

teaching over television results in much better learning on the part of the student than ordinary teaching in the classroom.

2) Televised instruction requires the student to accept more responsibility for his own learning than is the case with conventional methods of instruction.

3) Students in television classes at the elementary and secondary level make more extensive use of the school library than students in regular classes.

4) Televised instruction has made possible more effective use of teaching time and classroom space.

5) The use of superior teachers on television has proved an important means of improving the teaching techniques of others teachers, particularly beginning teachers.

The report closes with the following statement:

"Television is not a panacea that will cure all the ills of American education or solve all its problems. It has been described, and rightly so, as the most important new educational tool since the invention of movable type, but like the textbook the new medium is essentially just that—a tool. Like any tool, it can be misused or badly used. But if it is wisely and imaginatively used, television can play a major role in broadening and enriching the education of American students at all levels of schooling."

Copies of *Teaching by Television* are available without charge from the Office of Reports, Ford Foundation, 477 Madison Ave., New York 22, N. Y.

### **British Association to Meet in Fall**

The British Association for the Advancement of Science will return to York, the city in which it was founded, for its 121st annual meeting, to be held 2-9 September. The York meeting, at which approximately 3000 members will convene, will take its theme from the presidential address of Sir James Gray titled "The Proper Study of Mankind is Man."

Other addresses will be given by the presidents of the various sections of the association. In addition, Michael Swann will speak on "The Unseen Pattern of Growth," and Sir William Hildred will comment on "International Air Transport Problems."

A program of illustrated lectures for young people from schools in the York area will be offered during the meeting. A theater will present a continuous showing of scientific films. The program committee has also arranged for a number of visits and excursions to commercial and industrial concerns and to places of historical interest in York and the surrounding area.

### **Study of Pregnancy**

Prospective mothers are now being chosen to take part in a 5-year study to evaluate causes of neurological and sensory disorders that arise during pregnancy and shortly after the birth of the baby. Sixteen medical centers across the nation are collaborating in the project, with the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness as the coordinator and central laboratory. The study will eventually include some 40,000 mothers and their infants; each case will be followed until the child is 6 years old.

All unusual events during pregnancy will be carefully documented. Should a neurological disorder develop in the infant, an attempt will be made to correlate it with events and conditions of pregnancy, birth, or infancy. As causes are discovered, they may point the way to means of preventing cerebral palsy, mental retardation, blindness, and deafness.

The 16 medical centers comprising the study are located in Boston, Providence, New Haven, New York, Buffalo, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Richmond, Memphis, New Orleans, Minneapolis, Portland (Ore.), and San Francisco.

### **Two Exchanges of Professors with Russia May Begin**

Both Harvard and Columbia universities are working on plans for an exchange of professors with universities in the Soviet Union. Harvard, which would have a limited exchange with Leningrad State University, hopes to start its program by the beginning of the academic year, in September. Columbia hopes to begin in February of next year.

The two programs will differ in that the Harvard-Leningrad project will be mainly an exchange of research workers, whereas the Columbia program is expected to place more emphasis on teaching. Both programs are still described as "tentative," and both are expected to involve only a few professors. The exchanges now being negotiated were originally viewed as one part of an overall Soviet-American cultural exchange agreement concluded early last year.

### **Materials Research Committee Appointed by Academy**

The National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council has announced the appointment of a 14-man committee to determine how materials research and development in the United States can be accelerated to meet the increasing demands of industrial progress and of national defense. The Committee on the Scope and Conduct of

Materials Research has been asked (i) to determine how more rapid and effective progress in materials research can be realized through increased financial support, administrative or organizational steps, improved coordination of effort or other means; (ii) to consider both basic and applied research carried on for both defense and nondefense purposes in governmental, industrial, academic, and other research institutions; and (iii) to consider the resources of raw materials, personnel, and facilities.

Clyde Williams, president of Clyde Williams and Company of Columbus, Ohio, is chairman of the committee. A former president and director of Battelle Memorial Institute, he also served as chairman of the War Metallurgy Committee of the Academy-Research Council during World War II.

### **Film on Nutrition in Africa**

A special documentary film that shows the work of United States nutrition survey teams in Ethiopia has been made. The 25-minute color film, entitled *People to People* was produced by the Government's Interdepartmental Committee on Nutrition for National Defense, whose secretariat is located at the National Institutes of Health. Early in 1956 this committee launched a nutrition program for the purpose of assisting developing countries, as a part of the U.S. Mutual Assistance Program. *People to People* is the story of the ninth nutrition survey.

The survey team spent 3 months in Ethiopia and traveled more than 10,000 miles on the ground and in the air. Nearly 9000 Ethiopians were examined by the physicians, biochemists, and food specialists on the team. The film shows how the surveys are carried out and illustrates the typical living conditions, agricultural practices, modes of transportation, and medical and educational facilities available.

### **Science Council Members Briefed**

The members of the new Federal Council for Science and Technology are currently being briefed on the scientific activities of each of the governmental agencies represented on the council. These agencies are the National Science Foundation, the Atomic Energy Commission, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the departments of Defense, Interior, Commerce, Agriculture, and Health, Education, and Welfare. Representatives of each of these agencies are giving brief reviews of the scientific activities which take place within their department. One such statement was recently released by the council. It was presented

by E. L. Peterson, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture representative. Peterson discussed the role of research in U.S. agriculture, the demands of agricultural research in the next 50 years, research coordination in the department, relation of USDA research programs to those of other federal agencies, and current problems in the management of research.

