

blackouts due to sunspot activity affecting the ionosphere.

The astronomers were concerned that, in addition to reflecting radio waves back to earth, the wire band would reflect radio waves from the stars away from the earth, and so interfere with radio astronomy. To a lesser extent the astronomers were concerned that the band should interfere with optical astronomy. The Space Science Board of the National Academy of Sciences was informed of the project by the Lincoln Laboratory in the fall of 1959 and concluded, after a study completed in June 1960, that the exploratory test would have no harmful effects on any branch of science, since the effect on radio waves from space reaching the earth would be a matter of a very few parts per million, and would be barely detectable, and then only because the astronomers would know just where to look for it. But the Space Science Board also concluded that there was justifiable cause for concern over the effects that might be produced if the much larger band needed for an operational system were put up after a successful pilot experiment.

The NAS Space Science Board generally allayed the astronomers' concern over the pilot test, but left them with their greater concern over the possible harmful effects of a fully operational system. The significance of the Space Council policy statement, which is an official statement of U.S. policy, was that it gave the astronomers the assurance the National Academy could not give, that the government would not authorize the larger follow-up project, or satellite projects generally, without full consideration of the possible side effects of a project on other scientific fields, or without giving interested scientists a chance to make their views felt.—H.M.

A new type of fatty substance—a **phosphate-free plasmalogen**—has been discovered by a group of Harvard chemists. The new substance combines properties of the two main types of lipid substances known—fats and phosphatides. A variant of a phosphatide, in which a fatty acid is replaced by a vinyl alcohol, is known as a plasmalogen. The new substance does not contain phosphorus, and in this it resembles the fats; like the plasmalogens, it contains vinyl alcohol.

The newly discovered lipid occurs in minute amounts and thus has been missed up to now. Beef brain, guinea-pig heart, and beef bone marrow con-

tain, respectively, 3, 15, and 50 parts of the lipid per 10,000 parts of total fatty substance. The Harvard chemists are now trying to determine the possible importance of the lipid in the healthy and diseased organism.

The country's **population center**—defined by the Census Bureau as that point upon which the United States would balance, if it were a rigid plain, without weight, and if the population were evenly distributed and all individuals were of equal weight—has been officially relocated in a field 6½ miles northwest of Centralia, Illinois. The U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey relocated the center on the basis of last year's national census. Since the first census in 1790, the center of population has moved westward 701 miles from its original point, 23 miles east of Baltimore, Md.

A **"research city"** is scheduled to be built near Munich, Germany, by 1965. The complex of buildings will house the Munich Institute for Plasma Physics, the Max Planck Society's working group for extraterrestrial research, and a number of other research institutes. Laboratories, offices, private study rooms for individual scientists, a large auditorium, a library, workshops, storehouses, and a power station will be erected in three phases of construction. The West German Ministry for Nuclear Energy estimates the cost of the project at \$20 million. Of this amount the West German government will provide \$17 million; the remaining \$3 million will be contributed by the European Atomic Energy Commission.

The U.S. Post Office has discontinued experiments with high-speed **electronic transmission of mail**, after spending over \$4 million on a test program. In the pilot operation, "facsimile mail" was transmitted by coaxial cable or microwave radio. According to the Post Office, several private firms are conducting similar experiments and the government abandoned the program rather than be in direct competition with them. The test program demonstrated, it was announced last fall, that mail could be moved between Chicago and Washington in 15 seconds.

Students of engineering and of teaching, according to Peiping Radio, constituted more than two-thirds of the 160,000 graduates who were recently awarded diplomas in Red China.

Announcements

The following have been appointed judges for the 1961 **AAAS-Westinghouse Science Writing Awards** [*Science* **133**, 1909 (1961)]:

Walter G. Barlow, president of Opinion Research Corporation, Princeton, N.J.

Norman Cousins, editor of the *Saturday Review*.

Geoffrey Edsall, superintendent of the Institute of Laboratories, Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

Earl English, dean of the University of Missouri's school of journalism.

Ralph E. McGill, editor of the *Atlanta Constitution*.

Morris Meister, president of the Bronx Community College.

Deadline for entries: *10 October 1961*. (Graham DuShane, AAAS, 1515 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington 5, D.C.)

Russian-speaking physicians, researchers, technicians, and administrators are being sought as participants in the U.S. Information Agency's **medical exhibition in the U.S.S.R.**, scheduled to tour three major cities of the Soviet Union in 1962. (John Dixon, ICS Exhibits Division, U.S. Information Agency, Washington 25)

The Philippines, Malaya, and Thailand have formed the **Association of Southeast Asia (ASA)** "to establish effective machinery for . . . consultation and mutual assistance in economic, social, cultural, scientific, and administrative fields." ASA's goals include exchange of educational and research facilities and information; collaboration in the utilization of natural resources and the improvement of transport and communications; and cooperation in the study of international commodity trade problems.

Scientists traveling to the Soviet Union are invited to use the Information Center for American Travelers to the Soviet Union, 333 East 46 St., New York City. Individuals or groups may contact the center to arrange for a briefing. The center is sponsored by the Government Affairs Institute. The service is free. Information of a more specialized nature is available from the Office of International Relations of the National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Ave., Washington, D.C. Among other services, the NAS office

will refer scientists to colleagues who have traveled in the Soviet Union and have offered to answer questions raised by prospective travelers.

