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

group consists of the geologists, geophysicists, and construction, petroleum, and chemical engineers employed in the oil industry. However, these men have never been tabulated in the surveys made by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the National Science Foundation. The mining industry accounts for another substantial number, which can only be approximated. As a guess, the number of American engineers and scientists working abroad is considerably in excess of 15,000.

The State Department estimates the number of Communist technicians in underdeveloped countries at 1600. Approximately half of them come from the Soviet Union, and the remainder from the other satellite countries. Nearly all of them are engaged in industrial activities—comparatively few in agriculture, and even fewer in health and sanitation. According to the State Department, the largest single group (470) is in the United Arab Republic, and there are roughly 450 in Afghanistan, 280 in India, 105 in Indonesia, and 60 in Burma.

News Briefs

Reminder: Abstracts for papers to be presented at the International Oceanographic Congress must be in the hands of the committee chairman, Dr. Mary Sears, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole, Mass., *not later than 31 January,* and the completed papers *not later than 30 April.* The conference will take place at the United Nations, New York, 30 August–12 September, under the sponsorship of the AAAS in cooperation with UNESCO and the ICSU Special Committee on Oceanic Research.

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This country's newest and largest oceanographic research vessel was placed in operation by the Navy on 18 December, in ceremonies at Mobile, Ala. The U.S.N.S. *Gibbs,* which will carry 28 scientists and a crew of 48, will serve as the principal research vessel of the Hudson Laboratories of Columbia University, under contract to the Office of Naval Research. A special feature of the vessel's oceanographic equipment will be a deep-sea winch capable of handling up to 40,000 feet of wire rope and of lowering and raising as much as 20 tons of equipment. This means that the *Gibbs* can investigate even the deep ocean trenches scattered throughout the world.

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The American Chemical Society's Committee on Institutes and Conferences has announced that it will supply descriptive material relating to the National Science Foundation's summer institutes primarily designed for instructors of junior high, high school, junior college, and college chemistry. The report concerning chemistry institutes has been prepared to help teachers decide to which institute an application should be sent. To obtain the material, write to W. B. Cook, Chairman, ACS Committee on Institutes and Conferences, Montana State College.

* * *

The American Geographical Society is sending a seven-man expedition to southern Chile for a 2-month study of glaciers in the vicinity of Laguna de San Rafael. Calvin J. Heusser of the society's research staff will head the project, which is supported by the Office of Naval Research. He departed for Chile by air on New Year's Day. The purpose of the study is to determine the nature and duration of successive climates and vegetation since the glaciers of the last Ice Age receded some 10,000 years ago.

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"The Alphabet Conspiracy" on NBC-TV, 26 January, will deal with the science of linguistics. This newest program in the Bell System Science Series shows how speech is produced, with slow motion pictures of the vocal cords and x-ray movies of the interaction of tongue, teeth, and lips. The development of languages, phonetics, and dialect geography are also discussed on the program. Produced under the general supervision of a board of 10 leading scientists, "The Alphabet Conspiracy" had W. F. Twaddell, professor of linguistics at Brown University, for its principal adviser.

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Representative Chet Holifield of California, chairman of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy's Special Subcommittee on Radiation, has announced that public hearings will begin on 28 January on the subject of industrial radioactive waste disposal. Originally scheduled for last May, the hearings were postponed because of pressure of other business before the Joint Committee. Well-known specialists have been invited to testify. A tentative outline of the hearings, which will continue for 5 days, is available on request at the offices of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy.

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Smith Kline & French Laboratories has announced the establishment of an independent research organization in Great Britain to supplement the firm's Research and Development Division in Philadelphia. The new Smith Kline & French Research Institute of Great Britain will be headed by William A. Bain, who has held the chair in pharmacology at the University of Leeds since that post was created in 1946. He will guide a staff of 40.

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The Franklin Institute Museum, Philadelphia, Pa., celebrated its 25th anniversary on 1 January.

Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

Cancer. The Ann Langer Cancer Research Foundation has announced an annual award of $500 for meritorious investigation in the field of cancer research, either clinical or laboratory. The award is being supported by the family of the late Bertha G. Teplitz and carries her name. Competition is limited to physicians and other scientists under the age of 45. Nominations must be submitted to the Teplitz Award Committee, 612 North Michigan Ave., Chicago 11, Ill., *by 1 February.*

Ophthalmology. The National Council to Combat Blindness, 41 W. 57 St., New York, N.Y., is now accepting applications for its 1959–60 Fight For Sight grants-in-aid, research fellowships, and summer (1959) fellowships. The closing date for receipt of completed applications for grants and fellowships has been advanced to *1 February* in order to allow ample time for processing and review.

Pharmacognosy. The American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education annually offers three cash awards of $250 each for meritorious papers and essays in pharmacognosy. An award is available for each of the following groups: (i) undergraduate students in accredited colleges of pharmacy; (ii) graduate students in accredited colleges of pharmacy; and (iii) teachers, research workers, and industrial scientists. All entries must be mailed *before 1 February* to the chairman, Dr. Heber W. Youngken, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy, 179 Longwood Ave., Boston 15, Mass.

Scientists in the News

B. R. STANERSON of the American Chemical Society, Washington, D.C., has been elected president of the Scientific Manpower Commission for 1959. Stanerson has been a member of the commission since it was founded in 1953 by the ten largest scientific organizations in the United States. The retiring president, Henry A. Barton of the American Institute of Physics, will continue to serve on the commission as a representative of the institute.

ROME F. GELLER, who retired in 1956 from his position as chief of the Porcelain and Pottery Section of the National Bureau of Standards, has been named 1959 recipient of the Albert Victor Bleininger Award of the Pittsburgh Section of the American Ceramic Society. The award is the highest honor conferred in this country for distinguished achievement in the field of ceramics, and is presented annually by the Pittsburgh Section.

Geller joined the NBS staff in 1918 as a ceramic technologist in the Pitts-