the manner and scope of its activity."

In response to inquiries, the Swiss embassy in Washington offers a mimeographed reply, which concludes that prospective members of the Institute might find it "advisable to consult one of the standard works of reference listing international learned societies."

Among the most highly regarded of these are the *World of Learning* and the *Yearbook of International Organizations*, neither of which lists the International Institute of Arts and Letters. —D.S.G.

Overhead Costs: House Bill Would Cut Down the Bookkeeping

A House Government Operations Subcommittee has acted favorably on a bill (H.R. 6984) designed to reduce the bookkeeping now required in computing overhead allowances on federal research contracts with educational institutions.

Under the present arrangement, a provisional overhead allowance is paid under each contract and adjustments are made on the basis of an audit at the end of each fiscal period. Some university officials have argued that their overhead costs—costs not directly associated with a specific project—are relatively stable, and that the periodic audits are costly and unnecessary.

The proposed revision would permit overhead costs to be fixed on the basis of an institution's past experience, eliminating the periodic audits and adjustments.

The bill was introduced by Congresswoman Julie B. Hansen, of Washington, at the request of the National Federation of College and University Business Officers Associations, which was set up to look after the interests of educational institutions involved in government work. The Bureau of the Budget and the General Accounting Office have offered no objections to the bill, and its prospects would seem to be quite good. An identical bill, S. 1586, is awaiting hearings in the Senate before that body's Government Operations Committee.

The bill deals only with bookkeeping procedures and has no bearing on the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare's 15 percent overhead limitation, which has long nettled universities doing research for HEW and its principal subsidiary, the National Institutes of Health.—D.S.G.

Announcements

Discovery of one of the last predicted antiparticles of matter—the **anti-xi-minus**, or anticascade hyperon ($\bar{\Xi}^-$)—was announced simultaneously last week by teams of physicists in the United States, Switzerland, and France, thus further confirming the theory that there is an antiparticle for every known elementary particle. The new antiparticle, the heaviest of the 30 predicted elementary particles to be observed thus far, is a positive charge with a lifetime of approximately 1/10 millimicrosecond (10^{-10} second). As it decays, it disintegrates into a positive pion and a neutral antilambda hyperon, which, in turn, decays into an antiproton and positive meson. This complex decay mode gives rise to the term "cascade."

Secondary particles (or antiprotons) —produced by high-energy acceleration of protons—annihilate in bubble chambers where the tracks they leave are photographed in order to calculate the particles' various energies and masses. Early this year, photographs of the xi antiparticle were found and measured independently at Brookhaven National Laboratory, after 34,000 bubble-chamber photographs had been scanned, and at CERN, the European Nuclear center in Geneva, after 85,000 photographs had been studied. The two laboratories agreed to publish the announcements related to both experiments simultaneously in the 15 March issue of *Physical Review Letters*. Other organizations involved in the experiment include Yale University; Saclay, the French nuclear research center; and the Ecole Polytechnique in Paris.

Although existence of the antiparticle has been proved, information still must be obtained on its mass, spin, and other properties.

The German Federal Ministry for Refugee Affairs reports a total of 1606 **refugee scientists and educators** from East Germany since the beginning of 1958. Of these, 513 had been professors, lecturers, or teaching assistants at East German universities.

Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

Applications are being accepted for the 1962 **Fulbright awards** for university lecturing and advanced research in Latin America, the Pacific Area (Australia and New Zealand), and South and Southeast Asia. Eligibility requirements are U.S. citizenship, a minimum of 1 year of college teaching experience (for lecturing); or a doctoral degree or recognized professional standing (for research). In certain cases, a knowledge of the language of the host country is necessary. Deadline: *15 April.* (Conference Board of Associated Research Councils, Committee on International Exchange of Persons, 2101 Constitution Ave., Washington 25, D.C.)

Three 1-year internships in **medical librarianship** are available at the University of California (Los Angeles) Biomedical Library. Applicants must be U.S. citizens and graduates of accredited library schools. The program, sponsored by the U.S. Public Health Service, has been approved for level II certification by the American Library Association. Deadline: *1 May.* (Louise Darling, Biomedical Library, UCLA, Los Angeles 24)

The University of Michigan's Mental Health Research Institute is offering postdoctoral fellowships in the **mental health sciences**, such as neurochemistry, neurophysiology, and other biological fields. Applicants must have received their Ph.D. degree within the past 3 years, or their M.D. within the past 6 years. (Norman S. Radin, Mental Health Research Institute, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor)

Courses

Senior biologists and medical researchers are eligible to attend a summer laboratory course in **techniques and applications of the electron microscope**, to be offered at Cornell from 12 to 28 June. Deadline for applications: *1 May.* (Benjamin M. Siegel, Rockefeller Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.)

Massachusetts Institute of Technology will offer a 1-week course on **signal detection and identification: theory of human observers** from 30 July to 3 August. The program is intended for those interested in research in psychophysics, design of man-machine systems, and in teaching general and engineering psychology. (Summer Session Director, Room 7-103, MIT, Cambridge 39)