

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

the Bell System Westrex Division. Greer Hydraulics is an engineering-manufacturing concern specializing in fluid mechanical components and systems for aeronautics, missiles, and industrial applications.

GUENTHER STOTZKY, formerly research associate in the department of botany, University of Michigan, has joined the United Fruit Company as soil microbiologist at the new Central Research Laboratories, Norwood, Mass.

WILLIAM M. FAIRBANK, now an associate professor at Duke University, will become professor of physics at Stanford University next fall. He is a specialist in low-temperature physics. In recent years he has earned wide recognition for his work on the distinctly different properties of the isotopes helium-3 and helium-4 in their liquid state.

VICTOR HICKS was recently promoted to rear admiral, U.S. Naval Reserve, thereby becoming the first and only engineering duty (ordnance) officer of flag rank, regular Navy or Naval Reserve. Not now on active duty with the Navy, he is in charge of the physics laboratory at the Allen-Bradley Company in Milwaukee, Wis., and research professor of physics on the graduate faculty of Marquette University.

The 80th birthday of KURT GOLDSTEIN, last 6 November, will be celebrated in the spring issue of the *Journal of Individual Psychology*. The special issue will include an autobiographical statement and a group of papers gathered by a committee of friends. The issue will also contain a large portrait of Goldstein and his bibliography from 1936 to 1958. The prepublication price of the Goldstein issue is \$1.75. For further information, write to: *Journal of Individual Psychology*, University of Vermont, Burlington, Vt.

The Albuquerque (N.M.) Nuclear Division of the Kaman Aircraft Corporation has announced the appointment to its senior research staff of FRANK B. GRAY, Jr. For many years Gray was head of the applied physics development group of the Leeds and Northrup Company, where he was responsible for the development, design, and initial applications of electronic and optical instrumentation for industrial and military contracts.

Appointment of DONALD M. BROWN as research associate in botany to conduct overseas procurement of exotic plants for potential medicinal purposes has been announced by the College of Medical Evangelists, Loma Linda, Calif. Brown will leave for East Africa

soon after 1 February. Purpose of the program, financed by the Sterling-Winthrop Research Institute of Rensselaer, N.Y., is to discover and develop natural products, primarily plants, used as medicines by primitive overseas tribal groups. Brown was professor of botany and chairman of biology at La Sierra College in Arlington, Calif.

WILLIAM C. HOLLAND has been named professor of pharmacology and chairman of the department at the University of Mississippi School of Medicine. He replaces JAMES C. RICE, who retired on 31 December 1958. Holland has been a member of the pharmacology department faculty at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine since 1950.

THOMAS P. NASH, JR., professor of chemistry and dean of the School of Biological Sciences, University of Tennessee Medical Units, has received the 1958 Southern Chemist Award of the American Chemical Society's Memphis Section. He was honored "for distinguished service to the profession of chemistry in the Southern states."

JAMES B. FISK, formerly executive vice president of Bell Telephone Laboratories, has been elected president of the company. He succeeds MERVIN J. KELLY, who has been elected chairman of the board of directors. Kelly has served as president of the Laboratories since 1951. ESTILL I. GREEN, vice president in charge of systems engineering, is the new executive vice president.

HENRY E. BILLINGSLEY has been appointed director of the Office of International Cooperation of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. He was formerly chief of the Western European Division of the Defense Department's Office of Internal Security Affairs. Billingsley will head a NASA-sponsored program to coordinate U.S. nonmilitary research and development in aeronautical and space matters with similar work of other nations and international organizations. This cooperative program was authorized by the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958.

The 1958 Southwest Award of the American Chemical Society was recently presented posthumously to KENNETH A. KOBE, former chairman of the department of chemical engineering in the University of Texas. The prize is given annually by the society's local sections in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, and New Mexico for exceptional achievement by a chemist or chemical engineer. Kobe was cited for his contributions to the development of chemical processes and to chemical engineering education.

Recent Deaths

BENJAMIN F. BAKER, Monroeville, Pa.; 60; engineer with the Westinghouse Electric Corporation for 34 years and holder of 104 patents; taught physics at the University of Pittsburgh before joining Westinghouse; 21 Dec.

ELIZABETH M'QUEEN BANCROFT, Hermosa Beach, Calif.; 80; founder of the Women's International Association of Aeronautics; 25 Dec.

RUSSELL T. CRAWFORD, Berkeley, Calif.; 82; professor emeritus of astronomy at the University of California, Berkeley, who computed the orbits of many astral bodies; 21 Dec.

LINCOLN GODFREY, JR., Philadelphia, Pa.; 43; research director of the National Council of Alcoholism; 19 Dec.

HENRY KRUMB, New York, N.Y.; 83; mining engineer and director of the Newmont Mining Corporation; former vice president of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers; 27 Dec.

FRANCIS LEACH, Silver City, N.M.; 70; mineralogist, technologist and general manager of the Radium Company of Colorado; built a laboratory and pilot plant for the extraction and refining of radium, in partnership with her husband; 24 Dec.

ROBERT MATHESON, Ithaca, N.Y.; 87; professor emeritus of the department of entomology and limnology of Cornell University and a staff member since 1909; author of textbooks; 14 Dec.

WILLIAM E. MOFFITT, Cambridge, Mass.; 33; associate professor of chemistry at Harvard University and a leader in theoretical chemistry; 19 Dec.

ORSON D. MUNN, Southampton, N.Y.; 75; patent lawyer and former editor and publisher of *Scientific American* magazine; 22 Dec.

ELMER M. NELSON, Arlington, Va.; 66; head of the nutrition division of the Food and Drug Administration since 1949, and director of the vitamin division from 1935 to 1949; 25 Dec.

LEONA ORBELI, Moscow, U.S.S.R.; 77; physiologist and a specialist in military medicine who worked with Ivan Pavlov; secretary of the Soviet Academy of Science's section on biological science until 1948; 12 Dec.

CLARA THOMPSON, New York, N.Y.; 65; founder and executive director of the William Alanson White Institute of Psychiatry; assistant executive director of the Washington School of Psychiatry, 1943-46; coauthor of *Psychoanalysis: Its Evolution and Development*; 20 Dec.

JOHN E. YOUNGER, Hyattsville, Md.; 66; head of the mechanical engineering department at the University of Maryland; taught at the University of California before joining the University of Maryland in 1938; 30 Dec.