a much lower incidence than Chinese of cancer of the nasopharynx. South Chinese have migrated in great numbers, and the study of the variation of cancer patterns in migrant populations may yield etiological clues. It would be significant if it were possible to demonstrate, for instance, that among those who migrated to California cancer incidence fell—and there is some indication that it has among the second and third generation. Such a result would not rule out a genetic factor, but would encourage the search for other factors. IARC does plan such a population study, and also contemplates research on the possible role of adenovirus in human nasopharyngeal cancer.

Liver cancer is unusually common in some parts of Africa. Suspicion has collected around aflatoxin, which appears to be a waste product of fungi associated first with peanuts. Research indicates that aflatoxin is a powerful liver carcinogen. Peanuts are an important source of protein in diets of people in areas where liver cancer incidence is high in Africa. Blaming aflatoxin makes an attractive theory, but work establishing the tie has been done largely by agricultural and veterinary researchers. The problem of relating aflatoxin to human disease has hardly been touched. It is not easy to design an experiment to test the hypotheses, but it is to solve this sort of problem that IARC was formed.

In cooperation with the Tropical Products Institute in London IARC will try to answer the question whether a given population is demonstrably exposed to aflatoxin. An area near Nairobi where peanuts are a staple item in the diet has been chosen, and a field station is being established there. A chemist will be part of the field team seeking to learn what people actually eat in the area and, therefore, what to sample and analyze. A scheme of sampling food ingested will run for 2 years. Some 2000 specimens a year from kitchens will be taken and analyzed by random selection and at different seasons. The disposal of waste and spoiled food will also be watched. If a meaningful average level of intake of aflatoxin can be obtained it may be possible to correlate this with the incidence of cancer in this area compared with other areas where levels are different.

In IARC's early days, when it became clear that only affluent countries were joining the special-purpose organization, misgivings were expressed

NEWS IN BRIEF

● **PROPOSED AUTO POLLUTION STANDARDS:** Regulations which would reduce the level of allowable automotive exhaust by one-third for 1970-model motor vehicles, as compared with the emission levels of 1968 models, have been proposed by Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW) Secretary John W. Gardner. The standards would require the control of 77 percent of hydrocarbon emissions and 68 percent of the carbon monoxide. The proposed regulations would also require cars and light trucks to control 90 percent of the evaporation of hydrocarbons from gas tanks and carburetors; require control of 35 percent of the hydrocarbons and 37 percent of the carbon monoxide of gasoline-powered heavy trucks and buses; and would limit smoke from diesel-powered vehicles. The effect of the standards would be to limit exhaust emissions from automobiles and light trucks to 2.2 grams of hydrocarbons and 23 grams of carbon monoxide per vehicle mile; 1968 models may legally emit 3.2 and 33 grams, respectively, per mile. HEW will accept comments on the proposed regulations through 4 February. After that date, the new standards, as amended, will become the 1970 standards.

● **CORNELL LAB SEVERANCE:** The Cornell University Board of Trustees has accepted the recommendations of a special committee and has voted to end the university's association with the Cornell Aeronautical Laboratory (CAL) (*Science*, 12 January). Among the reasons cited by the committee for its recommendations were the overlap and potential conflict between CAL's overseas research projects and the university's expanding program of international studies. CAL does applied research valued at about $30 million annually—more than two-thirds of which is performed under contract to the Department of Defense (DOD). Of the DOD contracts, about one-half are classified. The special committee, headed by W. David Curtiss, professor of law, was appointed by the Cornell trustees last summer to study the relationship of the laboratory with the university. Although faculty concern over CAL's classified research was one of the reasons for the study, the committee did not directly cite such research as basis for its recommendation.

● **DENTAL X-RAYS:** The American Dental Association, which defended dental x-rays during congressional hearings on radiation as "an essential component of the modern dental practice," has advised dentists that x-rays "should be kept at a minimum and should only come after careful consideration of both the dental and general health needs of the patient." Eleven recommendations on dental x-rays were listed in the February issue of the *Journal of the American Dental Association*. The association also emphasized that x-rays should not be conducted periodically or be a part of every dental checkup.

● **NEW PUBLICATIONS:** The National Science Foundation has released two new publications. *Scientific Activities of Nonprofit Institutions, 1964,* is the result of NSF's first broad survey of nonprofit institutions with the exception of hospitals and voluntary health agencies. According to the report, nearly 1600 institutions, of the 4700 surveyed, reported some type of science program. In 1964, operating expenditures for research and development by independent nonprofit organizations totaled $610 million—two-thirds of which was financed by the federal government. The second report, *Scientific and Technical Personnel in the Federal Government, 1964,* is a survey of scientific and technical personnel employed by the federal government. Both studies are available from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.; the nonprofit study costs 60 cents; the personnel study costs 30 cents.

● **COMMISSION ON ENGINEERING:** The Commission on Engineering Education will be dissolved by 1 March 1969 and its functions will be assumed by a newly established committee within the National Academy of Engineering. The commission was founded in 1962 as an independent organization to develop programs for the improvement of undergraduate education in engineering. The membership of the new Committee on Engineering Education in the academy is the same as that of the board of directors of the commission. John R. Whinnery, University of California, Berkeley, is chairman of the board of directors of the commission and of the committee.