

The graduate fellowship program is headed by Henry Bent, who is on leave from his position as dean of the graduate faculty and professor of chemistry at the University of Missouri.

News Briefs

Radiobiology. The third Australasian Conference on Radiobiology will take place at the University of Sydney in Australia, 15-18 August 1960. Titles of papers to be presented must be submitted before the end of February 1960 to the convener, Dr. Peter Ilbery, Department of Preventive Medicine, University of Sydney, New South Wales. Summaries (250 words) must be sent in by the end of March. Papers should be of radiobiological interest but they may cover the wide fields of biology, biochemistry, biophysics, genetics, immunology, radiation protection and health physics, and so forth.

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Electron microscopy. Under the auspices of the International Federation of Electron Microscope Societies, the Nederlandse Vereniging voor Electronmicroscopie is organizing a European Regional Conference on Electron Microscopy. The conference is to be held at Delft, 28 August-3 September. Information may be obtained from the secretary, A. L. Houwink, Julianalaan 67 A, Delft, Holland.

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Physics students. The first student section of the American Institute of Physics composed entirely of women has been established at Smith College. The purpose of the sections is to encourage the study of physics and to develop professional pride and responsibility in those students who elect to become physicists. Typically, the sections sponsor talks in physics and other sciences, hold special meetings, and encourage the discussion of the role and scope of physics in our society.

Thomas C. Mendenhall, president of Smith, said: "We hope that this participation of our undergraduates in the new A.I.P. student section will help to explode the myth that there is little interest in studying physics among college women."

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Indirect cost policy. In connection with its programs for the support of basic research, the National Science Foundation has followed the policy of permitting institutions to apply for and receive, as an indirect cost allowance,

up to 15 percent of the total direct costs involved in approved grant proposals. Pending completion of a study of the entire problem of indirect costs, the foundation has announced that, effective 1 January 1960, it will permit institutions to request up to 20 percent of total direct costs as the allowance for indirect costs in approved research proposals.

Grants, Fellowships and Awards

Educational media. A new small-grants program to encourage graduate students and teachers to conduct research in educational uses of mass media in elementary and secondary schools, colleges, and universities has been announced by the U.S. Office of Education. The initial amount available will come from a total of \$300,000 to be used for research grants between now and 30 June 1960 under Title VII of the National Defense Education Act.

The new program will provide an unusual opportunity for promising young researchers to engage in a year of exploratory studies. It is hoped that these studies will lead to projects of greater scope. The researcher may study methods for utilizing all or any of the media. These include motion-picture films, television, radio, recordings, filmstrips, language laboratories, and teaching machines. Applications for grants not to exceed \$2500 should be filed *before 1 February* with the Educational Media Branch, Office of Education, U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Washington 25, D.C.

General. The American Academy of Arts and Sciences invites applications for grants from its research funds. Awards are made in support of research in any field of science whatsoever, in amounts that ordinarily do not exceed \$1500. Applications for grants to be made in the spring should be filed by *1 February* on forms that may be obtained from: The Chairman, Committees on Research Funds, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 280 Newton St., Brookline 46, Mass.

Special consideration will be given to projects on new frontiers of science; to those that lie between, or include, two or more of the classical fields; and to those proposed by investigators who may be on the threshold of investigational careers or who are handicapped by inadequate resources and facilities. The committees do not provide fellow-

ship or scholarship support, nor do they ordinarily approve grants for research the results of which constitute partial fulfillment of requirements for an academic degree.

Medical journalism. The Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation has announced the 11th annual Albert Lasker Medical Journalism Awards for outstanding medical news reporting in newspapers, magazines, and broadcasting during 1959. Stories, articles, and programs which dealt with the major killing or crippling diseases, and with public health problems in these same areas, should be submitted to the foundation (Chrysler Building, New York 17, N.Y.) *before 8 February*.

Each award includes an honorarium of \$2500, an engraved citation, and a silver statuette of the Winged Victory of Samothrace (which symbolizes victory over death and disease). Three winners are customarily chosen each year on the recommendation of an advisory board of physicians and journalists.

Areas in which the foundation seeks especially to foster public understanding are heart disease, cancer, mental illness, arthritis, and neurological disease. Articles and scripts should demonstrate skill in arousing and holding the average person's interest. They will also be judged on the basis of accuracy, significance, timeliness, and proficiency in the transmission of technical information in lay language.

Miniaturization. Nominations for the 1959 Miniaturization Award competition will close on *20 January*. The award is presented annually in recognition of outstanding contributions to the advancement of the field of miniaturization. In addition to the top award, ten certificates of excellence are given each year. The competition was established in 1957 by Miniature Precision Bearings, Inc.

Participants may be individuals, companies, or organizations that have (i) broadened the horizons of miniaturization by creating better understanding and use of miniaturization through education, research, engineering, or standardization, or (ii) that have developed products, components, or assemblies which show ingenuity in the solution of miniaturization problems.

Selection is made by an independent committee of miniaturization experts representing industry, government, and education. Entries should be sent to the Miniaturization Awards Committee, Box 604, Keene, N.H.