

schools reported major developments and changes in administrative organization, methods of student selection, curriculum, and financing. An estimated \$275 million was spent by the medical schools in 1957-58, an increase of 13 percent over the preceding year.

A total of 6861 physicians was graduated from the 78 approved 4-year schools in 1958, as compared with 6796 in 1957. (There are four 2-year schools of basic medical sciences and three newly developing schools that have provisional AMA approval.) A new record was established in 1957-58 for the number of entering freshmen—8030. The preceding year the number was 8014 and 10 years ago the number was 6487. Further, 1644 women were enrolled in medical school, and 355 were graduated in 1958.

These were among the many facts and figures in the 58th annual report on medical education by the American Medical Association's Council on Medical Education and Hospitals. The 90-page report appeared in a recent issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

News Briefs

On 9 February 1949, the U.S. Air Force School of Aviation Medicine will commemorate the 10th anniversary of the founding of the department (now division) of space medicine. On 9 February 1949, Major General Harry G. Armstrong, U.S. Air Force (MC), former commandant of the School of Aviation Medicine and a pioneer in aeromedical research, established the department, probably the first of its kind in the world. Armstrong and the four original members of the department will be present for the anniversary gathering, which will include discussions on space medicine and predictions for the next decade.

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Harvard University has announced that five professors will make a 2-week visit to Russia early in February as part of the Soviet-American exchange agreement. They will visit Leningrad University, which will in turn send five professors to Harvard for 2 weeks in late February or early March. The Harvard group includes one scientist, E. Bright Wilson, Jr., Theodore William Richards professor of chemistry.

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The American Institute of Physics has initiated a new service this month by publishing a booklet that lists assistantships and fellowships open to graduate students in physics in 1959-60. Physics department chairmen in institutions offering graduate work in physics report in the booklet the number of graduate assistantships and fellowships available

in their departments, the stipends, the tuition payable if not included in the stipend, and the number of hours of service required per week. The booklet may be obtained from the AIP Placement Service, 335 E. 45 St., New York 17, N.Y.

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On 16 January the Engineers Joint Council cited the Westinghouse Educational Foundation and the Carnegie Institute of Technology for pioneering in encouraging young men and women to seek careers in engineering and science. This year observes the completion of 20 years of George Westinghouse Scholarships at Carnegie Institute. Each year since 1938, ten 4-year scholarships have been awarded to secondary school seniors selected from over 1000 applicants per year. The program is one of the earliest in industry-education cooperation.

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The Proceedings of the Royal Institution 21, Albemarle St., London, W.1., will be published three times a year in future instead of annually. The Proceedings contain accounts of the well-known Friday Evening Discourses, and one advantage of the new procedure will be that the Discourses will appear in print soon after their delivery. The Evening Discourses at the Royal Institution were started by Michael Faraday in 1826, and for more than 130 years they have maintained the highest standards of popular exposition. The Proceedings therefore contain authoritative accounts of research and learning, written for the nonspecialist and covering many branches of science and other subjects.

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The Atomic Energy Commission has announced the initial operation of the Special Power Excursion Reactor Test No. 3 (SPERT-III), a versatile research facility developed for studying nuclear reactor safety. Criticality was achieved on 19 December in the new plant, which is situated at the National Reactor Testing Station in Idaho.

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Amherst College has decided to experiment with a plan to give a year's "leave of absence" to students whose academic performance is not commensurate with their ability. A student judged capable of doing A or B work but getting C's could be asked to take a year off to make up his mind about the value of college. He would be allowed to return in good standing. No change is being made in the passing marks required to stay in school. The plan is expected to result in perhaps a dozen leaves of absence a year.

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A Committee on Education has been established by the Society of American Bacteriologists under the chairmanship of L. S. McClung, department of bac-

teriology, Indiana University. Included in the duties of the committee will be a revision of the society's brochure *A Career in Bacteriology*, investigation of the training in microbiology of teachers of elementary biology, preparation of experiments in microbiology suitable for use in introductory biology classes, and the listing of films in microbiology and of other teaching aids.

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The American Institute of Medical Climatology was organized in Philadelphia in late November. The institute is planning a program of research and education in all phases of the relationship between weather and human life. Twelve sections will implement the work of the institute. Charter members elected George M. Piersol as president; secretary is Igho H. Kornblueh, 1618 Allengrove St., Philadelphia 24, Pa.

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For the first time since 1950, the number of children born in the United States apparently decreased in 1958, according to estimates released by the U.S. Public Health Service. National Office of Vital Statistics records indicate that about 4,248,000 babies were born in 1958, a decline of 53,000, or 1 percent, from the record high set in 1957. Fewer marriages in 1957, when the marriage rate dropped 4 percent from the previous year, account for the estimated decrease.

Scientists in the News

HERBERT F. YORK has been appointed by President Eisenhower to the new position of director of defense research and engineering, Department of Defense. On 15 March 1958 York was appointed director of research, Advanced Research Projects Division of the Institute for Defense Analyses, and chief scientist of the Advanced Research Projects Agency of the Office of the Secretary of Defense. He has served on many governmental advisory committees, including the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board and the Army Scientific Advisory Board. He is a member of the President's Science Advisory Committee.

JAMES G. HILTON, an associate professor of pharmacology at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, has accepted an appointment as an associate professor of pharmacology at Marquette University School of Medicine.

RONALD BELL has joined Greer Hydraulics, Inc., Jamaica, N.Y., as senior research physicist. He will be engaged in research and developmental programs involving servo systems, transistorized circuitry, and other electromechanical devices. He was formerly associated with