

over a photographing program that was begun by a British group, but which had to be abandoned after the attack on Suez by Britain, France, and Israel in 1956.

Egypt herself is sending out two expeditions to the area this year, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has had a photographic program in progress for several years.

Some of the smaller temples, such as those to Isis at Philae, just above Aswan, could be taken down and reassembled elsewhere. An Egyptian survey team recommended that this be done 2 years ago. Two of the most beautiful of the temples along the Nile will be lost. They are the two at Abu Simbel, above the second cataract, that were carved out of the mountainside during the reign of Rameses II (1300–1234 B.C.), greatest of the early Pharaohs. It is these that the UNESCO team, under the direction of Mme. Desroches-Noblecourt of France, is attempting to photograph by a three-dimensional process. Mme. Desroches-Noblecourt is director of the Egyptian section of the Louvre in Paris. The photogrammetric process records accurately to fractions of a centimeter.

The losses on the Sudanese side of the twenty-second parallel, the dividing line between the two countries, will be even greater than those in Egypt. Much less work has been done there.

Implementation of the National Education Act

The Council of Chief State School Officers sponsored a conference at Michigan State University, 3–5 November, to develop guidelines for use by state educational agencies in determining standards for science, mathematics, and modern foreign languages. John R. Mayor, AAAS director of education, served as director of the conference, and William Haskell of the *Science* editorial staff was one of the two writers assigned to prepare a conference report that will be given wide distribution.

The conference was held to aid state administration of federal funds received under Title III of the National Defense Education Act of 1958. The meeting was supported by the Educational Facilities Laboratories, an organization that was established recently by the Ford Foundation to promote better education through improved physical facilities.

Title III authorizes the spending of \$61,600,000 per year in federal funds, to be matched by equal state expenditures, in grants to the states for the acquisition of laboratory and other special equipment for science, mathematics, or modern foreign language teaching in public elementary and secondary

schools, and for minor remodeling of laboratory or other space to be used for such equipment. Funds will also be provided for "expansion or improvement of supervisory or related services in public . . . schools in the fields of science, mathematics, and modern foreign languages."

The U.S. Office of Education will administer the Title III program. State educational agencies will prepare plans for the use of federal funds in schools of their states and submit them to the U.S. Commissioner of Education for approval.

In addition to sponsoring the Michigan conference, the Educational Facilities Laboratories has announced the award of its first grant to aid implementation of the Education Act. A grant of \$75,850 will support a nationwide study to determine what constitutes good design for physics building facilities. The 18-month study, which will begin in January 1959, is to be conducted under the joint auspices of the American Association of Physics Teachers and the American Institute of Physics.

Detailed information about existing physics facilities will be collected by questionnaire in a preliminary survey. It is anticipated that the results of the study will be made available to building planners as a series of booklets dealing with different facets of physics building design, microfilm records of photographs and building plans, and check lists. The records of the project will be stored in some central location for use by physicists and architects.

OEEC Summer School for Science Teachers

The second of the three pilot vacation courses for organizers of refresher courses for science teachers, arranged by the Office of European Economic Co-operation's Office for Scientific and Technical Personnel, was held at the Politische Akademie, Tutzing, near Munich, 4–15 August. Forty-five science teachers from 13 OEEC member countries, the United States, and Spain attended the course, which was designed to enable them to run similar courses for science teachers in their own countries.

The program included lectures and discussions on the teaching of physics, chemistry, and biology, with emphasis on how new and interesting types of classroom experiments can be arranged for school children. Special attention was also given to methods of incorporating nuclear physics into the teaching of school science. A third theme was the use of new methods, such as radio, television and films, in science teaching. The

course was directed by Erich Baumann and Frank Ebner of the Bavarian Teachers' Association.

A third course in this series, which is planned by the OEEC as part of its drive to overcome the European shortage of scientists and technicians, is taking place in Paris this month.

News Briefs

The important role of Washington, D.C., in the development of the science of anthropology over the past 150 years is the subject of a special 2-month exhibition that opened this month in the Smithsonian Institution's Natural History Building. It portrays the contributions of many federal agencies and private Washington institutions to the fields of archeology, ethnology, linguistics, and physical anthropology. Sponsored jointly by the Smithsonian, the Library of Congress, and the Anthropological Society of Washington, the exhibition was planned to coincide with the November annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association and the AAAS annual meeting in December.

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The first English translation of the Russian journal *Geokhimiya* has been released by the Geochemical Society, which plans to issue the journal regularly eight times a year. The project is aided by a grant from the National Science Foundation. The success of the venture will depend in large part on the number of subscriptions sold. The subscription price is \$20 per year, \$10 to educational institutions and to members of the Geochemical Society. For information, write to the managing editor, E. W. Heinrich, Mineralogical Laboratory, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.

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New facilities for studies in mathematics and physics at California Institute of Technology have been assured by a grant of \$1,165,700 from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation of New York. The gift will finance the remodeling of a building which for many years has housed the institute's experimental high voltage laboratory. This will become a modern five-story structure and will be renamed the Alfred P. Sloan Laboratory of Mathematics and Physics.

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A simplified method of predicting satellite courses has been published for the benefit of volunteer observers by the National Academy of Sciences. With this manual, volunteers can utilize simple orbital elements—such as inclination of the orbit plane to the equator and distance to the center of the earth at the low point of orbit—to figure out where to