

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.

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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.

* * *

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.

* * *

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.

* * *

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 Bleining 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-