several brief reconnaissance trips have already been completed, and additional exploratory work is under way. The initial project will place primary emphasis on botanical research in that area, but it is expected that future projects will be undertaken in other disciplines and in other areas.

Under a grant from the fund, it is expected that the California Academy of Sciences will substantially expand its present library on all phases of the natural history and resources of Baja California. Donations to, exchanges with, or information about items that might be added to this library will be welcome. Correspondence about such items and inquiries about the research program should be addressed to: Belvedere Scientific Fund, 155 Sansome St., San Francisco 4, Calif.

National Observatory Announces Visiting Scientist Programs

The National Radio Astronomy Observatory was established by the National Science Foundation to make available to scientists from any institution facilities for research in radio astronomy. The observatory now has in operation a radio telescope of 85-foot diameter, together with receivers for work at various wave-lengths in the range 75 to 3.75 cm. The facilities of the observatory are open to any competent scientist with a program of work in radio astronomy, regardless of institutional affiliation.

A scientist who wishes to undertake work at the observatory should apply by letter to the Director, National Radio Astronomy Observatory, P.O. Box 2, Green Bank, W. Va. The letter should contain a description of the program to be carried out, including a statement of the objects to be investigated and their positions, expected flux densities or antenna temperatures, the receivers to be used, any additional or special equipment that will be needed, and the investigator's estimate of the time required for the program.

The observatory also invites inquiries, from any scientist interested in radio astronomy, concerning the opportunities and facilities available. No previous experience in the techniques of radio astronomy is necessary.

The National Radio Astronomy Observatory is operated by the Associated Universities, Inc., under contract with the National Science Foundation.

Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

Fertility. The Lalor Foundation has announced its 1960 program of awards for research in the biological sciences. These awards will be for support of research on the fundamental biochemical and physiological mechanisms concerned with fertility and reproduction in various forms of life. The objectives are to further the knowledge and understanding of the basic phenomena involved and to extend and develop the possibilities for effective regulation and control.

The awards may range up to $8000 per year, depending upon the scope and duration of the projects approved. Preference will be given to younger members of university and college staffs, with an upper age limit of 45 years. Proposed work may be carried on at the applicant's own institution or elsewhere.

The foundation will also grant postdoctoral summer or short-term research awards at the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, Mass., or elsewhere, for appropriate projects in the fields specified. For these awards, the stipends will ordinarily not exceed $900 for a single man or woman, $1100 for a married man working at his home institution, and $1250 for a married man with principal program at another institution.

Requests for information and for application forms should be directed to the Lalor Foundation, 4400 Lancaster Pike, Wilmington 5, Del. The final date for receipt of executed application forms, complete with supporting data, is *15 January 1960*. Notification of appointment will be on or before *15 March*. The 1960 program follows closely the pattern of the current 1959 program, under which 27 awards were granted.

Pharmacognosy. The American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education has announced the Edwin Leigh Newcomb Memorial Awards in Pharmacognosy. Published papers may be submitted, but they must represent work published not more than 1 year prior to its receipt by the awards committee. For information, write to Dr. H. W. Youngken, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy, 179 Longwood Ave., Boston 15, Mass.

Teaching equipment. The National Science Foundation has announced that *31 December* is the deadline to apply for awards under its program to encourage mathematicians, scientists, and engineers to devise new laboratory equipment for school and college courses. The objective of the program is to aid competent scientists to develop new equipment of potentially wide usefulness. Grantees are expected to supply teachers with full information about apparatus they devise. Such information is commonly distributed in the form of reports, articles in professional journals, and presentations at professional meetings. Once equipment has been developed, grantees are expected, as well, to permit interested commercial suppliers to enter negotiations for production and marketing. Further information may be obtained from the Course Content Improvement Section, National Science Foundation, Washington 25, D.C.

Women. The American Association of University Women has prepared a list of its graduate fellowships and international grants for 1960–61. This may be obtained from the Committee on Fellowships Awards, American Association of University Women, 1634 I St. NW, Washington 6, D.C. The application deadline for most of the awards is *1 December*.

News Briefs

The reactor for this country's first full-scale, privately financed nuclear power station has sustained its first chain reaction, according to a joint announcement by the General Electric Company and the Commonwealth Edison Company. Criticality was reached at the Commonwealth Edison Dresden nuclear power station 50 miles southwest of Chicago after engineers placed the 28th fuel element in the reactor core. When completely loaded, the core will contain 488 such elements. General Electric designed and built Dresden for the Commonwealth Edison Company and the cosponsoring Nuclear Power Group, Inc., which has seven members in addition to Commonwealth Edison.

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A national tabulation of malformations at birth will be started in 1960 by the Office of Vital Statistics. The program resulted largely from the wide interest in the hereditary effect of radioactivity.

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