slavia merely states that some action would be useful, whereas Spain and Colombia are willing to pursue the matter further. Australia and Sweden say that the question is already being discussed by organizations in their respective countries, while certain other countries—namely, Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, and Denmark—state frankly that the problem is too vast to be solved as a whole, although certain types of intermittent publications, for example, university doctorate theses in Belgium, are now being documented.

However, according to Hungary, Norway, Finland (in part), India, and Japan, national intermittent publications are already documented; Japan is willing to take steps to make the documentation complete. Great Britain considers that nearly everything of importance finds its way into a recognized publication and is therefore documented in the usual way.

This opinion is not shared by Canada, who suggests that few, if any, intermittent publications ever appear in the abstract journals. France considers it sufficient that all publications must be deposited in the National Library and that the CNRS endeavors to document everything of importance. The Austrian reply was concerned with the production of intermittent publications by scientific societies rather than with their documentation.

It is obviously unwise to try to draw any general conclusions when only 17 national adhering bodies have replied, but the information obtained so far shows such a great diversity of approach to a common problem, that it seemed useful as an interim indication of the kind of information that the committee is collecting.

Darbaker Prize in Phycology

The Darbaker Prize Committee of the Botanical Society of America will accept nominations for an award to be announced at the annual meeting of the society in 1957. Under the terms of the bequest, the award is to be made for meritorious work in the study of the algae, particularly the microscopic algae. The value of the 1957 prize will depend on the income from the trust fund that supports it, but the amount is expected to be about $150.

The committee will base its judgment primarily on the papers published by the candidate during the last two full calendar years previous to the closing date for nominations. Only papers published in the English language will be considered.

Nominations for the 1957 award, accompanied by a statement of the merits of the case and by reprints of the publications supporting the candidacy, should be sent *before 1 May* to the chairman of the prize committee, George F. Papenfuss, University of California, Berkeley, Calif.

NSF Funds Available

The Division of Biological and Medical Sciences of the National Science Foundation has announced that the next closing date for receipt of research proposals in the life sciences is *15 May*. Proposals received after the May closing date will be reviewed following the fall closing date of *15 Sept*.

In addition to funds for the support of basic research in the life sciences, limited funds will be available during the current fiscal year for the support of research facilities and programs at biological field stations. Inquiries should be addressed to the National Science Foundation, Washington 25, D.C.

Microfilm Cameras for Libraries

A new microfilm camera that has been developed by Atherton Seidell and H. F. Flemer is being given free to research libraries on condition that the libraries substitute microfilms for interlibrary lending of original publications. Flemer is a specialist in microfilms who is in charge of the photoduplicating service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Seidell, to whom inquiries should be addressed, can be reached at 2301 Connecticut Ave., NW, Washington, D.C.

With the new microfilm camera the illumination, time of exposure, aperture of the lens, and development of the exposed film are all definitely fixed in advance, so that no adjustments of the unit are needed to get good microfilms of the usual library publications. Microfilm copying may therefore be performed by library employees who have had very little special training. Seidell and Flemer also have developed a small inexpensive microfilm viewer.

Taxonomy of the Actinomycetes

The Society of American Bacteriologists, through its Subcommittee on the Taxonomy of Actinomycetes, has received grants from industry to support fundamental research on the taxonomy of actinomycetes. The aim of the program is to foster research in this field and to encourage the training of people in the taxonomy of this group. The ultimate objective is to stimulate the publication of monographic treatments of the actinomycetes and the unification of this material for a system of identification. The companies that have so far made financial contributions to the project are Abbott Laboratories; Bristol Laboratories, Inc.; Chas. Pfizer and Company, Inc.; Eli Lilly and Company; Lederle Laboratories; Merck Sharp and Dohme; Parke, Davis and Company; and Upjohn Company.

The committee would welcome requests for support of work that deals with a phase of actinomycete taxonomy. Applications should be sent to the temporary chairman of the committee, Prof. K. L. Jones, Department of Botany, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.

Fishery Studies

Under the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, the funds allotted for market, technologic, and biological research and for the development of American commercial fisheries has been increased by almost $3.6 million. With the $3 million currently allotted for this work, the total now available for the fiscal year ending 30 June 1957 is almost $6.6 million. The sum will be administered by the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries in the Department of the Interior.

History of Science Prize

An annual award of $250 has been established by Henry and Ida Schuman of New York for an original prize essay in the history of science and its cultural influences. This competition is open to undergraduate and graduate students in any American or Canadian college, university, or institute of technology. Papers submitted for the competition should be approximately 5000 words in length, exclusive of footnotes, and thoroughly documented. It is hoped that the prize-winning essay will be suitable for publication in *ISIS*, the journal of the History of Science Society.

It is the wish of the donors that "history of science and its cultural influences" should be broadly interpreted. The papers—which should in each case be original contributions to learning—may deal with the ideas and accomplishments of scientists in the past; they may trace the evolution of particular scientific concepts; or they may study the historical influences of one branch of science upon another.

The phrase "cultural influences" is taken to include studies of the social and historical conditions that have influenced the growth of science, or the effects of scientific developments upon society in the realms of philosophy, religion, social

thought, art and literature, economic progress, and so forth. Essays dealing with medical subjects are not acceptable, although papers dealing with the relations between medicine and the natural sciences will be welcomed.

