

of delay. It proposes to the ICSU that interested and expert parties be asked by the national members of ICSU to prepare detailed papers bearing on the topics raised in this initial report; and that thereafter these papers be made available to it for a second meeting before the end of 1958, at which detailed recommendations can be prepared with the aid of advisory experts.

Nuclear Explosion Detector

During this month a new type of seismograph, believed to be capable of detecting nuclear blasts anywhere in the world, will receive intensive tests to determine its effectiveness. The device is the long-period seismograph, capable of recording shock waves with an interval, or period, of a minute or more.

An effort is being made to install as many of the new instruments as possible before the completion of the current series of nuclear tests in Nevada, 31 Oct. To aid in the testing of the new device, the Atomic Energy Commission has announced the precise times and locations of 15 nuclear explosions. Of ten set off in the Marshall Islands in 1954 and 1956, nine were visible on recordings made at the Lamont Observatory. Of five shots in Nevada last year, three were recorded.

Scientists from East and West, meeting in Geneva, recently agreed that long-range detection of nuclear blasts was feasible. The long-period seismograph may prove to be one of the favored devices for an international monitoring system. The United States has announced it is willing to suspend tests on 31 Oct., provided other powers suspend theirs.

Multiple Birth Roster

The New York City Department of Health has established a "Multiple Birth Roster." The roster is intended to be a source of information for research workers in genetics, child development, and other fields. The department will cooperate with researchers to supply them with some data which may be helpful to them to initiate genetic studies.

All multiple births involving at least two live infants are included in the roster. All the identifying, demographic, and pregnancy information available on the birth certificate of each infant is punched on a tabulating card. A photostatic copy of the complete record of birth is also in the register, so that details not available on the punched card may be conveniently abstracted. The roster will be kept up-to-date in three respects: adoption of a child, death during the first year of life, and data fed back to the roster by the individual researcher. The

roster was initiated as of 1 January 1958 and will be continued indefinitely. At a later date an evaluation will be made to determine whether its usage by researchers warrants its continuation.

Researchers requesting information from the roster will be expected to adhere to such requirements as the department may deem necessary. All requests will be reviewed as to the qualifications of the investigator and the value of the proposed study. Investigators may be asked to allocate clerical staff to assist in selecting the data requested. Facts elicited by home interviews or abstract of records, or both, are to be made available by the researcher to other researchers to avoid duplication of effort.

Formal requests should be submitted to Dr. Harold Jacobziner, Assistant Commissioner for Maternal and Child Health Services, New York City Department of Health, 125 Worth Street, New York 13.

Princeton Archeologists

A team of archeologists from Princeton University has exhumed a large treasure of artifacts in the Serra Orlando region of Sicily. The team, working for the past four summers near the town of Aidone, has found a number of life-sized human busts, pieces of pottery, a stone offertory box, and many terra cotta figures. Some of the objects date from the sixth century B.C.

Aidone, once a fortified inland Greek settlement known as Morgantina, flourished from 600 to 20 B.C., when it disappeared from the pages of recorded history.

The archeological team's prize discovery, a red figured wine and water vessel, was reconstructed from many shards. Pieced together, it is about 16½ inches in diameter and has a neck decorated with a combat scene between Hercules and the Amazons and a depiction of a symposium.

The excavating project, which is supported by funds from the Bollingen Foundation, the university, and several Princeton alumni, will be resumed next spring.

NASA Receives Assignments

The new Aeronautics and Space Administration has been assigned a number of projects heretofore controlled by the Department of Defense. For the time being the shift of control will be mainly administrative, with the Defense Department continuing to operate the programs. The programs involved are Project Vanguard, the program for four lunar probes of the Advanced Research Projects Agency, three satellite projects, also formerly under ARPA, and a number of Air

Force research projects concerned with nuclear rocket engines, fluorine engines, and a 1-million-pound-thrust, single-chamber engine.

NASA will have control over all space projects that are not primarily military in nature. Funds for nonmilitary projects that had been under the Defense Department have been transferred to the new agency.

Proposals for International Atomic Energy Agency

An international research program on the peaceful uses of atomic energy, to be supported by the United States, was suggested last month by the chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission. At an international atomic agency conference in Vienna, John A. McCone, of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, said that under the program, if it is accepted, the United States would assign specific research projects to the agency. In turn, the agency would hand the projects out on a contract basis to scientific teams throughout the world. Addressing the conference of 400 delegates, McCone said: "My government believes that there exists throughout the world today a wealth of scientific and technical competence which is not being brought fully to bear on the development of the peaceful uses of atomic energy."

News Briefs

The violent hurricane Helene which hit the North Carolina coast last month carried a balloon-borne radio beacon in its eye for some part of its sweep toward the coast. The beacon, devised by the Weather Bureau for more accurate tracking of such storms, was dropped from an Air Force B-50. It was a test device which carried batteries good for only 24 hours. Signals were heard for at least 2 hours after the drop by a monitoring aircraft.

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On 26 September the Navy fired a full-sized 20-inch Vanguard satellite into space, but a failure, suspected to have occurred in a directional gear box, kept it from going into orbit. It was the seventh launching in the Vanguard program, and the sixth failure. The satellite, weighing 22 pounds, contained a scanning device to measure the distribution of clouds covering the earth.

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It was reported at the Air Force Association's Dallas meeting last month that the Air Force's Thor, an intermediate range ballistic missile, has been selected over the Army's Jupiter to be this country's mass-produced IRBM weapon. It was said that a decision had been reached

to turn out two or possibly three squadrons of Jupiters at the most. All other squadrons of the nuclear armed 1,500-mile range missiles will be Thors. Production of the Jupiter weapon, however, will continue for an indefinite time.

