

operation of Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Appointments will be for a minimum period of two or three years. The salary range will depend on previous research experience and other qualifications. For information, communicate with the Physics Research Laboratory, Massachusetts General Hospital, Fruit St., Boston, Mass.

**Gravity.** The Gravity Research Foundation has announced that for the ninth year it is offering five awards for short essays on gravity. The awards will be made on 2 June for the best 1500-word paper on the possibilities of discovering: (i) some partial insulator, reflector or absorber of gravity, or (ii) some alloy, or other substance, the atoms of which can be agitated or rearranged by gravity to throw off heat, or (iii) some other reasonable method of harnessing, controlling, or neutralizing gravity. Essays must be received *before 15 April* by the Gravity Research Foundation, New Boston, N.H. The foundation will send detailed instructions on request.

**Medical student research.** The Lederle Laboratories Division of the American Cyanamid Company has announced that it is making available to medical schools throughout the United States and Canada its publication, *Lederle Medical Student Research Fellowships*. These fellowships, in amounts not exceeding \$600 per year for any one individual, are intended to relieve in part the financial burden of students who desire to devote their summer vacations to research in the preclinical departments. The selection of students to receive such awards will be made by the dean of the medical school, or by the regularly constituted committee of the faculty charged with such selections.

## News Briefs

Beginning 31 March, the Atomic Energy Commission will no longer accept new requests for gamma irradiation service from the public when the requested service is readily available commercially. A recent commission survey indicates that at least 16 academic and industrial organizations are prepared to provide gamma irradiation service on a commercial basis. A list of these organizations, showing the gamma flux available, the number and size of samples that can be accommodated, and the approximate amount of space available, may be obtained from the Office of Industrial Development, Atomic Energy Commission, Washington 25, D.C.

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The Crop Protection and Pest Control Exhibition that is being organized by *World Crops*, international journal of agriculture, will be held 12-15 May at

the Royal Horticultural Society's new hall in London. The organizers hope for a minimum attendance of 25,000, drawn from all over Europe.

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Russell Cave, near Bridgeport, Ala., the oldest known site of human habitation in the southeastern United States, has been given to the Federal Government by the National Geographic Society as a national archeological monument.

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As part of the safety precautions for the forthcoming nuclear tests at the Eniwetok Proving Ground, the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission has announced the danger area that will be established in the Pacific Ocean effective 5 April. The area is generally rectangular in shape and comprises roughly 390,000 square nautical miles. It is approximately the same size as the danger area used in the 1956 test series, but its east and west boundaries have been shifted approximately 120 nautical miles to the west. It is estimated that most, if not all, of the danger area will be disestablished during August 1958.

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Plans for the new museum building of history and technology for the Smithsonian Institution have been approved by a Special Joint Committee of the Senate and House of Representatives, the Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, the Commission of Fine Arts, the National Capital Planning Commission, and the General Services Administration. Construction will start early next summer.

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The following chemicals are wanted by the National Registry of Rare Chemicals, Armour Research Foundation of Illinois Institute of Technology, 13 W. 33rd St., Chicago 16, Ill.: 2-hydroxy-*n*-caprylic acid;  $\alpha$ -methyl styrene oxide; *p*-dinitrosobenzene; *l*-ethylcyclohexanol; *m*-hydroxyphenylpropionic acid; mono-fluoroacetic anhydride; *n*-pentacosane; *l*-phenylcyclohexene; *n*-dotriacontane; 4-chloro-2-hydroxy-3,3-dimethylbutyric acid; pentaphenylethane; *n*-tetracosane; 2,4-dichloro-3,3-dimethylbutyric acid; mellon; cinchomeric acid (pyridine-3:4-dicarboxylic acid);  $\alpha,\alpha$ -dimethylsuccinic acid; 1,2-anthraquinone; diethyl disulfide; humulene; and 2-methylacrylic acid (isocrotonic acid).

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A millenary celebration for Al-Mas'udi, 10th-Century Arab geographer, traveler, and encyclopedist, was held recently in India at Muslim University, Aligarh, under the joint auspices of the Institute of Islamic Studies, Aligarh, and the Indian Society for the History of Science. In addition to the many Indian papers presented, there were some 30 papers from different parts of the world,

including the United Kingdom, the United States, the Soviet Union, France, the Netherlands, Egypt, Lebanon, and Iran. Among those present from abroad were Bernard Lewis, Von Grunebaum, Myron Smith, Academician Tolstov, Nicola Ziadeh, and Said Naficy.

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The Columbia Broadcasting System has announced that a televised symposium on science, "The Role of the Scientist in America's Future" will take place on 16 March from 5 to 6 P.M. Participants will include Joseph Kaplan, Howard L. Bevis, Clifford C. Furnas, and William L. Laurence of the *New York Times*.

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The National Science Foundation has announced plans for a conference on "Research and Development and Its Impact on the Economy," to be held in Washington in the spring. The conference will focus attention on the economic importance of the nation's research and development activities, now estimated to account for annual expenditures of about \$10 billion, more than 2 percent of the gross national product. The effect of such expenditures in stabilizing and promoting the growth of the economy, especially in periods of recession, will be one of the principal topics of discussion.

## Scientists in the News

LAURENCE H. SNYDER, retiring president of the AAAS and chairman of its board of directors, will become president of the University of Hawaii on 1 July. He is at present dean of the Graduate College at the University of Oklahoma.

MANSON BENEDICT, professor of nuclear engineering, has been appointed head of the department of nuclear engineering that is to be established at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Under the new cultural and technical exchange agreement between the United States and the U.S.S.R., HUBERT A. LECHEVALIER, an associate professor of microbiology at the Rutgers Institute of Microbiology and codiscoverer of neomycin, plans to leave for Moscow in about 6 months. Lechevalier is an assistant to Selman A. Waksman, winner of the 1952 Nobel Prize in physiology and medicine as codiscoverer of streptomycin.

In exchange, the Soviet Union has agreed to send the Rutgers Institute G. K. SKRIABIN, a ranking member of the microbiological research team directed by N. A. Krassilnikov of the Soviet Academy of Sciences. Skriabin is expected to arrive here early in March.