

the pills, contrary to the name and advertising, were merely a mild laxative having nothing to do with the liver. The commission finally won its point on 15 December 1959, something over 16 years later, during all of which time the company aggressively promoted the pill on the basis of the wondrous, although vague, benefits that it would produce by stimulating the flow of liver bile.

### IAEA: Soviets Threaten Withdrawal

The Soviet representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency said last week that he probably would advise his government to withdraw its membership. The threat, from Vasily Yemelyanov, was made at IAEA's general conference in Vienna, following rejection of a Soviet effort to have an Asian or African neutralist succeed to the directorship of the agency.

The Soviet position, which was backed by the Communist nations and 11 African and Asian nations, was rejected by the conference, which elected a Swede, Arne Sigvard Eklund. Eklund's election, Yemelyanov charged, reflected an attempt by the U.S. to dominate the agency for political and military purposes.

Although the future of Soviet relations with the IAEA remains unclear, it is apparent that the Soviets have no intention at this point of permitting the agency to develop into the East-West meeting ground for nuclear science that was envisaged at its founding in 1957.

The hardening of the Soviet attitude toward IAEA followed closely upon President Kennedy's suggestion that the agency undertake certain nuclear inspection functions in an East-West disarmament agreement. Although IAEA is capable of functioning without Soviet participation, its role as an East-West bridge for peaceful nuclear efforts is crippled for the foreseeable future.

### Student-Teacher Relationship

The American Civil Liberties Union warned this week that the student-teacher relationship may be threatened by prospective employers looking into the background of students. The ACLU said that academic performance is of legitimate interest, but that the relationship is undermined when teachers disclose information on students' social beliefs, loyalty, and religious and moral attitudes.

## Announcements

Applications are being accepted for participation in the American Institute of Biological Sciences' 1961-62 **visiting biologist program**, supported by the National Science Foundation and the Atomic Energy Commission. The program allows U.S. biologists to visit a college, small university, or high school for a 3-day period, and foreign biologists to visit at least three colleges, laboratories, or other scientific centers over a 1-month period, for participation in seminars, lectures, consultation with faculty, and scientific or career discussions with students. (Martha J. Acker, AIBS, 2000 P St., NW, Washington 6, D.C.)

A **moisture detector meter** has been developed by the U.S. Army for use at missile installations and other areas where undetected moisture might cause malfunction of instruments and equipment. The device, called an electric hygrometer, consists of platinum wires enclosed in a small tube which has been coated with a thin film of phosphorous pentoxide, a material with a strong affinity for moisture. The 35-pound analyzer absorbs and simultaneously electrolyzes all moisture from a sample gas stream. The instrument is capable of detecting moisture in high-pressure air (up to 6000 lb/in.<sup>2</sup>) and measuring moisture content down to a free-air dewpoint—100°F.

According to a Rockefeller Foundation study group, **voluntary health and welfare agencies** often compete wastefully among themselves. The agencies, the report states, do much good but often fail to tell the truth about their programs and financing. The group recommends that a national commission be established to coordinate planning and development of a uniform system of accounting and financial reporting among the agencies. (Rockefeller Foundation, New York)

Two additional **standard samples of radionuclides**—iron-55 and promethium-147—are being issued by the National Bureau of Standards. The two standards are part of a group of 51 now available through the bureau's program to establish new and improved radioactivity standards. (Radioactivity Standard Samples, National Bureau of Standards, Washington 25, D.C.)

Soviet research laboratories for study on the use of **isotopes and radiation in agricultural science** increased tenfold between 1952 and 1957, according to a U.S.S.R. publication. The 119-page volume, translated by the U.S. Department of Commerce, reviews Russia's basic achievements in agricultural science during the past 40 years and discusses plant breeding; plant pests and diseases; veterinary science; fodder production; reclamation; and rural electrification. (Office of Technical Services, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington 25, D.C. Order No. 60-51199. Price: \$1.25)

Chemists and chemical engineers able to do **abstracting of research publications on chemistry** are needed, especially those with a knowledge of one or more foreign languages. There is a special need for abstractors of German patents and Russian research publications. The individual's field of chemistry, language or languages, and available time are considered in the assignment of papers for abstracting. (Charles L. Bermier, *Chemical Abstracts*, Ohio State University, Columbus 10)

A new booklet, "How to Donate Your Body for Medical Science," reports the need for **bodies for research**; lists states which have laws assuring a donor that his bequest will not be nullified by the next-of-kin; describes a bequest procedure in which a standard form provided by most medical schools is used; and discusses common funeral and burial procedures. (National Society for Medical Research, 920 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago 5)

Descriptions of 70 new **viral and rickettsial agents** currently available for distribution are contained in a recently published supplement to the 1959 catalog of the American Type Culture Collection. Copies of the 1959 catalog, containing descriptions of 153 strains previously available from the ATCC, may also be obtained on request. (American Type Culture Collection, Viral and Rickettsial Registry & Distribution Center, 2112 M St., NW, Washington 7, D.C.)

Three new **standard samples of titanium**, containing three different levels of hydrogen, are now available from the National Bureau of Standards. The new materials are part of a series