Although usually the rates of cultural and social change are slow, planned action, particularly if it is in harmony with ongoing changes, may serve to accelerate them. Although no single measure is likely to restore the balance between labor supply and demand in the engineering profession, utilization of the potential source of womanpower offers one of the most effective solutions to a problem which is likely to persist for many years to come.

References and Notes

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News of Science

Device for Measuring Radiation

A new and relatively inexpensive device for world-wide comparisons of x-ray measurements, intended eventually to contribute to uniform standards and to help control the medical irradiation of populations, will soon be made generally available through the cooperation of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization, and the U.S. National Bureau of Standards.

The radiation measurement project received the endorsement of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation at its session in New York in October 1956. The committee found that diagnostic radiology and radiotherapy now constitute in some countries the principal source of artificial radiation, in amounts approximately equal to natural radiation. The fact that many countries have no primary standards of x-ray measurement was recognized as a serious problem after studies of radiation demonstrated that populations may be subjected to more radiation from medical radiology than from fallout or effects of nuclear waste disposals.

Not only do many countries have no primary standards, but they have had no opportunity to check the standards they use against the primary standards in use in scientifically more advanced countries. To meet this problem, the National Bureau of Standards in Washington, D.C., has developed an ionization chamber and accessory equipment that UNESCO and WHO will circulate to countries that request it. Specialists in the operation of the instruments will also be provided. The National Bureau of Standards plans to have the equipment available for circulation very shortly.

UNESCO's participation in the program was approved by the organization's General Conference at its recent meeting in New Delhi, and UNESCO plans to finance the use of the equipment in countries requesting it under the general program of aid to member states. The cost of the equipment itself is small—on the order of $2500—and UNESCO now plans to purchase a second set from the National Bureau of Standards. In that case, one set probably could be sent to Asia for circulation among nations of that area.

Public Health Training

The Public Health Service has announced that it is ready to accept applications from public health workers for graduate or specialized training for the 1957–58 academic year under the special training legislation voted by Congress last July.

In the President's budget, submitted 16 Jan., $2 million is requested for the program in fiscal year 1958 to give additional training to physicians, sanitary engineers, nurses and other professional people who are now working in public health or who are interested in entering this field. Congress voted $1 million for the first year of operation of the program, and more than 300 traineeships have been awarded, either directly by the Public Health Service or through grants to the training institutions. This includes 16 physicians, 150 nurses, 33 health educators, 25 sanitary engineers, 26 sanitarians, 11 laboratory workers, 10 dentists, and 9 veterinarians.

The traineeships provide, in addition to academic costs and fees, stipends covering living expenses for the trainee and legal dependents. Applicants are urged to submit their applications *by 1 Apr.*, if possible. Information regarding the program is being made available by the service's Bureau of State Services, Division of General Health Services.

Maya Excavation

Gordon F. Ekholm, associate curator of archeology at the American Museum of Natural History, has left for Tabasco, Mexico, where he will lead the second phase of an archeological study of the ancient Maya that is being sponsored by the museum. He plans to continue work begun last spring at Comalcalco in southeastern Mexico. This city, an important center of the pre-Colombian world, thrived from about A.D. 500 to 900. There are some partially preserved buildings still standing at the site but most of the constructions that once existed have been reduced to mounds of earth.

The work at Comalcalco is part of a long-range project to learn more about western Tabasco and the whole Isthmus of Tehuantipec region, an area of potentially great importance to Middle American archeology. The site at Comalcalco is the most westerly of the big Maya cities dotting southeast Mexico and Guatemala and, therefore, represents the farthest penetration of Mayan civilization in that direction. It also enjoys the distinction of being the only archeological site in the New World built entirely of fired brick.

During the first phase of the investigations, carried on last spring, two important buildings were excavated: a palace and a temple. In addition 1700 pounds of pottery, fragments of stucco sculpture,