

Americans, roughly one in three, are infected with the tubercle bacillus.

"The sharp decline in death rate, one of the most dramatic and best publicized recent developments, seems a less glorious victory when it is realized that last year about 16,000 persons died from tuberculosis, a preventable disease."

British Research Budget

Britain is devoting 60 percent of her budget for scientific research and development to national defense. The figure is 34 percent for the United States.

On a proportional basis, Britain probably is spending as much of the wealth she produces each year on research and development as the United States, if not more. Altogether, however, U.S. expenditures on civil research and development are 10 times as great as those of the British.

These figures were given at the recent meetings of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. They had been compiled by Ernest Rudd of the intelligence division of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

Abortion in the U.S.S.R.

On 23 Nov. 1955 the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. passed a decree repealing the prohibition on abortion that had been in force for almost 20 years. This is the third time in the 39 years of its existence that the Soviet Union has changed its stand on the question of permitting or prohibiting abortion on other than "therapeutic" grounds. Soviet legislation on abortion falls into four distinct periods: 1917-20, in which abortions were illegal, even on medical indications; 1920-36, in which abortions were legal provided that certain conditions were met; 1936-55, in which abortions again were illegal, except on certain medical indications; and 1955 to the present, in which abortions are again legal.

Radiation in Monkeys

A long-term research project to study the effects of atomic radiation on monkeys throughout their entire lifetime will begin at the University of Wisconsin this year. The study will be started with an initial grant of \$172,500 from the National Institutes of Health; this amount will finance work during the first year of the program.

To house the project, the Wisconsin Alumni Foundation has agreed to construct a \$250,000 addition to the ARF building, which is used by the university's

Primate Laboratory. Rent on the addition, to be used exclusively for the radiation project, will come from overhead on federal contracts.

The project will have two broad purposes: to learn the direct effect of radiation damage upon the physiological function of the various organs; and to use radiation as a tool in studies of aging. The research will be directed by Harry Harlow, director of the Primate Laboratory; John Z. Bowers, dean of the University of Wisconsin Medical School; D. Murray Angevine, professor of pathology; Van R. Potter, professor of cancer research; Robert F. Schilling, professor of medicine and cancer research; and Paul H. Phillips, professor of biochemistry.

News Briefs

■ Three American astronomers went to the U.S.S.R. this month to attend the dedication of the Buraken Astrophysical Observatory of the Armenian Academy of Sciences, in Russian Armenia, 8-24 Sept., and to participate in a symposium on nonstable stars that was held during the same period. The group included Nancy G. Roman of the Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, D.C.; George H. Herbig of the University of California's Lick Observatory; and Jesse L. Greenstein of the Mount Wilson Observatory of the California Institute of Technology.

■ A telephone that transmits pictures along with sound so that users may see each other on a 2- by 3-inch screen has been developed by Bell Telephone Laboratories. The instrument is the first system of its kind to use a pair of ordinary telephone wires. It has been in operation on an experimental basis between New York and Los Angeles.

■ The Australian Government has announced that it will undertake the first marsupial census ever made. The survey will begin in New South Wales, where there are more than 40 marsupial species. The animals range in size from a 3-inch mouselike marsupial to the great gray kangaroo that measures 6 feet. The settlement of the country and the introduction of the fox have been fatal to many species, some of which have entirely vanished, while others have been so reduced in numbers that they are on the verge of extinction.

■ Members of the British North Greenland Expedition were permitted to sleep at any time during the 24-hour Arctic night, and they went to bed and took naps at all times. However, when the amount of sleep was totaled up for a

month, it was found that each man averaged a conventional 7.9 hours of sleep per day. H. E. Lewis and J. P. Masterton of the Medical Research Council, London, reported these findings at the recent meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

Scientists in the News

WESLEY T. HANSON, JR., head of the color photography division of the Eastman Kodak Research Laboratories, Rochester, N.Y., has been selected as the first recipient of the Herbert T. Kalmus gold medal award of the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers. The medal is awarded for "outstanding contributions in the development of color films, processes, techniques or equipment useful in making color motion pictures for theater or television use." Presentation will take place 9 Oct., during the society's 80th convention at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, Calif.

WARREN E. WILSON, George Westinghouse professor of engineering education at Pennsylvania State University, has been appointed dean of the Pratt Institute School of Engineering.

DONALD H. HALE, colonel in the Chemical Corps, U.S. Army, and commanding officer of the Chemical Warfare Laboratories, Army Chemical Center, Md., retired on 31 Aug. He was awarded a Certificate of Achievement for 32 years of superior service to the Army and the Chemical Corps. His command of the Chemical Warfare Laboratories climaxed a long association with research and development.

He received his Ph.D. in physics in 1940 from the University of California. Among his assignments in the Army were chief of the U.S. Army Radiological Defense School; chemical officer of the 7th Army, European Command; commanding officer of Dugway Proving Ground, Utah; chief of the Research and Development Division, Office of the Chief Chemical Officer. Hale has been appointed technical assistant to the manager of the Central Engineering Department of Food Machinery and Chemical Corporation in San Jose, Calif., effective 1 Oct.

BRUNO J. WOJCIK has been appointed manager of research and development for the industrial chemicals division of the Olin Mathieson Chemical Corporation. He joined the company in 1950 and has served in various research capacities. Two other new appointments are BERNARD H. NICOLAISEN, assistant manager of research and development in charge of the division's labo-