

tists, research institutions and the public.

"With the cooperation of the National Science Foundation, comprehensive surveys were undertaken by the department and other federal agencies last year, and the proposed new center is the result of this groundwork. Plans have been worked out for public distribution of information from such organizations as the National Science Foundation, Atomic Energy Commission, the armed services and the intelligence agencies."

Arrangements have been made to obtain from these and other agencies copies of abstracts and translations of foreign technical articles, monographs and books. It is estimated that these will be supplied at an annual rate of 50,000 abstracts and 10,000 complete translations. The items will be catalogued in the OTS library.

A staff of engineer-translators will be added to review and analyze foreign publications and select those of greatest value. There is also to be a scientific advisory committee to assist in the selection. Arrangements will be made for full translations of important articles and studies. Among the materials the engineer-translators will receive are copies of 200 important Russian scientific journals.

The new center will operate a coordination service to eliminate duplication of translating among U.S. public and private agencies and by friendly foreign governments. In its own translation work, the center will concentrate on technology. The cooperation of industry, universities, libraries and commercial translation firms will be sought in feeding information to the center.

Prosecution for Excessive Radiation

New York State's first prosecution of a corporation for exposing employees to excessive radiation ended on 9 January when a suspended sentence was imposed by a police justice on the Canadian Radium and Uranium Corporation in Mount Kisco. The firm, which had pleaded guilty, processes radioactive materials for medical, research, and industrial organizations.

State Labor Department officials brought action against the corporation last summer, charging that it had failed to survey fully the radiation hazards and had permitted excessive radiation. When the sentence was read, the court noted: "There has been no allegation or proof of any kind that the health of any person, either in or out of the plant, has been impaired in any way by the acts of the defendant, or that the health of the community has been in any way disturbed."

Few Aliens Used Specialist Quota

Fewer than 5 percent of the scientists and other skilled persons permitted to enter this country annually under special immigration provisions actually came in as immigrants during 1957. Only 3600 specially skilled immigrants arrived during the year although there were 75,000 so-called "first preference" quota numbers available.

First preference quotas are reserved for persons "needed urgently in the United States because of the high education, technical training, specialized experience, or exceptional ability of such immigrants." People in this category have precedence over all other would-be immigrants to this country.

News Briefs

Atomics International (a division of North American Aviation, Inc.) and Southwest Atomic Energy Associates have concluded an agreement that calls for a \$5,354,000, 4-year research and development program by Atomics International to determine the economic feasibility of the advanced epithermal thorium reactor (AETR) concept with a view to the construction of one or more full-scale atomic power plants utilizing this reactor as a source of energy. The Southwest Atomic Energy Associates is made up of 15 investor-owned electric companies in Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas.

A fire at Saint Francis College, Loretto, Pa., has completely destroyed the college's library, numerous faculty offices, and the biology department. The damages, not including the building, amount to about \$500,000. A college spokesman has written: "We would appreciate the gift or loan of slides, models, incubators, in fact anything which the other colleges might want to give to help tide us over a year or two, till we are completely reestablished."

Workers digging for a school foundation in Cairo, Egypt, have unearthed two mummified ostriches believed to date back to 1350 B.C. Kamal el-Mallakh, discoverer of the solar boats at the Pyramids of Giza, said the ostriches were found in Matarich, 5 miles west of Heliopolis, the ancient holy city of the sun cult. Heliopolis is now a suburb of Cairo. Archeologists have discovered other mummified animals, but never before ostriches.

The Atomic Energy Commission has announced that the university participation portion of the Oak Ridge School of

Reactor Technology is being curtailed because many colleges and universities are now offering programs in nuclear science. Contracts with six colleges and universities that provide reactor training have been canceled: Carnegie Institute of Technology; Case Institute of Technology; Northwestern University; University of California, Los Angeles; University of Florida, Gainesville; and Union College.

The National Bureau of Standards has announced publication of Handbook No. 63 *Protection against Neutron Radiation up to 30 Million Electron Volts*. Neutrons present a special type of radiation hazard. This handbook reflects the thinking of the National Committee on Radiation Protection that the recommended limits for maximum permissible dose of ionizing radiations be substantially lowered. The 88-page pamphlet may be obtained for 40 cents from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C.

The Ford Foundation, New York, has announced an appropriation of \$4.5 million to establish the Educational Facilities Laboratories, an independent, nonprofit organization concerned with research and experimentation leading to improvements in the construction of school and college buildings. The new agency will also serve as an information clearinghouse. Data on school design, building, and equipment will be available to architects, local school systems, college trustees, and others involved in the nationwide expansion of educational facilities anticipated throughout the country in the next decade.

The Navy has announced that an instrumented container of yeast will be carried in one or more of the 6-inch test satellites to be launched by Project Vanguard in the next 3 months. The growth rate of yeast on earth has been well established by biologists. By checking on the growth cycles of yeast in a satellite, biologists believe they will be able to obtain information on the effects of space travel on life. The reactions of the yeast will be recorded and radioed back to earth by a miniature telemetering system.

Scientists in the News

BERNARD L. PACELLA, an Italian-American psychiatrist of New York, has been awarded the Cavaliere Ufficiale nell' Ordine al Merito della Repubblica, an Italian Government decoration for special merit in the fields of science, letters, arts, or economics. Pacella has been