

bilities of utilizing nuclear power at certain specific locations. In addition, the agency will provide ten experts for Burma, Greece, and the United Arab Republic.

The board also approved a project for the preparation, in conjunction with UNESCO, of a manual on atomic energy and its peaceful applications for use in secondary schools in member countries. The next series of board meetings will begin on 16 June.

Final Report of Advisory Committee for Aeronautics

The 44th and final report of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics was released at the end of April. The NACA, established by Congress in 1915 to coordinate and conduct aeronautical research, was absorbed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration under legislation enacted last year. The NASA took over facilities, property, equipment, and staff of the NACA on 1 October 1958.

NACA's concluding annual report contains a history of the agency, written by its last two chairmen, Jerome C. Hunsaker and James H. Doolittle. Hunsaker traced the NACA history for the first 40 years; Doolittle covered the final 4 years. In addition to the history, the 115-page report contains financial, personnel, and publications reports, plus a series of word and photo essays on various research projects.

Academic Freedom Declines

The decline of academic freedom in American universities during the 1950's is indicated by a survey that was undertaken at the request of the Fund for the Republic. Paul F. Lazarsfeld and Wagner Thielens, Jr., of Columbia University conducted the study and have recently published their findings in a volume entitled *The Academic Mind: Social Scientists in a Time of Crisis*. The report is based on questionnaire answers by 2451 social scientists associated with 165 college-level institutions.

Those queried listed 990 different instances of administrative action—most of them concerned with political conduct or belief—that resulted in 188 discharges at 102 of the 165 institutions, 40 forced resignations, 118 withheld promotions, and 99 instances of other kinds of discipline. Because of these incidents, it was found, both academic freedom and teacher morale suffered. It was reported that, while some instructors showed defiance by joining so-called controversial groups or reading controversial publications, more compromised by qualifying

their classroom statements. The latter also stopped taking part in political work, making public appearances, subscribing to certain magazines, or belonging to certain organizations.

Identification Method

A new method for rapidly identifying war or disaster victims has been developed by V. Sassouni [*Temple Law Quart.* 31, 1 (1958); *J. Forensic Sci.* 4, 1 (Jan. 1959)]. This involves eight different cranial and facial measurements taken from standard x-ray negatives. These are fed to an electronic computer, which selects the card for the proper individual from a coded file.

The great disadvantage of this novel and apparently accurate method of identification is the fact that an extensive catalog of coded individual measurements would have to be kept on file at some central agency. This might be feasible on a limited scale—for example, for the armed forces—but it seems unlikely that the method could ever be successfully applied to the population at large.

Advanced Degrees Earned, 1957–58

The Office of Education has recently released figures on the number of degrees earned in institutions of higher education during 1957–58. A comparison of these totals with those of the preceding year is provided in Table 1.

The compilation shows that, in all fields considered together, the number of degrees earned has increased by 7.5 percent as compared with 1956–57. Science registered a gain of 9.5 percent in bachelor's degrees; engineering, a gain of 13.1 percent.

There was an increase of 322 in the number of master's degrees granted in science but no significant change in the number of doctorates. Perhaps it should also be noted that biology barely retained its lead over the physical sciences in degrees granted at the bachelor level.

List of International Meetings

The National Science Foundation has announced that the first issue of the *World List of Future International Meetings* will be released in June by the International Organizations Section of the Library of Congress. This monthly calendar, which is supported by an NSF grant, will furnish a record of all meetings drawing on three or more nations that are to be held anywhere in the world during the next 3 years, giving the sponsors and the addresses of organizing committees wherever possible. The subjects will be indexed for convenient use. The new list will supersede NSF's *List of International and Foreign Scientific and Technical Meetings*, which ceased publication with the January 1959 issue.

The *World List* will be issued in two parts. Part I will be devoted to science, technology, medicine, and agriculture. Part II will record meetings in the social, cultural, humanistic, and commercial fields. The *World List* will be available from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D.C., at a subscription price to be announced.

The Library of Congress will welcome notices of any forthcoming international meetings. Please send the information, together with all inquiries about the *World List*, to: International Organizations Section, General Reference and Bibliography Division, Library of Congress, Washington 25, D.C.

Cockcroft Calls Space Program Extravagant

Sir John Cockcroft, chief of Britain's atomic research program is reported to have said that the "fantastic amounts" spent by the United States and the Soviet Union in trying to put a man into space could be better employed in medical and biological research on earth. The 1 May *New York Times* described a news conference in Melbourne, Australia, at which Sir John commented that "normal" space research was not a waste

Table 1. Earned degrees, 1956–1957 and 1957–1958.

| Field | Bachelor | | Master | | Doctor | |
|-------------------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | 1956–57 | 1957–58 | 1956–57 | 1957–58 | 1956–57 | 1957–58 |
| All | 340,347 | 365,748 | 61,955 | 65,614 | 8,756 | 8,942 |
| Agriculture | 7,943 | 8,312 | 1,549 | 1,480 | 353 | 353 |
| Biology | 17,868 | 14,408 | 1,801 | 1,852 | 1,103 | 1,125 |
| Mathematics | 5,546 | 6,924 | 965 | 1,234 | 249 | 247 |
| Physical sciences | 12,934 | 14,352 | 2,704 | 3,034 | 1,674 | 1,655 |
| Psychology | 6,191 | 6,930 | 1,095 | 836 | 550 | 572 |
| Subtotals | 46,482 | 50,926 | 8,114 | 8,436 | 3,929 | 3,952 |
| Engineering | 31,211 | 35,332 | 5,233 | 5,788 | 596 | 647 |
| Totals | 77,693 | 86,258 | 13,347 | 14,224 | 4,525 | 4,599 |