sioner, Civil Rights Commission; member, National Science Board.

Margaret Hickey, public affairs editor, *The Ladies' Home Journal.*

David Reisman, professor, sociology department, University of Chicago.

J. E. Wallace Sterling, president, Stanford University.

Howard E. Wilson, dean, School of Education, University of California, Los Angeles.

Dael Wolfle, executive officer, American Association for the Advancement of Science; former director of the Commission on Human Resources and Advanced Training.

Fred M. Hechinger, associate publisher, The *Bridgeport Herald;* education editor, *Parents Magazine.*

James R. Killian, Jr., president, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Special Assistant to the President.

New RCA Electronic "Eye"

An extremely sensitive electronic "eye" which may disclose previously unseen details of the planets and distant nebulae, permit visual reconnaissance in almost complete darkness, and provide a powerful new tool for scientific research, has been developed by scientists of the Radio Corporation of America.

The new device is a developmental, advanced type of camera tube, based on television principles and known as the Intensifier Orthicon. In contrast to the conventional Image Orthicon, which is used in present television pick-up functions, the new tube employs either one or two "intensifier" stages between the light-sensitive pickup surface at the front of the tube and the signal output assembly at the rear. The tube was developed by George A. Morton and John E. Ruedy at RCA's David Sarnoff Research Center, Princeton, N.J., in a research program sponsored by the Aeronautical Research Laboratory at the Wright Air Development Center.

According to Morton, the new Intensifier Orthicon is probably 100 times more sensitive than the fastest known photographic film for the same exposure time at extremely low levels of light. It can "see" in surroundings which appear completely dark to the human eye, achieving a sensitivity that approaches the fundamental limit set by photon statistics, Morton claims.

Discussing the various possible applications of the new instrument, Morton emphasized its value in astronomy as a viewing system coupled with a telescope to overcome the effects of the earth's atmospheric turbulence in viewing planets and nebulae. He also mentioned its value in the amplification of dim images such as the light traces left by the passage of high-speed subatomic particles in nuclear research.

Radio Telescope in California

The University of California at Berkeley is planning to enter the field of radio astronomy. Plans call for the erection of an 85-foot radio telescope to be built at a site to be selected as soon as possible. Total cost of the project is estimated at about $500,000. The Office of Naval Research will provide $368,000 for the telescope, and the university will provide $150,000 for land and buildings.

Medical Communication

The Institute for Advancement of Medical Communication, a nonprofit organization, was recently formed to develop ways to increase the efficiency of information exchange among medical scientists, medical educators, and practising physicians. The institute plans to devise and test new methods of disseminating medical information and to serve as an information center for medical organizations that request help with communication problems. The work of the institute will be financed by general and research grants both from private foundations and from the Government.

The charter members of the board of directors are Chauncey D. Leake, professor of pharmacology and assistant dean, College of Medicine, Ohio State University; Homer W. Smith, professor of physiology, College of Medicine, New York University; and Irving S. Wright, professor of clinical medicine, Cornell University. Richard H. Orr, assistant editor of the journal *Metabolism* and former medical director of Grune and Stratton, Inc., will serve as executive director. An advisory board is in the process of being selected. The temporary headquarters of the institute are at 37 E. 67 St., New York 21, N.Y.

Training Reactor in Puerto Rico

On 30 June the Atomic Energy Commission signed a letter contract with AMF Atomics for a pool-type nuclear training and research reactor to be built at the commission's Puerto Rico Nuclear Center in Mayaguez. AMF Atomics is a division of American Machine and Foundry Company and is located in Greenwich, Connecticut. The Puerto Rico Nuclear Center was established by the AEC on 2 October 1957 as a part of the Atoms-for-Peace program.

Under the terms of the agreement, AMF Atomics will design, fabricate, install, and test a 1000-kilowatt (heat), forced circulation, pool-type reactor at the center, which is located adjacent to Mayaguez campus of the University of Puerto Rico.

The reactor, scheduled for completion in mid-1960, will contain features permitting future operation at power levels up to 5000 kilowatts with minimum modifications. The reactor, to be designed for use both as a training and a research facility, will include a thermal column with both horizontal and vertical access, six experimental beam holes, and a dry gamma irradiation facility.

The first phase of the construction program will be completed in 1960. Facilities included in the first phase are the reactor, a laboratory and training building, and a greenhouse for agricultural training and research. All of these facilities will be at Mayaguez.

The center has as its goal the development of a comprehensive program for training and research in nuclear science and engineering, and the peaceful application of nuclear energy to medicine, agriculture, and industry. The program will be available to students in all of the American republics. Four sessions of the radioisotopes training course have already been completed, and courses in nuclear science and technology are being offered at the university's campuses at Mayaguez and Rio Piedras. Instruction generally is provided in Spanish. Charles Bonilla is director of the center.

Scientists in the News

GEORGE R. THURMAN has been named director of the Monterey, Calif., engineering laboratory of the guided missile division of the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company. Thurman, who has been manager of the Firestone defense research division in Akron, Ohio, succeeds Captain FRANK W. MacDONALD (U.S. Navy, retired). V. E. LUCAS, who has been assistant manager of the defense research division, succeeds Thurman as manager of that division.

EMERSON W. CONLON, general manager of the Turbomotor Division of the Curtiss-Wright Corporation, has been named director of engineering and scientific research and professor of mechanical engineering at Drexel Institute of Technology.

BETTY M. WATTS, professor of foods and nutrition at the Florida State University, Tallahassee, has been selected by the American Meat Institute Foundation as the recipient of the F. C. Vibrans' Senior Scientist Award for 1958.