provide the 11 laboratories 200 research workers who will have high potential for creative research.

"GeoScience Abstracts"

GeoScience Abstracts is the new monthly abstract journal that has been started by the American Geological Institute to replace *Geological Abstracts,* which had been published by the Geological Society of America for the member societies of the AGI since 1953. The launching of the reorganized and expanded journal has been made possible through a grant from the National Science Foundation.

At the outset, *GeoScience Abstracts* will work toward complete coverage of North American geological literature; abstracts translated from the Russian abstract journal, *Referativnyi Zhurnal,* will also be included as the translations are processed by the AGI Translation Committee.

The new journal will feature organization of abstracts into 15 subject sections, and the objective is to cover geology, solid earth geophysics, and related areas of science. An effort will also be made to provide effective coverage of geologic maps.

The cooperation of all regular geology-geophysics and other scientific journals is being sought, as is the aid of all appropriate government agencies in Canada, Mexico, and the United States. Colleges and universities that publish research results are being invited to contribute. The success of *GeoScience Abstracts* will depend upon the cooperation of the profession. For subscription information, write to the AGI, 2101 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington 25, D.C.

Public-School Enrollment

Public-school enrollment in this country was approximately 1,843,000 over the normal classroom capacity of the public elementary and secondary schools as the current school year began, compared with an excess enrollment of 1,943,000 in the fall of 1957. This was shown in reports from the states in the Office of Education's fifth annual survey of public-school enrollment, teachers, and school housing (Office of Education Circular No. 551).

The number of public-school pupils in excess of public-school classroom capacity was 5.4 percent of the total enrollment in the fall of 1958, compared with 5.9 percent in the fall of 1957. Twenty-four states reported that the number of pupils in excess of public-school capacity had been reduced as school opened last fall, while 18 other states and the District of Columbia reported an increase in excess enrollment. One state reported no change, and for five states comparisons were not possible.

The states reported a need for 140,500 additional instruction rooms, compared with 142,300 a year ago. Of the 140,500 rooms needed at the beginning of the current school year, 65,300 rooms were needed to accommodate the 1,843,000 pupils enrolled in excess of normal capacity and 75,200 to replace facilities considered obsolete or otherwise unsatisfactory.

Enrollment in the public schools increased 1,148,000 over the previous year. The states reported about 33,936,000 pupils enrolled in the fall of 1958, an increase of 3.5 percent over the previous fall.

The number of classroom teachers rose from about 1,253,000 in the fall of 1957 to about 1,300,000 in the fall of 1958, an increase of 47,000 or 3.8 percent. Overall, the pupil-teacher ratio was 26.1 in the fall of 1958, compared with 26.2 in the fall of 1957. The proportion of teachers with less than standard certificates declined from 7.3 to 7.1 percent.

Kitt Peak Observatory

Astronomers may now submit requests for use of the facilities at Kitt Peak National Observatory. Observing can probably begin about January 1960. Observing time can also be assigned to a limited number of graduate students. Subject to the availability of funds, travel expenses and subsistence will be granted to students.

The 36-inch and the 16-inch telescopes at the observatory will be equipped for ultraviolet-blue photometry with refrigerated photomultipliers. A classification spectrograph will be added to the large telescope shortly after January 1960. A ratio spectrometer is currently available on the small telescope, and a similar unit will soon be added to the large one.

Requests for further information and applications should be sent to the Director, Kitt Peak National Observatory, 1033 North Park Ave., Tucson, Ariz.

Federal Council for Science and Technology Established

On 13 March President Eisenhower signed the executive order that brought the recommended Federal Council for Science and Technology into being. The new council, which will have James R. Killian as chairman, has the responsibility of promoting coordinated policy planning for the many federal agencies engaged in scientific and technological work. The recommendation for the establishment of the group was made last December by the President's Science Advisory Committee.

The council will be composed of eight members representing the following departments and agencies: Departments of Defense, Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, and Health, Education, and Welfare; the National Science Foundation; the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Atomic Energy Commission. In addition, the executive order authorizes the Secretary of State and the director of the Bureau of the Budget to send observers to the council meetings.

In its last section, the order states: "The council shall be advisory to the President and to the heads of federal agencies represented on the council; accordingly, this order shall not be construed as subjecting any agency, officer, or function to control by the council."

Associated Colleges of the Midwest

The Ford Foundation has granted $525,000 to help ten private Midwest colleges launch a broad cooperative plan to improve their educational and financial problems. The grant went to Cornell College, Mount Vernon, Ia., which is the fiscal agent for the group, known as the Associated Colleges of the Midwest (ACM). The grant will cover the basic operating costs of the organization for 5 years. The group will raise matching funds to be used for special projects and later operations.

Besides Cornell College, the other colleges are Beloit (Beloit, Wis.), Carleton (Northfield, Minn.), Coe (Cedar Rapids, Ia.), Grinnell (Grinnell, Ia.), Knox (Galesburg, Ill.), Lawrence (Appleton, Wis.), Monmouth (Monmouth, Ill.), Ripon (Ripon, Wis.), and St. Olaf (Northfield, Minn.). Together, they enroll 10,000 students and have about 700 faculty members.

The aim of the ACM members is to achieve steady improvement in the quality of their educational programs through strengthening and making the best use of their available resources. The assumption is that they can accomplish some things collectively that they cannot do as well singlehandedly. Although ACM will conduct joint studies and experiments and certain joint operations, each member college will retain full independence of control over its own affairs.

