

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
FOR THE  
ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

Board of Directors

PAUL E. KLOPSTEG, *President*  
CHAUNCEY D. LEAKE, *President Elect*  
WALLACE R. BRODE, *Retiring President*  
H. BENTLEY GLASS  
GEORGE R. HARRISON  
MARGARET MEAD  
THOMAS PARK  
DON K. PRICE  
MINA REES  
WILLIAM W. RUBEY  
ALAN T. WATERMAN  
PAUL A. SCHERER, *Treasurer*  
DAEL WOLFE, *Executive Officer*

DAEL WOLFE, *Executive Officer*  
GRAHAM DUSHANE, *Editor*  
JOSEPH TURNER, *Assistant Editor*  
ROBERT V. ORMES, *Assistant Editor*

Editorial Board

DONALD J. HUGHES      H. BURR STEINBACH  
KONRAD B. KRAUSKOPF      WILLIAM L. STRAUS, JR.  
EDWIN M. LERNER      EDWARD L. TATUM

Editorial Staff

SARAH S. DEES, LUCILLE GUINARD, NANCY S. HAMILTON, WILLIAM HASKELL, OLIVER W. HEATWOLE, YUKIE KOZAI, JUDITH B. LEVIN, ELLEN E. MURPHY, BETHSABE PEDERSEN, MADELINE SCHNEIDER, NANCY L. TEIMOURIAN, MARIA A. WOLSAK.

EARL J. SCHERAGO, *Advertising Representative*

SCIENCE, which is now combined with THE SCIENTIFIC MONTHLY, is published each Friday by the American Association for the Advancement of Science at Business Press, Lancaster, Pa. The joint journal is published in the SCIENCE format. Entered at the Lancaster, Pa., Post Office as second class matter under the Act of 3 March 1879. SCIENCE is indexed in the *Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature*.

Editorial and personnel-placement correspondence should be addressed to SCIENCE, 1515 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington 5, D.C. Manuscripts should be typed with double spacing and submitted in duplicate. The AAAS assumes no responsibility for the safety of manuscripts or for the opinions expressed by contributors. For detailed suggestions on the preparation of manuscripts, book reviews, and illustrations, see *Science* 125, 16 (4 Jan. 1957).

Display-advertising correspondence should be addressed to SCIENCE, Room 740, 11 West 42 St., New York 36, N.Y.

Change of address notification should be sent to 1515 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington 5, D.C., 4 weeks in advance. If possible, furnish an address stencil label from a recent issue. Be sure to give both old and new addresses, including zone numbers, if any.

Annual subscriptions: \$8.50; foreign postage, \$1.50; Canadian postage, 75¢. Single copies, 35¢. Cable address: Advancesci, Washington.



## Plums for the Teacher

A program of Summer Fellowships for secondary-school science teachers who want to increase their understanding of science through independent study at colleges or universities is being started this year by the National Science Foundation. The new program supplements the now-familiar Summer Institutes, which are also sponsored by NSF but in which colleges or universities plan courses of study for groups of teachers. The American Association for the Advancement of Science is administering at cost the first year of the Summer Fellowship program. Administrative responsibilities include selecting a panel of scientists to judge the applications for fellowships and transmitting the recommendations of the panel to NSF. Final decisions will be made by NSF, and the awards will be announced on 25 March.

In the new program a fellow may carry out a plan of study in mathematics or in the physical or biological sciences at any accredited college or university in this country. Besides competing for fellowships on a national basis, a participant must gain admission to a college or university at which his plan can be carried out. In the Summer Institute program, there is no national competition. The teacher applies to one of the institutes, and the institutes, in turn, are set up by colleges and universities on grants from the National Science Foundation. Although the method of financing is different, in both programs the teacher-participant ends up with his tuition paid and a stipend of up to \$75 a week plus allowances for dependents and travel.

The purpose of the Summer Fellowships, like that of the Summer Institutes, is to enable teachers of science to become better teachers by increasing their understanding of science. Although an applicant's plan of study may be part of his efforts to get an advanced degree in education, the plan must focus on a branch of mathematics or science, not on the history or philosophy of education or on methods of teaching. This emphasis also characterizes the other programs in education sponsored by NSF, which include programs for elementary-school teachers and college teachers and for institutes that are held during the academic year.

Initial plans for the Summer Fellowships call for 750 awards, which may cover up to three successive summers of study. The number of Summer Institutes open this year to secondary-school teachers will increase from the 121 open in 1958, averaging 50 teacher-participants each, to over 300, with awards being for one summer of study.

If the Summer Institute program proves effective, it could become the principal means by which the National Science Foundation supports summer study by teachers. With funds going directly to them, teachers can choose their courses from the fare offered by colleges and universities. There will be no need for special institutes, and the teachers will have more contact with the general body of students studying science. The future course of the new program will be determined in good part by whether applicants for Summer Fellowships succeed in producing plans as good as those offered by the Summer Institutes. It may be that the fellowships will prove suitable only for teachers of superior ability or for teachers whose background or interests call for unusual programs.

The National Science Foundation, and ultimately Congress, deserve our thanks for creating new opportunities for summer study, but then the teachers also deserve our thanks for seeking to increase their understanding of science.—J.T.