

mer the OEEC Council adopted a decision requiring member countries to ensure adequate health protection for all persons who might be exposed, whether occupationally or otherwise, to ionizing radiations. Appropriate measures must also be taken in connection with emergencies or accidents involving such radiations. Finally, all countries are called upon to report to the European Nuclear Energy Agency, by 15 November, on the legal and administrative measures that they have taken in this field, so that ENEA can make a comprehensive survey by the end of the year.

The council further recommended that the health protection measures called for should be based on common norms that have been developed by an international group, established by ENEA in May 1958, under the chairmanship of Mogens Faber of Denmark. Collaboration within this group between leading radiation experts in the OEEC countries and Euratom has made it possible to recommend uniform measures for all European countries. These norms, in turn, are based on the recently revised recommendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection.

Flemming Names Makers of Fraudulent Reducing Devices

At a recent press conference Arthur S. Flemming, Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, listed by name and maker 27 products and devices that he said had been "foisted on the public as weight reducers." All the products named had been the subject of court cases in which the Food and Drug Administration had forced a change in labeling to eliminate false claims, or had seized and destroyed the items, or had ruled them off the market.

Flemming pointed out that the American Medical Association has estimated that the public is spending \$100 million a year on fraudulent weight reducers. He then commented that the recent rise in appropriations for the Food and Drug Administration would increase the inspection staff from 400 to 500 inspectors. However, Flemming also emphasized that the federal government has no authority to proceed against the salon type of reducing devices because they are not in interstate commerce. Vibrator devices were the most numerous among the spurious weight reducers.

Giant Telescopes

The Navy has revealed the dimensions and other details of the radio telescope it is building in Sugar Grove, W. Va. In size and complexity, the telescope will dwarf anything of its kind yet constructed. Its reflecting mirror will be 600 feet in diameter. The largest radio telescope now in operation, at Jodrell Bank in England, has a reflector 250 feet in diameter. The Soviet Union is reported to be planning construction of one with a 350-foot reflector.

Theoretically, it was announced, the Navy radio telescope should be able to penetrate space to a distance of 38 billion light years—19 times farther than the range of the 200-inch optical telescope at Mt. Palomar, Calif., the world's largest.

In another development, a 140-foot radio telescope is now under construction on a 10,000-acre site chosen for the National Radio Observatory at Green Bank, W. Va., 30-miles from the Navy facility. The telescope, which will be 205 feet high, is expected to be in operation in the fall of 1960. The reflector, made of aluminum plates $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick, has an area equivalent to three-eighths of an acre. With its supporting structure, it weighs about 350 tons.



George P. Larrick, Food and Drug Administration head, shows Arthur S. Flemming, Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, a "magic disc vibrator" during a press conference on weight reduction quackery.

Dow Corning Research Center

The Dow Corning Corporation, Midland, Mich., has announced the founding of the Dow Corning Center for Aid to Medical Research. The purpose of the center is to serve the medical profession on a nonprofit basis by (i) providing technical aid in the use of silicones in medicine and surgery; (ii) acting as a clearing house for information about medical uses of silicones; and (iii) cooperating in research in organosilicon chemistry in relation to the human body.

For the past 10 years Dow Corning scientists have been cooperating with physicians and surgeons in finding ways to use silicones in medical research. Recent successes in several areas have accelerated this activity. The corporation has established the center to make available its advisory services without charge, and on a more formal and efficient basis. The new unit is separate from Dow Corning's commercial activities but is allied with its research department. Rob Roy McGregor, assistant research director for Dow Corning since 1955, is the center's director; Silas A. Braley is executive secretary.