

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 Erdkunde 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

dollars. The institute endeavors to help find suitable accommodation. Applications should reach the Academic Secretary, Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovoth, Israel, *not later than 10 April*.

Oceanography and Tuna Expedition

The University of California's Scripps Institution of Oceanography has announced that the Scripps Tuna Oceanography Research Group and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission will carry out an expedition to the Eastern Tropical Pacific during the period 28 April through approximately 7 July. It will be known as the SCOT (Scripps Cooperative Oceanography and Tuna) Expedition. The research vessel *Spencer F. Baird* will be used. Support for the Scripps portion of the expedition will come from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through the existing tuna oceanography contract.

The participating bodies are both concerned with scientific studies on the relationships of eastern tropical Pacific tuna populations to their environments, although for different reasons: the general purpose of the Scripps group is to forecast availability of fishable schools, whereas that of the Tuna Commission is to secure the rational exploitation of the tuna resource as a whole. These studies now require a survey cruise in the spring and early summer; most of the past work has been done at other seasons of the year. R. W. Holmes of Scripps will be executive leader of the first and major part of the expedition.

AAAS Socio-Psychological Prize

Through the generosity of an anonymous donor, the AAAS offers an annual prize of \$1000 for a meritorious essay in socio-psychological inquiry. Previous winners of this prize and the titles of their essays have been: Arnold M. Rose, "A theory of social organization and disorganization"; Yehudi A. Cohen, "Food and its vicissitudes: a cross-cultural study of sharing and non-sharing in sixty folk societies"; Herbert C. Kelman, "Compliance, identification, and internalization: a theoretical and experimental approach to the study of social influence"; and Irving A. Taylor, "Similarities in the structure of extreme social attitudes."

The conditions of competition for the prize to be awarded at the 1958 annual meeting, Washington, D.C., 26-31 December, are as follows.

1) The contribution should further the comprehension of the psychological-social-cultural behavior of human beings—the relationships of these hyphenated

words being an essential part of the inquiry. Whether the contributor considers himself to be an anthropologist, a psychologist, a sociologist, or a member of some other group is unimportant as long as his essay deals with basic observation and construction in the area variously known as social process, group behavior, or interpersonal behavior. For ease of reference in the rest of this statement, this general area will be called "social behavior."

2) The prize is offered to encourage studies and analyses of social behavior based on explicitly stated assumptions or postulates, which lead to experimentally verifiable conclusions or deductions. In other words, it is a prize intended to encourage in social inquiry the development and application of dependable methodology analogous to the methods that have proved so fruitful in the natural sciences. This is not to state that the methods of any of the natural sciences are to be transferred without change to the study of social behavior, but rather that the development of a science of social behavior is fostered through observation guided by explicit postulates, which in turn are firmly grounded on prior observations. It may be taken for granted that such postulates will include a spatial-temporal framework for the inquiry. It may properly be added that the essay should foster liberation from philosophic-academic conventions and from dogmatic boundaries between different disciplines.

3) Hitherto unpublished manuscripts are eligible, as are manuscripts that have been published since 1 January 1957. Entries may be of any length, but each should present a completed analysis of a problem, the relevant data, and an interpretation of the data in terms of the postulates with which the study began. Preference will be given to manuscripts not over 50,000 words in length. Entries may be submitted by the author himself or by another person on his behalf.

4) Entries will be judged by a committee of three persons considered well qualified to judge material in this field. The judges will be selected by a management committee consisting of the chairman and the secretary of Section K and the executive officer of the AAAS. The committee of judges reserves the right to withhold the prize if no worthy essay is submitted.

5) Entries should be sent to Dael Wolfe, Executive Officer, American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1515 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington 5, D.C. Entries should be submitted in quadruplicate. Each entry should be accompanied by six copies of an abstract not to exceed 1200 words in length. The name of the author should not appear anywhere on the entry itself

but should be enclosed on a separate sheet of paper which also gives the author's address and the title of his essay. Entrants who wish to have their manuscripts returned should include a note to that effect and the necessary postage. To be eligible for consideration for the prize that will be awarded at the 1958 annual meeting of the Association, entries must be received *not later than 1 September 1958*.

Radiation Committee

The establishment of a National Advisory Committee on Radiation has been announced by the Public Health Service. The committee will advise Surgeon General Leroy E. Burney on the further development of programs dealing with public health aspects of radiation. The President's budget for the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare for the next fiscal year requests \$608,000 for the Public Health Service's radiological health activities, a 50-percent increase over funds available during the current year.

Last August, the surgeon general appointed Russell H. Morgan, professor of radiology at Johns Hopkins University Medical School, as special consultant on the public health aspects of radiation. Morgan will serve as chairman of the new committee, which will hold its initial meeting on 13 March. Those appointed to the committee are: Arnold O. Beckman, Beckman Instruments, Inc.; Victor P. Bond, Brookhaven National Laboratory; Richard H. Chamberlain, University of Pennsylvania; James F. Crow, University of Wisconsin; Herman E. Hilleboe, New York Commissioner of Health; Edward B. Lewis, California Institute of Technology; Berwyn F. Mattison, American Public Health Association; Lauriston S. Taylor, National Bureau of Standards; George W. Thorn, Peter Bent Brigham Hospital; and Abel Wolman, Johns Hopkins University.

Religion and Science

On the six Sundays from 2 March to 6 April the Community Church, New York, has scheduled a series of discussions on *Religion in an Age of Science*. The program includes: Harlow Shapley, Paine professor of practical astronomy, emeritus, Harvard University, "God, Man, and the Vast Drama of Creation"; Loren Eiseley, chairman of the department of anthropology, University of Pennsylvania, "The Evolution of the Spirit"; Abraham N. Franzblau, professor of pastoral psychology and dean of the Schools of Education and Sacred Music, Hebrew Union College, "The