forced through ducts and registers to heat the living spaces.

The house uses a small auxiliary oil furnace whenever there is a succession of sunless days. But the present solar system can take care of up to three cloudy days in a row if they have been preceded by a stretch of reasonably mild and sunny weather. The oil burner also insures that hot water for domestic use will be no cooler than 135°F, for the solar system itself can heat the living spaces of the house with water as cool as 95 degrees.

The house was built under the direction of the Space Heating Committee of the Solar Energy Conversion Project, financed by funds contributed by Godfrey L. Cabot. Members of the Space Heating Committee are: Lawrence B. Anderson, chairman of the department of architecture; Albert G. H. Dietz, department of civil engineering; August L. Hesselschwerdt, department of mechanical engineering; Hoyt C. Hottel, department of chemical engineering; and Joseph Kaye, department of mechanical engineering.

Female Mortality

Only the women of Norway have a lower mortality than those of the United States. In Norway the female death rate from all causes is 6.4 per 1000 per year; in the United States the corresponding rate is 6.9 per 1000. The Metropolitan Life Insurance Company provided these figures from a study of 19 countries.

The female death rate from tuberculosis of the respiratory system ranges from a low of 4 per 100,000 in the United States, Australia, and New Zealand, to a high of 47 per 100,000 in Japan. Pneumonia as a cause of death among women also shows a wide variation from the 16 per 100,000 in the United States to the high of 53 per 100,000 in Finland. Only in deaths from motor vehicle accidents do American women suffer the highest rate in the world, 11 per 100,000. The lowest death rate from this cause—2 per 100,000—is found in Israel.

Alexander von Humboldt Centenary

The approaching 100th anniversary of the death of Alexander von Humboldt (1769–1859) has occasioned activities in many lands which focus attention on a great and uniquely influential scientist. Famed for his American travels and diverse contributions to various sciences, Humboldt regarded himself quite justly as "half-American," as is testified by the great esteem in which he was held for half a century by American scientists, statesmen, explorers, and educators. An appraisal of Humboldt's impact on science having been long overdue, the coming centenary is to do justice to his special contributions to plant geography, geology, terrestrial magnetism, and cosmography, and to the generosity of his nature, to which early American science owes a great deal.

The following abstract is meant to give a preliminary picture of various commemorative projects.

In this country the American Philosophical Society, which elected Humboldt a foreign member shortly after his visit in 1804, is sponsoring a documentation of Humboldt which is to assemble autographs and microfilm copies of unpublished letters and related documents. By appointing me library research associate, and aiding me with a grant, the society has received the generous cooperation of domestic and foreign institutions useful for historians of science who are bound to benefit from this task. In addition the society will issue a number of publications which are to include Humboldt's correspondence with T. Jefferson, J. Madison, A. Gallatin, and prominent Americans of a later period (1840–1859).

Another Humboldt tradition in this country is to be honored by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in Boston, of which Humboldt was made an honorary member at the time of John Quincy Adams. A symposium is being considered to which foreign scholars will also be invited.

In Washington, D.C., I was able to interest the Pan American Union in a memorial meeting to be held under its auspices next year. There also, the Smithsonian Institution may arrange for an exhibition of Humboldt documents.

Other institutions, such as the American Geographical Society and the University of Texas, will contribute to the Humboldt centenary.

A comprehensive collection of Humboldt's letters has long been wanting, especially in Germany, Humboldt's native land, to which he returned following a prolonged residence of 24 years in Paris. Such a project is now under way in East Germany under the auspices of a Humboldt Centenary Committee of the German Academy of Sciences in Berlin, whose members also include scientists from the Federal Republic of Germany and Austria. The editorial and research office is located at Leipzig under the guidance of Adalbert Plott, a Humboldt scholar of long standing. According to information which he most kindly sent me quite recently, several volumes are being prepared. These consist of letters, collected articles, and a complete bibliography. So far 5000 or more items have been assembled.

Humboldt's contributions to Latin American science are being evaluated at the Deutsche Ibero-Amerika Stiftung in Hamburg, a foundation supported by German business interests. Two of its members, A. Meyer-Abich, of the University of Hamburg, and Hans Schneider, traveled all over Latin America in search of Humboldt documents, copies of which are being assembled in the Linga Library of the University of Hamburg, a gift of D. Carlos Linga from Mexico. The Gesellschaft für Erdunde in West Berlin is preparing a memorial volume on Humboldt and will hold a commemorative meeting next year.

One of the leading scientific institutions in the Soviet Union is reported to be planning to honor Humboldt's contributions to Russian science, especially in reference to Humboldt's studies in the Ural Mountains and Central Asia.

Our Latin American neighbors have formed centenary committees, some of which, such as the Venezuelan committee at Caracas, will publish several volumes dealing with Humboldt travels in that country.

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Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

Advanced basic research and teaching. The University of Wisconsin will receive $100,000 a year for 5 years from the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation to support a 5-year postdoctoral fellowship program in basic research related to national defense. The grant will provide about 15 fellowships annually for outstanding young scientists to prepare for careers in advanced basic research teaching. Each fellowship will carry a maximum stipend of $6000 for the academic year or $7200 on a 12-month basis. The selection of recipients has begun. The University Research Committee reports that "any individual who recently has received his doctor's degree and has demonstrated his ability and interest in basic research related to the natural sciences will be considered for these awards."

Natural Sciences. The Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovoth, Israel, has announced two Chaim Weizmann Memorial Fellowships in the natural sciences for the academic year 1958–59. These annual fellowships are intended for young scientists with several years of postdoctoral research experience. It is expected that the candidate will have worked in a field close enough to one of the subjects under investigation at the Weizmann Institute to be able to join an existing research team. The stipend, including fare, ranges from $3500 for a single fellow to $5500 for a married scientist with family. Payment is made in