in 1949; 19 June.

CHARLES B. KING, Rye, N.Y.; 89; retired automobile manufacturer and engineer-inventor; designed one of the first automobiles and helped Henry Ford construct his first car; 23 June.

VASILI I. KOMAREWSKY, Chicago, Ill.; 62; professor of chemical engineering at the Illinois Institute of Technology: played a prominent role in the development of synthetic fuels; 21 June.

ERNEST L. LITTLE, Columbus, Ohio; 64; president of Research Associates, Columbus, Ohio, and former managing director of the National Farm Chemurgic Council; 23 June.