

Ortho and Hartman Awards

The American Society for the Study of Sterility has announced the 1958 Ortho and Carl G. Hartman grants-in-aid, each of which amounts to \$500. Applications for these two awards should be sent *by 30 Nov.* to the chairman of the society's Research Correlating Committee, Dr. S. Leon Israel, 2116 Spruce St., Philadelphia 3, Pa. No application will be considered unless it is accompanied by three copies of a brief outline of the research project for which aid is being requested.

Cytoanalyzer

A newly developed cytoanalyzer, an electronic optical machine that can scan a vaginal smear slide in less than 1/5 millisecond, has been installed by the National Cancer Institute at the University of Tennessee Medical School in Memphis. Potentialities of the new cell-examination method for detection of uterine cancer have already been demonstrated. First examination of 108,000 women led to discovery of about 800 cases, about half of them in the preinvasive stage.

Valid Zoological Names

The International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature has announced that arrangements have been made for the immediate publication in book form of the first installment of each of the "Official Lists" of valid zoological names and of the corresponding "Official Indexes" of rejected and invalid names, together with the first installments of the official lists of works approved as available for zoological nomenclature and of the official index of rejected and invalid works. The categories of names covered by these lists and indexes range from specific names to ordinal names. The total number of entries contained in the installments now to be published is about 5000.

The first of these lists, that related to generic names, was established by the ninth International Congress of Zoology, Monaco, 1913, while the most recent were brought into existence by the 14th congress at Copenhagen in 1953. The entries made on these lists and indexes have been promulgated from time to time by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in individual "Opinions" and "Directions," but, owing to the large number of documents, it has become increasingly difficult for specialists to ascertain what names have so far been registered under this system.

This difficulty will completely disap-

pear on publication of the installments now in press, each of which will be supplied both with a full alphabetical index and also with alphabetical indexes arranged by major groups. The groups so selected will usually be classes, but, in the case of large classes containing well-recognized orders, these supplementary indexes will be on an ordinal basis.

These official lists and official indexes constitute the principal instrument devised to promote stability in zoological nomenclature and will be indispensable to all specialists engaged in taxonomic work in zoology and paleontology. Inquiries about these publications should be addressed to the International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature at its Publications Office, 41 Queen's Gate, London W.W.7, England.

System for Patent Searching

The U.S. Patent Office has reported that a newly developed punch-card system for mechanically searching files of patents has cut examination time 80 percent and made possible what may become a significant advance for the drug manufacturing industry. The new method was used to help examiners determine whether patents could be granted to 64 patent applications involving steroids. This required the inspection of more than 2000 existing patents to uncover any subject matter related to the pending applications. Results showed that one examiner could do the work of five in the same period of time and with a higher degree of accuracy.

On the basis of this successful operation, the Patent Office has proposed to officials of the American Drug Manufacturers Association that industry, together with interested organizations, individuals, universities, and libraries, cooperate to expand the file of cards to include steroid material from all technical publications. Data would be analyzed, coded, and punched into the master file along with the patent information already there. Anyone needing the information could obtain the entire file at the nominal cost of reproducing the punched cards.

Robert C. Watson, commissioner of patents, and Karl Bambach, executive vice president of ADMA, have urged that those most interested cooperate on the project in view of the continuing large expansion of the steroid chemistry field. An ADMA committee appointed to consider industrial phases of the project met with Patent Office representatives this month during the American Chemical Society's national conference in New York.

Fossil Vertebrate Collection

The Los Angeles County Museum recently received from California Institute of Technology its entire reference and exhibit collection of fossil vertebrates. This brings together the two important collections so thoroughly documented by the late Chester Stock and his students: the C.I.T. collection accumulated during the past 23 years and the museum's Rancho La Brea fossils. With the addition of the institute collection, which contains more than 50,000 specimens from at least 500 separate localities in North America, the museum has become one of the most important vertebrate paleontological centers in western North America.

The greater part of the research collection is available for use by interested research workers. Most of the fine exhibit specimens (such as those from California and Mexico) must wait their turn for display until the museum fulfills its intent to provide more exhibit space. For the present it is possible to place on display the complete mounted skeleton of the California Cretaceous Plesiosaur, *Morenosaurus stocki*, and the original skeleton of the dawn horse, *Eohippus borealis*, from Big Horn Basin in Wyoming. Theodore Downs, curator of vertebrate paleontology, will be in charge of the collections under the supervision of Hildegard Howard, chief curator of science.

Scientists in the News

GERARD P. KUIPER, professor of astronomy at the University of Chicago, has been named chairman of the department of astronomy. Kuiper also will be director of the university's Yerkes Observatory at Williams Bay, Wis., and the McDonald Observatory at Fort Davis, Tex., which the university operates under a joint agreement with the University of Texas.

He succeeds BENGT G. STROMGREN, Sewell L. Avery distinguished service professor of astronomy, who has been chairman of the department and director of both observatories since 1951. Stromgren has accepted an appointment to the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, N.J.

BEN R. BURMESTER has received the Borden award for his work since 1950 on visceral lymphomatosis, a poultry disease that can be compared with Hodgkins disease in human beings. It is estimated that visceral lymphomatosis costs the industry and consumers \$70 million a year.

Burmester, who is a senior biologist in the regional poultry research laboratory