Hugh Ferriss' rendition of the Smithsonian Institution's new Museum of History and Technology as seen from Constitution Avenue. Building was designed by the architectural firm of McKim, Mead, and White (see "Imaginary tour," page 1057).

run the institute. The University of Chicago was the first university to make a positive response to the project.

The University Committee for Atmospheric Research was organized in February 1958 as a result of recommendations made in January by the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Meteorology. In mid-July, an agreement was drafted at a meeting at Pennsylvania State University. The announcement that 12 universities have joined the compact was made on 9 October in New York City at the Gold Medal Award dinner of the New York Board of Trade.

Royalties for Atomic Work

A claim for royalties on the gaseous diffusion method for separating uranium-235 from uranium-238 is currently under consideration by the Atomic Energy Commission and is expected to be settled within a few months. The claim was put before the commission's Patent Compensation Board by the Basic Science Foundation, an organization founded by the four scientists, John R. Dunning, Eugene T. Booth, Alfred O. C. Nier, and Aristid V. Grosse, whose work led to the development of the separation process. The claim, if it is granted, is expected to involve large amounts of money, as the award would be based on the value of the uranium-235 produced since the development of the process.

Two other major awards have been made under the patent provisions of the Atomic Energy Act of 1946, one of $300,000 to Enrico Fermi and his associates and one of $400,000 to Glenn Seaborg and three of his colleagues.

Balloon-Borne Laboratory

The Office of Naval Research is currently engaged in a program which is ultimately aimed toward making available to academic, industrial, and governmental scientists a manned balloon-borne laboratory, 20 to 30 miles above the earth, for the purposes of research, environmental testing, and systems experimentation. Three ONR stratospheric flights, made with two-man crews within a sealed gondola and reaching altitudes up to 86,000 feet, have demonstrated the technical and economic feasibility of the "strato-lab" concept.

Prior to initiating the construction of a fully instrumented research vehicle, however, ONR has decided to sponsor a study divided into the following phases: (i) to determine comprehensively what research objectives a manned, stratosphere laboratory 20 to 30 miles aloft might serve, and roughly what the relative significance of those objectives might be; (ii) to state the requirements for the strato-lab stemming from each of the research objectives considered; (iii) to state the specifications for a strato-lab cabin system, optimizing its characteristics to best meet the complex combination of requirements resulting from the functions desired.

A preliminary classification of the possible fields where a strato-platform might be useful is as follows:

1) Physical science—astronomy, astrophysics, geophysics, meteorology, (static, dynamic), physics of the upper atmosphere, geodesy, propagation (ionospheric, tropospheric).

2) Medical, biological, and psychological sciences, including: (i) the effects of the environment on animals, (ii) exploration of the distribution of spores, and so on, in the stratosphere.

3) Testing of military and commercial equipment and techniques; use of environment for test purposes; testing of parachute and escape procedures.

4) As a laboratory tool in systems research: as a laboratory for developing systems which may involve tethered, unmanned balloons, such as a balloon-borne antenna for radar or relay purposes, or military reconnaissance. Here the usefulness of the strato-lab lies not in comprising an element of the proposed system, but rather in its employment as a laboratory for the study and development of such balloon-borne elements.

It is the opinion of ONR that the areas of phase i are so broad and diversified that no single organization can fully explore them; rather, the scientific community as a whole must be asked to assist in planning a program of research for the strato-lab. Accordingly, ONR has asked the Vitro Laboratories, Silver Spring, Md., to put these questions before the scientific community: Would a manned balloon-borne stratospheric laboratory assist or further your research and development activities? How? What functional requirements, that is, stability, weight, etc., would these activities impose on the Strato-Lab?

Correspondence should be addressed to: Vitro Laboratories, Silver Spring Laboratory, 14000 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring, Md.

Business and Education

A study conducted by the Council for Financial Aid to Education has shown that American business in 1956 directed 34 percent of its philanthropic giving to education. A total amount of $28.5 million was donated to educational institutions by the 275 business concerns which were examined in the council's study. The survey showed that the company groups with the highest average gifts to education were electrical machinery, mining, chemicals and petroleum, and coal. The lowest average contributions were made by banking, insurance, utility, and telecommunication groups.

Of the companies in the survey, 20 percent had given more than $100,000 to education. More of the money was in the form of unrestricted gifts than ever before, and there was less endowment giving. The council estimated that in 1956 all business concerns in the nation had contributed $110 million to education.

Russian Medical Literature

A 90-page source book on Russian medical literature has been published by the National Library of Medicine, Public Health Service. Entitled *Guide to Russian Medical Literature,* the book lists 137 important Russian medical journals, reviews 20 Russian journals in the medical and biological fields which are available in complete English translation, and describes sources from which Russian journal literature may be ob-