The studies may cover such topics as trends in academic courses, the relation of size to costs, alternatives to the conventional academic year, utilization of facilities, the effects of varying class

size, effect of independent study by students, faculty salaries, standardized accounting practices, tuition, scholarships and loans, sources of funds, and investment policies.

Among the possible joint operations ACM may undertake are standardization of admission procedures and scholarship qualifications, pooling of library resources, joint offices for recruiting students, sharing of faculty members, expansion of cooperative arrangements for purchasing, research, faculty recruitment, and fund raising. The ten colleges may also explore the usefulness of a joint press, a summer school held on a different campus each year, a uniform calendar or a three-term-per-year plan, and interchange of lectures, concerts, and other extracurricular activities.

Los Alamos Accident

The Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory has completed its investigation of the circumstances surrounding the radiation accident which occurred at the laboratory on 30 December 1958, which resulted in the fatal injury of one employee. A technical report describing in detail the circumstances of the accident has been prepared and is available (50¢ per copy) at the Office of Technical Services, Department of Commerce, Washington 25, D.C. This report describes the events leading to the accident, the situation at the time of the critical burst, the removal and analysis of the solution that caused the burst, and the steps being taken to prevent a recurrence. Medical and pathological data resulting from studies now being carried on by the laboratory's health division will probably be ready for publication by midsummer.

An investigation review committee has found that the accident was directly attributable to errors on the part of the operator during a series of transfers of plutonium and organic solutions between containers in a chemical plutonium recovery process. The committee also found that the procedures for this process were such that safety of operation depended substantially on the ability and judgment of individual operators, but that the incident might have been prevented had the organizational arrangement required closer supervision to insure that normal procedures were followed.

Woodrow Wilson Fellows

The Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, Princeton, N.J., has announced the names of 1200 American and Canadian students as Woodrow Wilson fellows. The foundation recruits promising students who intend to be teachers and supports them for their first year of graduate study. The project is backed by a $25-million grant from the Ford Foundation.

It has been predicted that between 30,000 and 40,000 new full-time college teachers will be needed to train the wave of students seeking college educations in the 1960's. The current annual output of Ph.D's averages 9000, of which only half go into college teaching.

This year's Wilson fellows were chosen from 7000 candidates from more than 700 undergraduate colleges. New Wilson fellows will begin graduate work next fall at 80 different universities. Each fellow receives a living allowance of $1500, plus the full cost of tuition and fees. Married students receive additional stipends.

In this year's group of winners there are 875 men and 325 women. Of these, 38 percent are planning to take courses in the humanities, 34 percent, in the social sciences, and 28 percent, in the natural sciences and mathematics.

Nuclear Information Center

An information center has been opened by the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority at 11 Charles II St., London, S.W. 1, that provides a central location where published unclassified material may be consulted with no security restrictions. Advice on sources of information is also given. A collection of unclassified reports, indexes, and abstracts of atomic energy literature, and publications on the work of the AEA, are all on file.

Adjoining the center is an 8000-print photographic library. Prints may be bought from stock or ordered to suit particular requirements. Slides in color and black-and-white may be borrowed.

British Association for Medical Education

The Association for the Study of Medical Education in Great Britain, organized late in 1957 to serve as a forum for persons interested in the problems of medical education and as a clearinghouse for information in the field, will be assisted during its initial, developmental years by a grant of £10,000 (about $28,500) from the Rockefeller Foundation to The Royal College of Physicians, London. The major purposes of the association are to exchange information on medical education in Great Britain; organize meetings on relevant topics; maintain a bureau where information can be received, stored, and made available to those interested; and encourage, promote, or conduct research into matters concerned with medical education. Almost all the licensing bodies and medical schools of Great Britain, as well as individual medical educators and practitioners, are members of the new association.

Research Associateship Program

A program of research associateships, offering stipends of $8000 and more a year and opportunities for work in the sciences bearing on space exploration, has been announced by the National Academy of Sciences–National Research Council and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The associateships, which will involve both theoretical and experimental research at NASA's Beltsville, Maryland, Space Projects Center, are being offered to two groups—those who are at the immediate postdoctoral level and those who are well-established investigators in disciplines germane to space exploration. Associateships for the first group, designated "regular," will carry the stipend of $8000 a year, the normal period of tenure; those for the second group, the "senior" associateships, will carry stipends adjusted to match the individual's salary.

Applicants for the regular associateships must produce evidence of training equivalent to that represented by the doctorates of philosophy or science or must have completed the requirements for one of these degrees at the time of entering upon the position. In addition to the documents normally required for such an application, a plan of research to be conducted at the NASA laboratory must be submitted. Selection of the senior associates will be based on letters of recommendation and evidences of previous scientific accomplishments and scholarly activity. The applicants will be evaluated and passed on by a board appointed by the National Academy of Sciences–National Research Council; in all cases they will be expected to have demonstrated superior ability for creative research.

Successful applicants in this program will work at the NASA Space Projects Center in either the space sciences division, under J. W. Townsend, or the theoretical division, under Robert Jastrow. In Townsend's division, which does experimental work, suitable areas for research would be fields and particles, planetary atmospheres, astronomy, solar physics, and meteorology. The moon and planets, astrophysics, and plasma physics will be the concerns of the associates working in the theoretical division. It is expected that later appointees will take