Papers submitted for competition should be sent *before 1 June* to the chairman of the prize committee, Prof. Harry Woolf, Department of History, University of Washington, Seattle 5, Washington. The announcement of the prize-winning essay will be made at the annual meeting of the History of Science Society, which occurs in December each year.

Atomic Insurance

Protection up to $60 million against liability and personal property damage claims will be provided for each atomic energy unit in the country by the three insurance syndicates. The syndicates are the Nuclear Energy Property Insurance Association, which will provide maximum coverage of about $60 million for each reactor unit; the Nuclear Energy Liability Insurance Association, which will grant coverage to those eligible for personal liability insurance up to about $50 million; and a third syndicate now nearing completion, which will issue up to $15 million to cover both personal and property liability arising from any possible incidents that might be attached to the operation of private nuclear facilities.

Although the syndicates will provide the necessary basic coverage for atomic insurance, additional protection is needed. The cost of a catastrophic accident might be considerably higher than $60 million. A bill now on the Congressional calendar calls for the United States to pay, in return for a reasonable charge to the atomic energy units, up to $500 million for damages above the amount covered by private insurance.

Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants

Dissension over the provisions of the current edition of the *International Code of Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants (1952)* has prompted the International Union of Biological Sciences to activate its International Commission on the Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants. The commission is composed of eight representatives each of horticulture, agriculture, and forestry, plus a chairman and rapporteur général. American members of the commission, which held its first meeting in Utrecht, 22–24 Nov. 1956 under auspices of IUBS, are Martin Weiss (agriculture) U.S. Department of Agriculture, Elbert L. Little (forestry) U.S. Bureau of Forestry, and George H. M. Lawrence (horticulture) Bailey Hortorium, Cornell University.

Scores of proposals for changes in the present code had been studied previously and were voted on at this session. Paramount among the decisions adopted unanimously was that to retain the name *cultivar* as the international term for all cultivated variants (reserving the technical term *varietas,* and its abbreviation *var.,* for the well-known botanical category), and to authorize use of the alternate term in various national languages (such as *Sorte* in German, *razza* in Italian, and *variety* in English).

The commission agreed on the need for a single code for all concerned with cultivated plants and took steps to simplify the present one. Ample opportunity will be provided all interested groups to study the new edition now in preparation, following which it will be submitted to several international bodies for endorsement and adoption. Persons desiring further information on the work of this commission or wishing to submit proposals for its consideration are invited to communicate with the secretary, Dr. Harold R. Fletcher, Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, Scotland, or any one of the aforementioned American representatives.

Union Carbide Nuclear Research Center

Plans for the construction of a nuclear research center in Sterling Forest, New York (about 40 miles from New York City) have been announced by the Union Carbide and Carbon Corporation. The major facilities on the site will include: a 5-megawatt pool-type reactor, a radioactive materials laboratory, an ores and engineering laboratory, and a building for allied research operations and administrative functions. The architect-engineer for the center is the Osborn Company in Cleveland, Ohio.

The center will be operated jointly by the Union Carbide Nuclear Company and Union Carbide Ore Company, two of the corporation's divisions. It will serve as the focal point for nuclear research activity within Union Carbide. Research programs will be geared to the study of the effects of radiation on products and processes involving plastics, gases, metals, carbons, and chemicals.

The research reactor will be a modified version of the bulk-shield testing facility pioneered by Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Smaller reactors of this type have been installed at several colleges throughout the country. The Union Carbide reactor will be designed and built by AMF Atomics, Inc., a subsidiary of American Machine and Foundry Company. A formal request for the construction permit has been submitted to the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission for approval. Completion of the research center is scheduled for late 1958 or early in 1959.

Avco Laboratory

Avco Manufacturing Corporation has started work at Wilmington, Mass., on its $15-million Research and Advanced Development Division. The facility will serve all the corporation's research and development programs and also will undertake specific projects for private research laboratories and teams. The center is expected to be in full operation by mid-1958.

Tissue Culture Fellowships

Fellowships for short courses in tissue culture are being offered by the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. Postdoctoral investigators and teachers and graduate students, as well as experienced laboratory personnel with the baccalaureate degree, are eligible to apply. The latter should be currently employed in a laboratory position and have the intention of utilizing this experience in tissue culture in a specific laboratory position upon completion of the course.

Fellowships may be used only to support study in formal courses designed to teach the principles, techniques, and application of tissue culture. Funds will be awarded for the period necessary to complete such a course, but in general the time is not expected to exceed 6 weeks.

Financial assistance will be based on the individual applicant's need. For application forms and further information, write to the Division of Professional Education, National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, 120 Broadway, New York 5, N.Y.

Positions in IGY Tracking Program

The Astrophysical Observatory of the Smithsonian Institution, 60 Garden St., Cambridge 38, Mass., is accepting applications from scientists and technicians for positions in the Optical Satellite Tracking Program of the International Geophysical Year. Qualified personnel will be assigned as observers to IGY stations in the United States and in foreign countries for periods of from 1 to 2 years. Prior experience in physics, astronomy, or electronics is mandatory and an academic degree in one of these fields is desirable. Interested persons should write to the Associate Director, Satellite Tracking Program at the address given earlier.