### AEC Calls for Limited State Role

A member of the Atomic Energy Commission told the Joint Atomic Energy Committee that the time had come in the growth of the atomic energy industry to "readjust" the regulatory responsibilities between the federal and state governments. Describing proposed legislation, Commissioner John S. Graham said that the AEC would favor transfer to the states of some of its licensing authority for control of radiation hazards. The legislation which the commission has proposed would give the states responsibility for protecting public health in the fields of ownership and use of radioactive by-products, including radioactive isotopes; ownership and use of uranium and thorium ores; and possession and use of nuclear materials such as enriched uranium and plutonium. Under the legislation these nuclear materials would be limited to amounts smaller than the critical masses that are needed for a nuclear chain reaction.

Responding to questions from committee members, Graham said that there were a number of states that were prepared to move forward rapidly if authorizing legislation were passed.

### Panel Drafts International Convention on Nuclear Hazards

Agreement on the main points of a draft international convention on civil liability and state responsibility for nuclear hazards has been reached by a panel of experts convened in Vienna by director-general Sterling Cole of the International Atomic Energy Agency. The group, consisting of ten experts from as many countries, decided to meet again in the summer to discuss matters on which there is not yet agreement and to prepare its final report.

Aspects of a convention on which the experts reached a large degree of unanimity include the need for minimum international standards regarding the limitation of liability and the absolute nature of such liability. A flexible formula was devised to make it possible to achieve a wide acceptance of the convention, and it was recommended that the state would have to assume subsidi-

ary liability in cases where established limits were lower than those recommended as international minima.

Substantial agreement was also reached on questions concerning liability for transportation and waste disposal of radioactive materials and nuclear fuels.

The panel unanimously recommended that courts of the state in which nuclear installations are located should be exclusively competent to hear any claims for damages resulting from nuclear incidents; these courts would apply their own domestic law.

Concerning international transport, the courts of the state in whose territory an accident occurred would be the competent ones.

The first session of the panel was held in February 1959. Members who attended the second session, just concluded, were Paul Ruegger (Switzerland), chairman; Giuseppe Belli (Italy), C. H. Carruthers (United Kingdom), Edward Diamond (United States), Yoshio Kanazawa (Japan), B. N. Lokur (India), Anatol Nikolaiev (U.S.S.R.), Fuad Abdel Moneim Riad (United Arab Republic), Pavel Winkler (Czechoslovakia), and Enrique Zaldívar (Argentina).

### Tenth Edition of "American Men of Science"

Editorial work on the tenth edition of *American Men of Science* is now in progress on the campus of Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona. Biographies of more than 120,000 living Americans and Canadians who are actively contributing to the advancement of science will appear. Details will include the name, position, address, field, birthplace, degrees, positions held, memberships, and research specialties of each individual listed.

The directory will be put out in a different form than that of previous editions. The editor has found it possible, following the recommendation of an advisory committee, to publish the entries for the physical and biological sciences alphabetically in four volumes, to appear over a period of 3 years; these will be followed by the volume for the social and behavioral sciences. The publication of the A-E volume for the physical and biological sciences is well under way. The questionnaires for the physical and biological sciences have been mailed, so that everyone has had an opportunity to make nominations.

Anyone who was previously included in *American Men of Science* and who has not received a questionnaire should immediately write to Jaques Cattell, Editor, *American Men of Science*, Arizona State University, 820 College Avenue, Tempe, Arizona.

### News Briefs

The Air Force School of Aviation Medicine will move from Randolph Air Force Base, near San Antonio, Texas, to new, multimillion-dollar quarters southwest of the city, beginning in July. To date, the Government has taken possession of three of the seven buildings comprising the new institution. They are the Flight Medicine Laboratory, the Academic Building, and the Research Laboratory Shops. The Research Institute Building, which will house the school's headquarters, is to be accepted in mid-June; the Heating-Cooling Plant and Altitude Laboratory, in July.

According to Maj. Gen. Otis O. Benson, Jr., commandant of the School of Aviation Medicine, movement of personnel and equipment to these facilities is tentatively scheduled to begin on 13 July.

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A preliminary assistance mission of the International Atomic Energy Agency left Vienna last month for a tour of five member states in the Far East: China (Taiwan), Japan, Korea, the Philippines, and Viet-Nam. This is the second such mission to be sent out by the agency this year; the first visited Burma, Ceylon, Indonesia, and Thailand. The mission to the Far East, which is headed by Harold Smith of IAEA's Division of Isotopes, is expected to return to Vienna in early July.

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Three U.S. Office of Education specialists are visiting in Russia and Poland to observe methods of training elementary and secondary school teachers in the fields of mathematics, science, and industrial arts. The team is spending a month in the U.S.S.R. and a week in Poland. The travelers are William K. Medlin, Marshall L. Schmitt, and Clarence B. Lindquist, who will return to Washington late in June to prepare a report.

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The Institute for Research in Hypnosis, established by a charter from the Education Department of the State of New York, has opened its new headquarters at 33 E. 65th St., New York, N.Y. The institute is a nonprofit educational corporation organized to sponsor education and research in clinical and experimental hypnosis.

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The Deafness Research Foundation has announced initial grants of \$13,240,000 from foundation funds for basic research in hearing and deafness. The foundation, established less than a year ago, is the only national voluntary health organization founded and governed by laymen that is devoted primarily to fundamental research on the causes, prevention, and cure of deafness.