world, and the maintenance of an up-to-date calendar of national and international neurologic meetings.

The federation is composed of national neurological societies in about 40 countries, which together have approximately 10,000 members. Ludo van Bogaert of the Institut Bunge, Antwerp, is president of the new organization. The other officers are as follows: vice presidents, Macdonald Critchley (Great Britain) and August Tournay (France); secretary-treasurer general, Pearce Bailey (United States); and chairman of the Committee on the Constitution and Bylaws, G. Schaltenbrand (Germany).

Problem Commissions Formed

The WFN has organized several problem commissions to review and evaluate the status of research and research opportunities in specialized areas. These commissions will also study the efficacy of international pooling of scientific talent and facilities for a more effective approach to a given research problem. Ten commissions have already been founded, in the following areas: neuropathology, neurochemistry, comparative neuroanatomy, history of neurology, tropical neurology, child neurology, and neuroanesthesia.

The Neurochemistry Commission is the most recently formed. It met for the first time 29-30 September in Antwerp. Those present were Derek Richter, John Cumings, and Everson Pearse (England); Armand Lowenthal (Belgium); Lars Svennerholm and Gunnar Brante (Sweden); Hans Bauer (Germany); George Edgar (Netherlands); Saul Korey, Jordi Folch-Pi, and Wallace Tourtelotte (U.S.); Judah Quastel (Canada); and Ludo van Bogaert and Charles M. Poser (ex-officio).

Biological Sciences Curriculum Study Formed

The Biological Sciences Curriculum Study, which has headquarters at the University of Colorado, was recently organized by the American Institute of Biological Sciences, with support from the National Science Foundation, to make a broad study of education in the biological sciences at all levels of instruction from elementary grades through the university. In the initial phases of the work, attention will be focused on the secondary school, perhaps the pivotal area in American education today.

The major objectives of the study group, which is made up essentially of an autonomous body of biologists and educators, is to design a coordinated and modern life-sciences curriculum; to recommend a sequence of courses in other subjects of study; and to explore the possibility of designing special courses for exceptional students at all levels. Projects are already being carried out by committees that have been formed in the following areas: course content, innovations in laboratory instruction, teacher preparation, publications, and the gifted student.

Consultants for the curriculum study are engaged in assembling case-histories of a representative group of teachers who are generally recognized to be exceptionally effective, to determine what factors made them successful and to discover any common denominator. The consultants are also preparing a digest of published information on biological science education. In addition, a number of units of course material in biology, teachers' manuals, and laboratory exercises that were prepared during team-coordinated summer writing conferences will be tested and revised for publication. As an aid to in-service teachers, to students, and to laymen interested in biological science, a series of review pamphlets will be issued. A newsletter on the activities of the Biological Sciences Curriculum Study may be obtained by writing to The Director, BSCS, University of Colorado, Boulder.

Science Equipment Purchase Guide

School officials, teachers, and consultants in elementary and secondary schools will find valuable information and direction in the *Purchase Guide for Programs in Science, Mathematics, and Modern Foreign Languages*, recently published by the Council of Chief State School Officers. The 336-page volume contains descriptions of approximately 1000 items of equipment used for instruction in elementary science, mathematics, general science, modern foreign languages, biology, chemistry, and physics. Each description includes an item number, the accepted name of the equipment, a short statement about its possible uses in instruction, and brief specifications as to function, which assist the purchaser in making a selection from among various commercial offerings. A "coding" is also provided for each item to suggest the areas of instruction and the type of course—basic, standard, or advanced—in which the item will be found useful.

Lists of equipment for each of the subjects covered are included in the book to assist purchasers in reviewing their present stocks of equipment. The book also contains "guidelines," short essays on special problems of instruction, and a select list of books and films for each area.

Edgar Fuller, executive secretary of the council, assisted by a seven-member advisory committee, was in charge of the project. The Educational Facilities Laboratories, Inc., provided a major share of the funds.

The *Purchase Guide* may be obtained for $3.95 from Ginn and Company, Statler Building, Boston 17, Mass.

Plant Material Exchange Program Reopened between U.S. and U.S.S.R.

A program for the exchange of plant research materials between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. has been reactivated this year after 15 years in which there was no official exchange, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The program was revived at the instigation of plant breeders in both countries, some of whom have participated in exchange visits. International exchange of plant materials was begun in 1898 by USDA's Plant Introduction Section, but exchange with Soviet Russia was discontinued about 1944.

Cooperative exchange of new and indigenous varieties of plants between the United States and the U.S.S.R. has proved to be highly beneficial to both countries because of similarities in climate, agricultural interests, and crop problems. Before 1944, U.S. plant breeders received several important types of grasses and alfalfa from Russia; from U.S. contributions under the program, Russia now raises 10 million acres of sunflowers of American origin—a major source of vegetable oil in that country.

Since last March, 577 shipments of forage (grass, legume), oilseed, and small-grain and cereal-crop seeds have been exchanged. Future exchanges this year will include tobacco stock and varieties of fruit, according to H. L. Hyland, supervisor of the exchange program in the United States and head of the Plant Introduction Section of