A report on the National Institutes of Health's **summer institute in biophysical science**, held from 28 August to 9 September 1960 in Cambridge, Massachusetts, has been published by NIH's Biophysics and Biophysical Chemistry Study Section. (Office of the Principal Consultant, BBCSS, 2020 Milvia St., Berkeley 4, Calif.)

The **American Federation of Information Processing Societies** has been formed as the successor body to the National Joint Computer Committee. The founding societies of the federation are the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, the Association of Electrical Engineers, the Association for Computing Machinery, and the Institute of Radio Engineers. The federation will accept into membership "other non-profit corporations and unincorporated associations which meet certain requirements." (Willis H. Ware, Rand Corp., 1700 Main St., Santa Monica, Calif.)

Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

Scholarships at German institutions for research in science and the liberal arts are available to non-German scientists and scholars below the age of 35 through the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. The scholarships will be granted for 1 year, but may be extended for another year. Beginning 1 January 1962, the foundation will also offer scholarships to lecturers at non-German universities who have conducted teaching and research work for a minimum of 5 years and whose publications are of outstanding merit. Recipients will be provided with round-trip travel expenses and additional family grants. (Humboldt Foundation, German Academy of Sciences, Berlin, W.8)

Fulbright grants are available for **advanced research and university lecturing** during the academic year 1962-63 in Europe, the Near and Middle East, the Far East, and the United Kingdom and its overseas territories. Eligibility requirements are as follows: U.S. citizenship; for lecturing, at least one year of college or university teaching experience; for research, a doctoral degree or recognized professional standing; in some cases, a knowledge

of the language of the host country. Awards are tenable in one country, usually for a full academic year, and payable in the currency of the host country. They provide round-trip travel for the grantee, and, for lecturers going to certain countries of Asia and Africa, round-trip travel for one dependent; a maintenance allowance to cover living costs; an incidental allowance; and, for lecturers in specific countries of Asia and Africa, a supplemental dollar grant. Deadline, *1 October 1961*. (Conference Board of Associated Research Councils, Committee on International Exchange of Persons, 2101 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington 25)

Physicians who wish to do special work in **nutrition** are eligible for the 1962-63 Nestlé fellowship, sponsored by the French Nestlé Company. Candidates must have a reasonable command of French. (International Children's Centre, Château de Longchamp, Bois de Boulogne, Paris XVI)

Applications are being accepted by the National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council for the James Picker Foundation fellowships and grants in **radiology and nuclear medicine**. Awards are made in four categories.

Advanced fellowships in academic radiology. Candidates, preferably less than 34 years old, must have completed clinical training in radiology and should be prepared to devote at least 2 years to course work in the basic sciences and to application of techniques.

Postdoctoral research fellowships. Preference will be given to candidates with some training in radiology, although persons from closely related disciplines may apply. Applicants must hold the M.D., Ph.D., or Sc.D. degree or the equivalent.

Grants for scholars, offered to assist medical schools in supporting and developing junior staff members in radiology. The application is to be submitted by the institution on behalf of the candidate. A 2-year grant of \$6000 a year will be made to the institution.

Grants-in-aid of research, oriented toward, but not necessarily limited to, diagnostic aspects. The grants are awarded to institutions.

Applications for the fiscal year 1962-63 should be submitted by *1 October*. (Committee on Radiology, National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington 25, D.C.)

Meeting Notes

The 11th International **Genetic Congress** will be held at The Hague-Scheveningen, Netherlands, 2-12 September 1963. (S. J. Geerts, Genetisch Laboratorium, Driehuizerweg 200, Nijmegen)

Papers and lectures presented during the fourth national **cancer conference**, held in September 1960, are available in a single 774-page volume. (R. N. Grant, American Cancer Society, Research Education Service, 521 W. 57 St., New York 19)

A **marine sciences** conference will be held at Woods Hole, Mass., 11-15 September. It is sponsored jointly by the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography and the Instrument Society of America's marine sciences division.

The first meeting of the **Western Conference of Immunologists** will be held 22-23 January 1962 in La Jolla, California. The organization is designed primarily to meet the needs of immunologists and immunochemists residing west of Centralia, Illinois, but there are no geographical restrictions on membership or attendance. (Hugh Fudenberg, University of California Medical Center, San Francisco)

A panel discussion on **recent developments in European psychiatry** will be held on 27 September at the New York Academy of Medicine. (Association for the Advancement of Psychoanalysis, 329 E. 62 St., New York 21)

A meeting on **operations research and management science** will be held 8-10 November in San Francisco. At this first joint national meeting of the Operations Research Society of America and the Institute of Management Sciences the following subjects will be discussed: mathematical programming; information processing; queuing models; decision theory; operations research and management science in the area of world peace; developments in organization theory; and general systems analysis. (William R. Fair, Fair, Isaac and Co., 156 Montgomery St., San Francisco 4, Calif.)

