

bers of the drug sciences division act as contract officers and serve generally as the bureau's contact with the scientific community. Basic research devolves mainly on the National Institutes of Mental Health. NIMH had established a link with BDAC under a memorandum of understanding which is now being renegotiated. (This alliance and expanding NIMH research on marihuana will be the subject of a later article.)

During hearings on the reorganization plan, members of Congress expressed misgivings about possible loss of a solid science base when the new agency was lodged in the Justice Department. BDAC veterans apparently have been reassured by the attitude of Justice officials, particularly of Attorney General Ramsey Clark, who, one such veteran observed, has been "very solicitous of the science and education side of the house."

The impending change in administration, however, seems to have created even more than the usual quadrennial

uncertainty in the new agency. During his campaign, president-elect Richard Nixon promised sterner measures in dealing with the drug problem, and many in the bureau are wondering what is coming under a new Attorney General, because, as one man in the bureau said of Nixon, "He talked as if he didn't know we existed."

Outside the bureau there is some apprehension about a proposed "omnibus" drug law being worked on in Justice. The bill would unify and presumably rationalize the dual structure of narcotics and dangerous-drug legislation. Reportedly the new bill would grade drugs into categories on the basis of their dangers and provide penalties accordingly.

The draft omnibus bill, however, is already being called the "ominous" bill by some researchers who feel that a traditional enforcement approach may so dominate the bill that the law may present an obstacle to use of drugs in research and treatment. The bill is not nearly in final form, but there will

obviously be some active lobbying by scientists and physicians, many of whom feel that the stringencies of the Harrison Act and other narcotics laws scared the scientific community away from research on narcotics at a social cost which is only now being appreciated,

—JOHN WALSH

RECENT DEATHS

Bushrod W. Allin, 69; former chairman of the department of economics in the U.S. Department of Agriculture graduate school; 18 November.

Millicent T. Bingham, 88; a geographer and conservationist who devoted her life to writing, and to the preservation of wildlife; 1 December.

William L. Dolley, 81; emeritus professor of biology at the University of Buffalo; 6 November.

Ellsworth P. Killip, 78; retired head curator of the Smithsonian Institution's botany department; 21 November.

William D. Lotspeich, 48; executive secretary-designate of the American Friends Service Committee and former chairman of the department of physiology at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry; 28 November.

George H. Nelson, 46; a microbiologist and staff assistant to the division chief in the technical information division at Fort Detrick; 28 November.

Alvin V. Pershing, 68; former professor of physics at Oklahoma State University and associate of Lockheed Missile & Space Division; 17 November.

Erwin J. Raisz, 75; authority on cartography and former visiting professor at Clark University, the University of Virginia, and the University of British Columbia; 1 December.

Allan E. Settle, 53; director of public relations for the Manufacturing Chemists Association; 27 November.

Mary L. Sherrill, 80; professor emerita of chemistry at Mount Holyoke College; 27 October.

Amos M. Showalter, 76; professor of biology at Madison College; 11 November.

Paul A. Siple, 59; former science adviser in the Office of the Chief of Research and Development, Department of the Army, and noted polar explorer and geographer; 25 November.

William M. Wallace, 56; director of the department of pediatrics, Case Western Reserve University; 9 November.

Ground Broken at Batavia (Weston)

Ground-breaking ceremonies for the first research building for the projected \$250-million 200-Bev proton accelerator near Batavia, Ill., were held on schedule on 1 December. However, the undertaking will have to operate this year on a considerably smaller budget than its partisans had hoped for.

Government officials say that the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) had originally wanted \$75 million for construction in fiscal year 1969. After some persuasion by the administration, AEC requested \$25 million for 1969, but Congress gave them about half—\$12 million—plus authorization to spend a 1968 carryover of \$2.5 million.

While AEC officials say the cutbacks this year "are not severe" and that plans for the national accelerator laboratory "are on schedule," administration sources say that the AEC will need a much larger appropriation in fiscal 1970 if it hopes to maintain its schedule, which calls for the completion of the entire laboratory by mid-1973. An appropriation near \$100 million next year is hoped for.

The name of the laboratory, which is located about 30 miles west of Chicago, near Batavia, Ill., has been changed from the Weston Accelerator to the National Accelerator Laboratory near Batavia. The official reason is that there is no longer a community of Weston, since AEC administration offices now occupy many of the buildings in the community. The name Weston may also have been expendable because it carries a reminder of the competition over choice of the accelerator site and of a civil rights furor over a lack of open housing in the area.

The first new building will house the 500-foot linear accelerator (LINAC) which will give protons a boost in energy to 200-million electron volts in the accelerator system; it is expected to be completed in about 14 months. Unless funds are seriously curtailed, AEC officials hope to have the whole accelerator in operation by mid-1972.

The National Accelerator Laboratory will be administered by the AEC and operated by the Universities Research Association, which includes 48 member universities.—MARTI MUELLER