The Physics of Fluids, Applied Physics Laboratory, Johns Hopkins University, Silver Spring, Md. Subscription information may be obtained from the American Institute of Physics, 335 E. 45 St., New York 17, N.Y.

South Pole Snow Pit

The International Geophysical Year Committee of the National Academy of Sciences has announced that a snow pit dug at the Amundsen-Scott IGY South Pole Station had reached a depth of 50 feet on 1 October. The pit, which has been dug by hand during the Antarctic winter, serves a dual purpose: the successive levels of snow laid bare provide an unspoiled record of climatic and other history, and the snow itself is melted for the station's water supply.

The snow in the pit is so hard that even saws cannot be used. The snow must be chipped loose with mattocks or ice axes and then shoveled into bags and hauled to the surface. Each man at the station spends a minimum of 2 hours every week either cutting or hauling snow. An 18-degree ramp is maintained to provide access to the pit.

The temperature in the pit is nearly constant at $-60°$F, while at the surface a record temperature reading of $-102.1°$F was recorded on 17 September. During the period 11 May to 17 September, South Pole temperatures were lower than $-95°$F 17 times.

A study of snow stratification, combined with examination of snow crystals and density, yields a history of the Antarctic. For example, traces of ash may indicate that a volcanic eruption took place hundreds of years ago, and pollen deposits provide a clue to past wind systems. Paul Siple is scientific leader at the Pole station, where there are eight other scientists and a similar number of Naval personnel.

New Miniaturization Award

Miniature Precision Bearings, Inc., has announced that entries are now being accepted for the first annual Miniaturization Award, a competition established to recognize outstanding contributions by an individual or firm which further the concept of miniaturization. The award, sponsored by M.P.B., is being administered by an independent committee of specialists representing industry, government, and education.

Award entries are being judged by the following sets of criteria: (i) products, components, or parts which show outstanding ingenuity in solving problems, make use of new design concepts and special materials, and develop new-type components or parts that extend the frontiers of miniaturization; (ii) individuals, companies, or organizations which have broadened the horizons of miniaturization by creating a better understanding and use of the concept through education, research, engineering, and standardization.

Entries outlining contributions toward the concept of miniaturization should be submitted to the Awards Committee, Miniature Precision Bearings, Inc., Precision Park, Keene, N.H.

November Scientific Monthly

Articles appearing in the November issue of *The Scientific Monthly* are as follows: "Measuring Geologic Time," A. Knopf; "Aspects of Insect Flight," B. Hocking; "Vitalistic Mechanistic Controversy," L. F. Koch; "How Adequate Is the World's Food Supply?" R. W. Phillips. Twelve books are reviewed.

News Briefs

A new building that will house the Hunter Radiation Therapy Center, a joint enterprise of Yale University and the Grace–New Haven Community Hospital, is under construction at the Yale–New Haven Medical Center. The building also will provide space for an extension of the existing Laboratory for Medicine and Pediatrics.

* * *

Ground-breaking ceremonies for the new Irene Walter Johnson Institute of Rehabilitation of the Washington University Medical Center were held on 16 October. The structure, which will cost about $725,000, is expected to be completed within 15 months.

* * *

When the Soviet satellite was announced, the Boulder, Colo., division of the National Bureau of Standards was one of the few U.S. laboratories properly instrumented to study its 20- and 40-megacycle radio signals. Boulder scientists had been observing radio energy emitted by the star Cygnus; by an adjustment of equipment, they were able to monitor *sputnik* almost from the outset.

* * *

The Office of Test Information of the Atomic Energy Commission (Nevada Test Organization) at 1235 South Main St., Las Vegas, Nev., has closed. Inquiries about tests and related matters can now be directed to Office of Information, Albuquerque Operations Office, P.O. Box 5400, Albuquerque, N.M.

* * *

Two $5000 fellowships, one for Egyptological studies and one for Islamic studies, are being offered by the American Research Center in Egypt, a nonprofit organization affiliated with the Archaeological Institute of America. Applications must be filed *before 1 March* with Mrs. Elizabeth Riefstahl, Executive Secretary, American Research Center in Egypt, 489 Huntington Ave., Boston 15, Mass.

* * *

Key activities of the International Geophysical Year, such as the study of earth satellites, scientific expeditions to Antarctica, and the coordination of weather data, are described in the September issue of the *Courier,* published by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. The entire issue is devoted to the 18-month IGY program.

* * *

Aeronutronic Systems, Inc., a new Ford Company subsidiary on the West Coast, has bought a 200-acre mesa near Newport Beach, Calif., where it plans to build an extensive research and development center. The first unit to be constructed will be a series of aerothermochemical laboratories for the investigation of problems associated with the design of advanced missile systems.

* * *

A study of sensory deprivation is being carried out by the Psychiatry Service of Boston City Hospital, Boston, Mass. Philip Solomon, physician-in-chief in the Psychiatry Service, reports that the research team in his unit would very much like to hear from anyone else doing work on sensory deprivation.

* * *

Texas Instruments Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Texas Instruments Incorporated, of Dallas, Tex., has opened its new plant in Bedford, England, for the manufacture of transistors and other semiconductor devices. The plant is the first Texas Instruments manufacturing facility to be established outside the United States.

* * *

The University of Alabama has received title to 136 acres of Government land, valued at $176,000. Approximately 90 acres of the area, which is approximately 3 miles from the main university campus, are to be developed by the biology department into an arboretum that will be used in the department's teaching and research program. E. Gibbes Patton has been named director of the aboretum.

* * *

The U.S. Public Health Service has reported that by the end of this year's poliomyelitis season only 1576 paralytic cases had been reported, compared with 7886 cases in 1955 and 5241 cases last year. This year's total represents an 80 percent reduction in paralytic cases in the past 2 years.