The first international conference on **oral surgery** will be held at the Royal College, London, 1-4 July 1962. (D. C. Trexler, American Society of Oral Surgeons, 840 N. Lake Shore Dr., Chicago)

Scientists in the News

Nicholaas Bloembergen of Harvard University and **H. E. D. Scovil** of the Bell Telephone Laboratories have been selected by the Franklin Institute to receive the Stuart Ballentine medal "for the invention of the three-level solid-state maser and its subsequent development for practical use."

Robert M. O'Neal, former associate professor of pathology at the Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, has been named professor and chairman of the department of pathology at Baylor University College of Medicine.

Frank J. Kreysa, of W. R. Grace and Company, Washington, D.C., has been appointed staff associate for physics, chemistry, and related sciences at the Smithsonian Institution's Science Information Exchange.

M. King Hubbert, consultant in general geology to the Shell Development Company, Houston, Texas, has been named visiting professor of geology and geophysics at Stanford for the winter quarters of the academic years 1961-62 and 1962-63.

Rhodes W. Fairbridge, professor of geology at Columbia, is on sabbatical leave as visiting professor at the Sorbonne, Paris.

Frederick H. Kasten, biologist at the A & M College of Texas, has been named the first Feulgen Memorial Lecturer by the Justus Liebig University of Giessen, Germany.

Frederick T. Hedgcock, associate professor of physics at the University of Ottawa, has been named manager of the Franklin Institute's magnetics and semi-conductor laboratory, Philadelphia.

MacRoy Gasque, of Duke University Medical School's department of preventive medicine, has been named to the newly created position of medical director at Olin Mathieson Chemical Corp.

John K. Clark, former associate professor of medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, has been appointed vice president of research and development at Smith, Kline and French Laboratories.

Hao Wang, reader in the philosophy of mathematics at Oxford University, has been appointed Gordon McKay professor of mathematical logic and applied mathematics at Harvard.

Gustave J. Dammin, member of the faculty of medicine and pathologist-in-chief at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Boston, has been appointed the first Elsie T. Friedman professor of pathology at Harvard University Medical School.

Irving Schulman, professor of pediatrics at Northwestern University Medical School and director of hematology at Children's Memorial Hospital, has been appointed head of the department of pediatrics at the University of Illinois College of Medicine. He succeeds **Heyworth N. Sanford**, who is retiring.

Dragoslav Popovic, professor of nuclear reactor engineering at the University of Belgrade, has been appointed director of the International Atomic Energy Agency's Safeguards Division.

Joseph M. Foley, professor of neurology at Seton Hall University College of Medicine and Dentistry, has been appointed professor and director of the division of neurology at Western Reserve University's School of Medicine.

Hilton A. Smith, professor of chemistry at the University of Tennessee, has been appointed dean of the university's graduate school and coordinator of research, effective 1 September.

Alfred Lit, formerly with Bendix Systems Division, Ann Arbor, Michigan, has been appointed professor of psychology at Southern Illinois University.

Aaron Seamster, chairman of the department of biology, Northeast Louisiana State College, has been appointed dean of the division of pure and applied science. He will be succeeded as department chairman by **B. Earl Price**, associate professor of biology.

Joy B. Phillips, associate professor of zoology at Drew University, has received Sigma Delta Epsilon's first grant-in-aid for research by a woman.

Roger E. Batzel, nuclear chemist and associate director of the University of California's Livermore Laboratory, has been appointed acting associate direc-

tor for testing at the university's Lawrence Radiation Laboratory. He succeeds **Gerald W. Johnson**, who has been appointed chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission's Military Liaison Committee and assistant to the Secretary of Defense for atomic energy.

John T. Norton, dean of the graduate school and professor of physics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has received the Plansee plaque, awarded triennially by the International Plansee Society for Powder Metallurgy. He is the first American to receive the award.

Richard H. Bohning, assistant dean of Ohio State University's College of Agriculture and Home Economics, will direct the training of 36 Peace Corps volunteers, of whom 25 will be selected to serve in India in the Punjab.

Leo P. Vernon, on sabbatical leave from his post as professor of chemistry at Brigham Young University, has been appointed director of research at the Charles F. Kettering Laboratory, Yellow Springs, Ohio, effective 1 October.

William F. Bradley, professor and specialist in chemical crystallography and mineralogy at the University of Illinois, has been appointed professor of chemical engineering at the University of Texas.

Willard H. Bennett, head of the Atomic Physics Branch of the Naval Research Laboratory, has been named Burlington professor of physics at North Carolina State College.

John Thomas, associate professor of internal medicine at Meharry Medical College, has been appointed research collaborator in Brookhaven National Laboratory's medical department, under a program which provides facilities and funds for guest scientists.

William H. R. Shaw, associate professor of chemistry at the University of Texas, will become head of the University of Georgia's chemistry department on 1 September. He succeeds **Alfred E. Scott**, who is retiring.

Erratum: In "Scientists in the news" [134, 321 (4 Aug. 1961)] David Glick was erroneously reported to have been appointed head of the pathology department at Stanford University Medical School. Glick was named professor of pathology and head of the division of histochemistry in the pathology department. Alvin J. Cox is head of the department.