text of the club they become 'distinguished,' and this seems to have a benign influence on their behavior."

This does not mean that it is not prefectly possible to function in Washington's top science circles without being a member of the Cosmos Club. It is. David Lilienthal (a member), if his memoirs are a reliable guide, managed to get through his entire term as chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission without visiting the club more than a handful of times, and some of the chief scientific advisers of the Johnson Administration, as well as many strategically placed civil servants, are not members. Nor does it appear to be particularly disruptive if the chief of an agency is not a club member while some of his subordinates are. But the large number of notables who collect there every day is ample indication that, in general, membership in the club is a decided aid to performing well in this city. (Last year, a frustrated scientist, asked whether he had been quoted accurately as saying that the only way to find out what was going on in space experiments was to sit around the Cosmos Club, replied, "No, that's simply one of the better ways.") What applies to domestic science circles also applies to international ones. The scientific attaché of a foreign embassy will do his job much better if he is one of the few given special visitor's privileges at the club, simply because he will be in a better position to know what is going on.

A Role in History

Next to the business lunch or dinner, the most common use of the club is for informal group sessions, either in its private rooms or in the stately public lounges. If men want to talk about conservation, the war on poverty, life on the moon, or the Chinese bomb, and if they want to do it unimpeded by the amenities of a social gathering or by pressure to pay the check and move along, chances are good that they will choose the Cosmos Club. In the old days these all-male gatherings produced such events as the founding of the National Geographic Society (still closely tied to the Cosmos Club by sentiment and an informal overlapping of directors) and the establishment, during World War I, of the National Research Council as a means of helping the government mobilize science for the emergency. Most of the original NRC officers were Cosmos Club members, and the same can be said of the officers of almost every institution which has supplemented the NRC in the realm of science-government affairs. More recently the club served as an intellectual proving ground for the wartime advisory staff charged with overseeing development of the atomic bomb, and as a meeting place for those debating the creation of the National Science Foundation. One longtime club officer, pressed for an opinion on which government scientific activities could be most closely linked with the Cosmos Club, discovered that he could not think of a major decision affecting science that was *not* connected with the club in one way or another. How many minor projects have grown out of even more casual encounters between men who meet by chance at the special table set up for unaccompanied members, or who share the club's overnight facilities on trips to Washington for professional meetings or consultation with the government, one cannot even begin to guess.

Although the uncommercial quality of life at the Cosmos Club is what endears it most to its members, this occasionally makes things trying for the club managers and other employees, who perform a wide range of services for the members, running from arranging a square dance for someone's teenage daughter to catering a black-tie dinner for a visiting science minister. Most of this the club staff takes in very good grace. If they get fretful, for example, at the sight of one elderly member sitting himself down at a table for eight when a party of seven is anxious to be served, in general they are tolerant of the members' foibles and pleased to be serving such illustrious masters. (One of the managers, discussing an observation frequently made to him that the club attracted "a very good class of help," said, "it is not true that they are very special to begin with, but they *become* a good class by working here.")

As for the members, they appear to take in stride the idiosyncrasies of their colleagues, smiling tolerantly and following the club's unwritten rule that members seeking peace and quiet should not be disturbed. In general, the members take an affectionate view of the club, regarding whatever defects they discover with charity. This is particularly true of the food which, though generally abused by the members, is frequently quite creditable. The idea seems to be more or less, "if we cared about mere *food* we could go to the Jockey Club or La Salle du Bois, but we come here in search of more than food and have our minds on higher things." But the Cosmos Club is about as ascetic as the Palace of Versailles, and for a group such as the scientists, who like to act as if they were only a generation away from the garret, the overall effect is exceedingly comfortable, if not actually lush. The lushness, like the other attributes of this establishment, is regarded as essentially a private affair. To those who would criticize or protest, the Cosmos Club would simply reply in the words of St. Benedict that hang near the main lobby and serve as the unofficial motto:

"If any pilgrim monk come from distant parts if with wish as a guest to dwell in the monastery, and will be content with the customs which he finds in the place, and do not perchance by his lavishness disturb the monastery, but is simply content with what he finds, he shall be received for as long a time as he desires. If, indeed, he find fault with anything, or expose it, reasonably, and with the humility of charity, the Abbot shall discuss it prudently, lest perchance God had sent him for this very thing. But, if he have been found gossipy and contumacious in the time of his sojourn as guest, not only ought he not to be joined to the body of the monastery, but also it shall be said to him, honestly, that he must depart. If he does not go, let two stout monks, in the name of God, explain the matter to him."

—ELINOR LANGER

Fermi Award: Rickover Honored; Selection Signals Some Changes

Vice Admiral H. G. Rickover has been named to receive the Atomic Energy Commission's Enrico Fermi award for 1964. The Fermi award, which consists of a gold medal, a citation, and, this year, $25,000, is made by the commission after consideration of recommendations by the AEC's General Advisory Committee. Presidential approval is required.

As winner of the award, Rickover is cited "for engineering and administrative leadership in the development of safe and reliable nuclear power and its successful application to our national security and economic needs."

Rickover, since the war, has played

a prominent part in work on naval nuclear propulsion systems and has won national recognition for his role in the development of the nuclear submarine. He is also regarded as an important contributor to civilian nuclear power technology through his leadership in the project which produced the Shippingport Pressurized Water Reactor.

