

later life is, in part, a consequence of the long-term decrease in mortality from the infectious diseases. For example, tuberculosis in 1956 accounted for only one-third of the payments made for this cause in 1936, while the proportion of disbursements for pneumonia and influenza declined from 8.0 percent to 1.5 percent in the same period.

The external causes of death accounted for somewhat more than one-tenth of the claim payments last year. About \$34,330,000 was paid on fatal accidents, with more than half the payments on deaths resulting from motor vehicle accidents.

More than \$280 million, or two-thirds of the total death claim payments last year, was for policyholders who died before reaching age 65. About \$55,760,000 was disbursed on insured persons who died in the ages from 25 through 44, and more than \$216 million on those who were between 45 and 65 years of age when they died.

## Public Health Grants

Grants and awards totaling \$1,020,143 for the training of public-health specialists have been announced by the U.S. Public Health Service. The 230 recipients included physicians, engineers, health educators, laboratory workers, dentists, and members of other health professions. These people will enter colleges and universities throughout the nation this fall for a year of training in the public-health aspects of their professions. Grants amounting to \$919,878 also were made to 44 colleges and universities offering public-health nursing courses and to 11 schools of public health to assist in the training of students whom the schools select.

This is the second year that public-health training funds have been available from the Federal Government. Last year, under a \$7-million appropriation, the traineeship grants and awards financed the training of 364 public health workers. The purpose of the program is to help relieve the acute personnel shortages in state and local health agencies. In selecting trainees, consideration is given to the professional categories in which personnel shortages are most acute, the age of the candidates, their previous training and experience, and other factors that will increase the supply of young, well-trained workers.

## Rare Chemicals

The following chemicals are wanted by the Registry of Rare Chemicals, Armour Research Foundation of Illinois Institute of Technology, 35 W. 33 St., Chicago 16, Ill.: zirconium tetraisoprop-

oxide; 3,4-dimethylbenzoic acid; 2,3-diaminobenzoic acid; lead tetrachloride; spiro (3.3) heptane; 2,4,5-tris(p-chlorophenyl)imidazole; 2-heptylnonanoic acid; 1,2-methylenedioxybenzene; acetone azine; 4,4'-diamino-p-terphenyl; 4-methoxy-phloretic acid; menthofurane; 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8-octahydroanthracene; phenyl-dichloroarsine; 2-methoxybenzophenone; 3,4-methylenedioxyphenethylamine (homopiperonylamine); p-hydroxycinnamic acid; n-decyl benzene; triacontane; umbellulone.

## Pre-College Science Center

Through the generosity of the Dorr Foundation and the Loomis Institute, the Pre-College Science Center has been established to offer boys of high-school age, who are interested in possible careers in the physical sciences, an opportunity to pursue a special summer program. This program allows the talented student to follow his natural interest and to extend his competence in a specific area of the physical sciences and related mathematics.

There are 24 boys in the first class, each one carefully selected from Connecticut public, private, and parochial schools on the basis of exceptional ability in science. The students and resident staff of the center are using the living, recreational, and laboratory facilities of the Chaffee and Loomis Schools, adjacent to each other, in Windsor, Conn.

The center's strategic position in Hartford County near applied laboratory and research facilities in a variety of scientific fields has made it possible to provide a diversified group of engineering advisers, to one of whom each student is specifically assigned for a section of the program.

The study program is flexible and is adjusted to the aptitudes, interests, and backgrounds of the students selected. The course of study is not intended as an intensive program or as an accelerated course but rather as an opportunity for a selected group of boys with unusual ability in science and mathematics to live and work together happily while pursuing their common and individual interests.

There is no tuition charge. A single fee of \$175 partially defrays the cost of board, room, and laundry. A few scholarships are available for students in the amount of this fee in the case of genuine financial need. Since the cost to the sponsors averages about \$1200 per student, the fee is a small part of this total.

Because the size of the group invited to attend the center is limited, students are selected on a competitive basis from a large number of applicants. The students accepted must have completed at

least the sophomore year in high school; however, an exceptionally well qualified student who has completed the freshman year might be considered. Each year requests for application blanks must be made by 15 Apr. and completed forms be filed within a month.

## 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:

HR 8386. Lessen nation's dependence on foreign sources of supply for tungsten in times of emergency. Baring (D Nev.) House Interior and Insular Affairs.

HR 8328. Amend Internal Revenue Code of 1954 to impose import taxes on lead and zinc. Baring (D Nev.) House Ways and Means.

S 2447. Authorize and direct Secretary of Interior to undertake continuing studies of effects of insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides upon fish and wildlife. Magnuson (D Wash.) Senate Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

HR 8461. Amend Atomic Energy Act of 1954 to provide for appointment of representatives of U.S. in organs of International Atomic Energy Agency; make provisions re participation of U.S. in that Agency. Cole (R N.Y.) Joint Atomic Energy.

## News Briefs

Electric power was produced for the first time on 12 July by heat from the Sodium Reactor Experiment (SRE) during tests of the reactor and auxiliary components at a plant in the Santa Susana Mountains about 30 miles northwest of Los Angeles, Calif. The SRE was designed and built for the Atomic Energy Commission by Atomics International.

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The first motion picture of Project Vanguard, the launching and tracking of the earth satellite, has been distributed to 225 television stations in 12 countries, as well as to motion picture theaters, by the International Business Machines Corporation. Produced by Transfilm, the 4-minute animated film is titled "A Moon Is Born" and is being shown in both color and black and white.

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The Geological Survey of India has located a rich mineral area in the Nagpur district in the state of Bombay. The region contains deposits of chromite, copper, gold, iron, and antimony.

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West German natural scientists will shortly begin a geologic investigation of the bed of the North Sea for oil and