

project is 2½ miles long, including the suspension bridge, approach highways, and five interchange structures. A vertical clearance of 164 feet under the main span will provide for the passage of ships.

U. S. and Canada Modify Basis for Roentgen Calibrations

In a joint statement, the National Bureau of Standards in Washington, D.C., and the National Research Council of Canada have announced a change in the basis for instrument calibrations in roentgens in the energy region from 0.5 to 3 Mev. The change, which is to go into effect on 1 January 1958, is due to a revised estimate, based on improved data, of the "stopping-power" corrections that must be applied to the materials involved in the calibration procedure.

Affecting instruments that measure radiation exposure dose, the new calibration base results in a small change in the calibration factor for radiation in the indicated higher-energy range. Thus, to conform to the new basis, instruments calibrated in roentgens with cobalt-60 gamma rays prior to 1 January 1958 should have their calibration factors reduced by 1.8 percent; and those whose scales were calibrated prior to that date should have their scale readings changed in the same way—that is, multiplied by 0.982.

NSF Social Science Awards

The next closing date for receipt of proposals in the Social Science Research Program of the National Science Foundation is 1 February 1958. Proposals received by that date will be evaluated in the spring. Approved grants will be announced in time for work to begin in the summer or fall of 1958.

The Social Science Research Program supports basic research in anthropology, archeology, demography, human ecology, social geography, economics, social psychology, sociology, and the history and philosophy of science. Inquiries should be addressed to National Science Foundation, Washington 25, D.C.

Retired Professors Registry

The Association of American Colleges and the American Association of University Professors have announced that, with the aid of a grant from the Ford Foundation, they will cosponsor the establishment of the Retired Professors Registry. Retired college teachers constitute a significant manpower resource

badly needed to meet mounting student enrollments. Utilization of this group of highly trained individuals will be a contribution to the general welfare of the United States.

A recent study conducted by New York University indicated that more than half of a group of retired professors had obtained employment—the majority of them full-time. Many professors in good health at retirement age are interested in continuing their work in higher education at other colleges and universities, and many institutions of higher learning are glad to avail themselves of the services of these well-qualified teachers. The registry will establish liaison between retired faculty members and colleges in need of additional staff.

After supplying factual information and references, the registry will leave the negotiations up to the candidates and the institutions concerned. Louis D. Corson, dean of men at the University of Alabama, is resigning on 1 January 1958 to accept the directorship of the new registry, which has offices at 1785 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington 6, D.C.

News Briefs

The Maine Heart Association has announced two fellowships in basic research tenable at the Cardiology Laboratory, Maine Medical Center. The fellowships, which carry an annual stipend of from \$4000 to \$6000, are open to investigators having a Ph.D., M.D., M.S., or M.A. degree. For information, write to Eugene H. Drake, M.D., Cardiology Department, Maine Medical Center, Portland, Me.

The British *Journal of Applied Bacteriology*, which is ordinarily published biannually, will this month issue an extra number that will contain the papers read last July at a symposium on bacterial spores. Orders for the special issue should be sent to Mr. A. H. Walters, Milton-Deons Research Laboratory, 64 Wimpole St., London, W.1., England.

Pergamon Press has announced that, following the death of Professor M. S. Kharasch and pending the appointment of a new United States editor, manuscripts for publication in *Tetrahedron* should be sent to the joint chairman of the honorary editorial advisory board, Professor R. B. Woodward, Department of Chemistry, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

A balloon inflation tower is being built at the University of Chicago's Stag Field. It will enable physicists of the Enrico Fermi Institute for Nuclear Stud-

ies to launch special balloons the year round for International Geophysical Year studies. Of the 35 balloons used each year, most are now released in the summer when there is little wind. The new structure will permit balloons to be inflated and launched in winds as high as 20 miles per hour.

Yale University will start construction this January on a \$575,000 laboratory for its School of Forestry. The new building, the William B. Greeley Memorial Laboratory, will be occupied by next September.

The Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies has announced that a special 2-week course in veterinary radiological health will be conducted in Oak Ridge, Tenn., 10–21 March, by the ORINS Special Training Division, with the cooperation of the University of Tennessee–AEC Agricultural Research Program and the U.S. Armed Forces Veterinary Corps.

A recent survey of New York City publishers, book stores, and libraries indicates that the launching of the Soviet satellites caused increased sales of science-fiction books and magazines and a marked increase in the library use of nonfiction science books, especially those on rockets and missiles. Some publishers reported that science-fiction books and magazines are now selling better than westerns and detective stories.

No less than 18 countries were infected with smallpox by international travelers last year, and, as a result, eight of them suffered epidemics of this quarantinable disease, according to the World Health Organization Committee on International Quarantine. At a recent meeting in Geneva, the committee warned against any relaxation of vaccination measures against smallpox.

Scientists in the News

HAROLD C. UREY, Martin A. Ryerson distinguished service professor of chemistry at the Institute for Nuclear Studies, University of Chicago, has accepted an appointment of professor-at-large of chemistry with the University of California, effective 1 June 1958. Urey, who won the Nobel Prize in 1934, will be available for service on any of the eight campuses of the University of California, but is to be in residence on the campus of his choice.

He has selected as his headquarters the La Jolla campus, where an expanded program stressing the sciences and technology is under way. At La Jolla, Urey will construct a 12-inch mass spectrom-