Since 1947 Rickover has served in the double capacity of manager, naval reactors for the AEC and assistant chief for nuclear propulsion in the Navy's Bureau of Ships. Rickover has also gained wide public notice as a critic of education and has written a number of articles and three books on the subject.

The naming of Rickover as recipient of the Fermi award marks a change in award criteria, so that not only scientific achievement may be recognized, as in the past, but also contributions to engineering and technical management in the development of atomic energy. Other winners of the award, besides the original recipient, for whom the award was named, have been John von Neumann, Ernest O. Lawrence, Eugene Wigner, Glenn T. Seaborg, Hans A. Bethe, Edward Teller, and J. Robert Oppenheimer.

The commission also decided to reduce the annual award to the level of $25,000—the sum of the original award to Fermi—from the $50,000 of other years. Both the change in the monetary award and the broadening of criteria are regarded as having been influenced by a move made early this year in Congress by the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy to exert stronger control over the prize (*Science*, 20 March).

—JOHN WALSH

Announcements

A **Yale-Columbia observatory**, financed by a $750,000 grant from the Ford Foundation, has been established at El Leoncito, in western Argentina. The program will be similar to one being carried out in the Northern Hemisphere at the University of California's Lick Observatory at Mt. Hamilton, California. The installation will open a great portion of the southern sky to accurate measurements of stellar motion that are impossible from the Northern Hemisphere, increasing the value of data obtained by the Lick instrument. The telescopes will overlap in an area of about one-third of the sky. Because of the slow movement of the stars against the background of galaxies, it is estimated that 25 years will be required to make precise measurements of the motions. Between observations, the astrograph (a twin-lensed, wide-angle telescope) will be used for other studies, such as measurement of faint nearby stars, observation of selected asteroids, and observations of planetary satellites, particularly those of Jupiter and Saturn.

The observatory is operated by a board of directors appointed from the two universities. The research program is directed by Dirk Brouwer, chairman of the Yale department of astronomy and director of the Yale Observatory, and Lodewyk Woltjer, chairman of the Columbia department of astronomy and director of that university's Rutherford Observatory. Further information on the project is available from either.

Meeting Notes

A call for papers for the Sixth Symposium on **Engineering Aspects of Magnetohydrodynamics** has been issued. The symposium is scheduled 21–23 April in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and will be sponsored by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, the University of Pittsburgh, and the Carnegie Institute of Technology. Topics to be covered include: magnetohydrodynamic power generation and propulsion, controlled thermonuclear plasmas, flight magneto-aerodynamics, plasma properties and diagnostics, plasma waves and oscillations, and components and materials for magnetohydrodynamic purposes. Deadline for 800-word abstracts for 20-minute presentations: *14 December*. Deadline for 800-word abstracts for 10-minute presentations: *11 January*. (E. Reshotko, Program Chairman, Division of Engineering, Case Institute of Technology, Cleveland, Ohio 44106)

The 27th national meeting of the **Operations Research** Society of America is scheduled 6–7 May in Boston, Massachusetts. Papers are invited in the general fields of modern statistical decision theory, stochastic models in marketing, structure of investment decisions, systems engineering and operations research, practical theories of inventory control, operations research in real-time computer systems, design of command and control systems, transportation system, earth sciences applications in operations research, and experimentation in operations research. Deadline for 200-word abstracts in duplicate: *1 January*. (David M. Boodman, Arthur D. Little, Inc., Acorn Park, Cambridge, Mass. 02140)

Papers are being solicited for a symposium on **Terrestrial Radioecology**, sponsored by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission's division of biology and medicine. It is scheduled 3–5 May in Richland, Washington. Topics to be included are the status of environmental radiation and radioactivity; radionuclides in the first trophic level; cycling and redistribution of radionuclides by ecological processes; recent developments in methods for investigating ecological problems; effects of radiation on plant populations; and effects of radiation on animal populations. Deadline for 100- to 200-word abstracts: *15 December*. (Frank P. Hungate, Symposium Chairman, Biology Department, Battelle Memorial Institute, Pacific Northwest Laboratory, Richland, Washington 99352)

The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics will sponsor a **propulsion specialists** conference 14–18 June in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Papers are being solicited for the conference, and topics to be included are the following series: air breathing propulsion, liquid rocket propulsion, nuclear propulsion, propellants and combustion, and solid rocket propulsion. Deadline for 500- to 1000-word abstracts in duplicate: *4 January*. (Carl Builder, Aerospace Corporation, 2400 East El Segundo Boulevard, El Segundo, California)

The theme of the second space congress sponsored by the Canaveral Council of Technical Societies will be "**New Dimensions in Space Technology**." It is scheduled 5–7 April at Cocoa Beach, Florida, and papers are being solicited in all aspects of space science in the areas of systems, equipment, techniques, and associated fields. Deadline for 100-word abstracts and 500- to 1000-word summaries, in quadruplicate, together with author's position, title, affiliation, and brief biography: *1 January*. (L. E. Mertens, RCA-Missile Test Project, M. U. 741, Bldg. 423, Patrick AFB, Florida)

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