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The Atomic Energy Commission is inviting proposals for the development, design, construction, and operation within the United States, including its territories and possessions, the Canal Zone, and Puerto Rico, of a gas-cooled, graphite-moderated, nuclear power plant of sufficient size to serve as an effective prototype for a future full-scale power plant of similar design. The invitation is extended to individual organizations or groups of organizations representing privately, publicly, or cooperatively owned power groups, and to equipment manufacturers, or others. Proposals must be received by the commission within 60 days from 22 September 1958.

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An x-ray unit that will permit physicians to examine the heart at work on an 8-inch television screen was demonstrated in Washington last month. The unit, called a specialized cardiologic table, makes fluoroscopic examination for possible heart diseases easier, faster, and safer. The device, developed after 3 years of research, substantially diminishes the amount of radiation a patient is subjected to. An integral motion picture camera allows more detailed study of the heart after the initial exposure to the x-rays.

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The Smithsonian Institution has announced a new booklet, *Anthropology as a Career*, that describes the major subdivisions of anthropology and offers advice on courses and outside activities for high school and college students who intend to specialize in the subject. The booklet, which was prepared by William G. Sturtevant, may be obtained for 20 cents from the Editorial and Publication Division, Smithsonian Institution, Washington 25, D.C.

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A radar with a 1000-foot dish antenna is being designed by Cornell University scientists. Two sites are being considered for the instrument. One is a limestone sink in Puerto Rico. The other is a similar formation in Texas. The radar unit, which should be completed by the spring of 1961, is to be used to obtain space data which once seemed accessible only to artificial satellites.

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The Public Health Service reports that the number of people in the United States without ready access to general hospitals has dropped from 10 million to 2.8 million since 1948. Even in the most rural areas only a small percentage

of the population is now without nearby hospital facilities.

This and other evidence of progress in hospital planning and construction, as well as needs for other types of health facilities, are shown in a new PHS publication, *The Nation's Health Facilities—Ten Years of the Hill-Burton Hospital and Medical Facilities Program, 1946-1956*.

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With the opening of the 1958-59 school year, seven panel trucks left the American Museum of Atomic Energy to begin the fourth year of the Atomic Energy Commission's high-school demonstration program "This Atomic World." This year's schedule will bring the program to 1069 schools in 15 states before the end of the school year.

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The North Carolina Engineering Foundation has announced plans to finance the establishment of seven distinguished professorships in the School of Engineering at North Carolina State College. This will enable the college to provide substantial supplements to the state salary scale for the employment of a core of outstanding engineering educators.

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The captain and 16 engineers of the world's first nuclear-powered merchant ship, the *Savannah*, have begun training for the posts they will assume when their ship makes her maiden voyage early in 1960. The group will study at the Marine Reactor Training School in Lynchburg, Virginia. The Babcock and Wilcox Company, builders of the *Savannah's* reactor, will conduct the school. The training period, to qualify the engineers to operate the ship's 74,000-watt power plant, will be 15 months in length.

Scientists in the News

RICHARD COURANT has retired as scientific director of New York University's Institute of Mathematical Sciences and head of the university's mathematics department to become professor emeritus of mathematics and science adviser to the university. Courant joined N.Y.U. from Göttingen University in Germany, where from 1920 to 1933 he was professor of mathematics and director of the Mathematical Institute, at that time a world-recognized center for mathematics. He has been head of the department of mathematics at N.Y.U.'s Graduate School of Arts and Science since 1934, and scientific director of the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, the largest mathematics center in the United States, since its creation in 1953.

In July, for his "outstanding contributions" during and since the war, Courant

received the Navy Distinguished Public Service Award. This year Courant also received three honorary doctor-of-science degrees—from New York University, Case Institute of Technology, and the Technische Hochschule in Aachen, Germany. In 1955 the Technische Hochschule in Darmstadt, Germany, conferred the honorary degree of doctor of engineering.

New York University honored Courant earlier with the establishment at the university of the Richard Courant lectureship in mathematical sciences. This was announced last January during a convocation for the eminent mathematician on the occasion of his 70th birthday.

Courant is a member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Science and Letters, the Academia Nazionale dei Lincei (Rome), the Akademie der Wissenschaften (Göttingen), and the National Academy of Sciences and the American Philosophical Society in the United States.

CEDRIC W. M. WILSON of the department of pharmacology and general therapeutics, University of Liverpool, England, has been awarded a Medical Research Council traveling fellowship for a year to work at the National Heart Institute, Bethesda, Md.

EDWIN M. McMILLAN, Nobel laureate and professor of physics at the University of California, has been appointed director of the university's Radiation Laboratory to succeed the late ERNEST O. LAWRENCE, Nobel Laureate and inventor of the cyclotron. McMillan, an associate director of the Radiation Laboratory since 1954, is a member of the General Advisory Committee of the Atomic Energy Commission. He and Glenn Seaborg shared the Nobel prize in 1951 for their work on the transuranium elements. McMillan also is the discoverer of the theory of phase stability, which paved the way for present research in ultrahigh energy physics.

WILLIS C. BEASLEY, director of the Biophysics Research Laboratory, Bethesda, Md., and director of the Kinesiology Laboratory, Elizabeth Kenny Institute, Minneapolis, Minn., received the gold medal of the American Congress of Physical Medicine Rehabilitation for his scientific exhibits on "Ontogenetics and Biomechanics of Ankle Plantar Flexion Forces" at the congress' meeting in Philadelphia on 28 August.

ROBERT SIMHA, well known in the high-polymer field, will serve as visiting professor of chemistry at the University of Southern California for the academic year 1958-59.