

the various scientific information activities within the Federal Government.

The foundation is also directed by the National Defense Education Act to establish a Science Information Council.

"... consisting of the Librarian of Congress, the director of the National Library of Medicine, the director of the Department of Agriculture Library, and the head of the Science Information Service, each of whom will be ex officio members, and fifteen members appointed by the Director of the National Science Foundation. . . . It shall be the duty of the Council to advise, to consult with, and to make recommendations to the head of the Science Information Service."

The names of appointed members of the council and details of the first meeting will be announced soon.

Science in Commerce Department

Appointment by the National Academy of Sciences of a special committee of scientists and research administrators to study the scientific programs of the U.S. Department of Commerce, and to recommend new steps to meet the rapidly changing needs of science and industry, was announced by Lewis L. Strauss, the new Secretary of Commerce, and Detlev W. Bronk, president of the National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council. Mervin J. Kelly, president of Bell Telephone Laboratories, will head the nine-member committee. John C. Green, director of Commerce's Office of Technical Services, has been named executive secretary.

The Department of Commerce agencies to be studied include the Bureau of Public Roads, Maritime Administration, Patent Office, Weather Bureau, Coast and Geodetic Survey, National Bureau of Standards, and Office of Technical Services. The committee will spend several months reviewing the operations of these agencies; then on about 1 June, a report will be submitted to the Secretary of Commerce. The new committee's address is: Special Advisory Committee to Department of Commerce, National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington 25, D.C.

Visiting Lecturers in Meteorology

The American Meteorological Society has undertaken the sponsorship of a visiting lecturer program in meteorology and the atmospheric sciences. With the aid of a grant from the National Science Foundation, a number of research meteorologists will visit colleges and universities to give lectures and hold informal discussions with students and faculty.

The purpose of the program is to impart information on the challenging problem posed by the atmosphere and on the opportunities for graduate education and research careers in the atmosphere sciences. The lecturers will be available beginning early in 1959 and, since the number of colleges they can visit is limited, it is urged that interested institutions communicate promptly with the director of the program, Professor Henry G. Houghton, American Meteorological Society, 3 Joy St., Boston 8, Mass.

Medical Electronics

An International Conference on Medical Electronics will be held in Paris, France, for 3 days during the week of 22 June 1959. Papers are being invited from scientists in some 20 countries. The scope of the meeting is indicated by the following tentative subjects: (i) information recording, processing, and transfer; (ii) electronic instruments for specific diagnostic analysis; (iii) electronic instruments for medical and biological research; (iv) sonics and ultrasonics; (v) servo systems and feed-back mechanisms; and (vi) therapeutic instruments.

Some 20 or more papers will be accepted from authors in the United States. Authors who wish to submit papers for consideration are invited to send 300- to 500-word abstracts to the American representative (North and South America) on the Program Committee, Dr. F. S. Brackett, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda 14, Md., by 30 January 1959.

International Atomic Energy Agency

The December issue of the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* published the following comments, partly drawn from the *New York Times*, about the effectiveness of the International Atomic Energy Agency at the end of its first year of operation.

"The International Atomic Energy Agency was established to act as a 'pool' or clearinghouse for fissionable materials needed around the world and as an agent to prevent diversion of these materials to military uses. During its first year of existence no country asked for nuclear materials and no request was made for its safeguarding services. Fundamental weaknesses in the IAEA were brought into the open at the second general conference in Vienna last fall by a request from Japan and an attack by Russia. Japan formally requested Agency assistance, as of September 23, in purchasing about three tons of natural uranium of reactor grade for its first national reactor and also requested that the Agency administer the safeguards provision of the

bilateral research and power agreement between Japan and the U.S. The Japanese delegate said that the Agency should be able to offer better terms and conditions than those offered under the bilateral agreements. This refers to the fact that none of the world's producing nations will sell uranium to the Agency at a lower price than to customers under a bilateral agreement. When the handling charges are added, this makes uranium bought from the Agency more expensive. As to the safeguarding services, the IAEA is not yet equipped or staffed to perform them.

"The attack upon the Agency by Soviet Academician V. S. Emelyanov mentioned among other things its meager practical results, its inflated budget and overgrown administrative mechanism, and the lack of a single important scientific problem on its agenda. He seemed to oppose the building up of an inspection system and said the first objective should be assisting the nuclear programs of the underdeveloped nations."

U. S. Technologists Abroad

The *Engineering and Scientific Manpower Newsletter* reports that current figures supplied by the International Cooperation Administration indicate that more than 2000 American scientists and engineers are engaged in the world-wide activities sponsored by ICA. The magnitude of the ICA program may be judged from the following data. Requests for technical assistants in agriculture have resulted in the establishment of 1028 positions in 60 countries. Nearly 200 of these positions are as yet unfilled. In health and sanitation activities, 80 of the 398 positions are still open. In the programs dealing with industry, mining, and transportation, 88 of the 691 positions are unfilled.

The International Cooperation Administration operates in 66 countries—eight in Europe, nine in Africa, nine in the Near East, five in South Asia, ten in the Far East, and 25 in Latin America. The latter figure includes all the Latin American republics, Trinidad, British Guiana, British Honduras, Jamaica, and Surinam. Most of the vacancies are in the Far East, South Asia, the Near East, and Africa. There are, in addition, 1500 scientists and engineers working for the technical cooperation programs through private industry and U.S. universities. In the past 3 years the demand for personnel has increased more than 40 percent, and ICA's employment division is seeking recruits.

There is no accurate count of the total number of American scientists and engineers working abroad. In all probability, the largest and most homogeneous