

vironmental radioactivity in the world, whether from weapon tests or any other sources, might eventually cause appreciable damage to large populations before it could be definitely identified as due to irradiation. . . .

Any present attempt to evaluate the effects of sources of radiation to which the world population is exposed can produce only tentative estimates with wide margins of uncertainty.

Fetal Anoxia

A team of six doctors from five medical schools will go to the Peruvian Andes this fall for special studies of pregnancy at very high altitudes. The expedition, financed by a grant from the Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation, will be headed by Donald H. Barron of the Yale University School of Medicine and will include William Huckabee of the Boston University Medical School, Harry Prystowsky of the University of Florida Medical School, Andre Hellegers of the Johns Hopkins Medical School, Giacomina Meschia of the Yale University School of Medicine, and James Metcalfe of the Harvard Medical School. These men will conduct their investigations at the institute of Andean Biology in Morochocha, 15,000 feet above sea level. Alberto Hurtado (Harvard Medical School, '24), director of the institute and dean of the Medical School of the National University of San Marcos, Peru, will work with the group. Hurtado is an authority on high altitude studies.

In Peru, 63 percent of the population live at an altitude of 6000 feet or higher and 42 percent live at altitudes above 9000 feet. In contrast, only 1 percent of the population in the United States live at an altitude as high as 6000 feet.

The greatest single cause of mortality among infants at or about the time of birth is fetal anoxia. The six scientists hope to gain a better understanding of this problem from the Peruvian studies. The team will return to the United States in mid-November.

Technical Information Center

A Foreign Technical Information Center is now operating in the U.S. Department of Commerce to provide American science and industry with access to translations of a large amount of Soviet technical information. The center is a part of the Office of Technical Services, Business and Defense Administration.

The services of the new center include publication of abstracts of all articles appearing in 141 Soviet technical journals, translations of important sections

of *Referativnyi Zhurnal* (the Russians' own abstract journal), and a semi-monthly review of various areas of Soviet science compiled by the Central Intelligence Agency. Abstracts of each issue of the 141 journals may be purchased from OTS on a subscription or single-issue basis, as may CIA's *Scientific Information Report*. The various sections of *Referativnyi Zhurnal* will be sold initially by single issues, but subscription sales may be offered later.

The Office of Technical Services, which is directed by John C. Green, will soon begin distributing complete translations of articles and books. Translations will be listed in an abstract journal to begin publication about September.

Much of the material collected by OTS will be from government sources, principally the intelligence agencies. This volume is estimated to run at 50,000 abstracts and 10,000 complete translations a year. Eventually, material from other sources is expected to be added to the collection. Congress appropriated \$510,000 for the operation of the foreign technical information program in fiscal 1959.

Atmosphere and Space

An International Conference on Physics and Medicine of the Atmosphere and Space will be held 10-12 November in San Antonio, Tex., under the sponsorship of the U.S. Air Force School of Aviation Medicine. Participants will include Hugh L. Dryden, director of the National Advisory Committee of Aeronautics, nucleus of this country's new civilian space agency; Joseph Kaplan, physicist from the University of California at Los Angeles who heads the U.S. National Committee for the International Geophysical Year; Fred L. Whipple, director of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory; James A. Van Allen of the University of Iowa, specialist in rockets for high-altitude research; and Gerard P. Kuiper, astronomer at the University of Chicago.

Arrangements for the meeting are being conducted by the Southwest Research Institute. Because of limited facilities, attendance will be restricted to 500 on an invitational basis. For information write to the Southwest Research Center, 331 Gunter Building, San Antonio, Tex.

Fallout on Japanese IGY Ships

Japan has decided not to send out any more ships for International Geophysical Year oceanographic surveys until the United States suspends nuclear testing in the Pacific. Kanji Suda, chief of the

Hydrographic Section of the Maritime Safety Agency announced the suspension after the *Satsuma* and the *Takuyo* ran into radioactive rain and sea water on 14 July following a United States nuclear explosion.

The ships have reported that their positions were well outside the danger zone established by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission. Suda reported that IGY surveys of sea currents near the equator and of other phenomena were "completely spoiled" by the fallout hazard. The ill crew members of the two vessels have been examined by American and Japanese medical teams, both of which report that the men are unharmed.

Teacher Exchange

More than 600 teachers from the United States and 42 other countries will take part in the 1958-59 teacher exchange program. Arranged by the Office of Education, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, the program is part of the United States international educational exchange program of the Department of State. With this year's exchange, nearly 5000 teachers from the United States and 64 other countries will have participated in the program, which is now in its 13th year.

One hundred American teachers from 26 States have left the country to exchange positions with 100 teachers from the United Kingdom. Among the countries participating in this year's program are Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, and Norway.

Bykov Comments on U.S. Visit

Konstantin Bykov, Soviet physiologist and academician, recently visited the United States to attend the annual conference of the American Psychiatric Association in San Francisco and the Congress of the International Society of Gastroenterology held in Washington. Following his return to the U.S.S.R. Bykov made the following statement:

"My trip to America, which made it possible for me to get a comparatively good knowledge of the work being conducted by a number of research institutes and educational establishments there, was very fruitful. . . . The scientific meetings I went to and the visits I paid to research institutions enabled me to come to the conclusion that American psychiatrists and physiologists are conducting their scientific work on an extensive scale. It gives me pleasure to be able to say that the teaching of our great Russian scientist, Academician