

were: physics 183, engineering sciences 114, mathematical sciences 86, zoology 64, earth sciences 41, biochemistry 33, psychology 25, medical sciences 20, botany 16, microbiology 16, genetics 13, anthropology 12, agriculture 9, astronomy 6, biophysics 6, general biology 2. In addition 14 awards were made in areas where the natural sciences converge with the social sciences.

Of the regular postdoctoral awards, 33 were made in the life sciences, 17 in chemistry, 15 in physics and astronomy, 13 in the mathematical sciences, 3 in the earth sciences, 2 in the engineering sciences, and 1 in areas where the natural sciences converge with the social sciences.

Fellows may attend any accredited nonprofit educational institution of higher learning in the United States or abroad. Predoctoral fellowships carry stipends of \$1600 for the first year, \$1800 for intermediate years, and \$2000 for the terminal year of graduate study. Regular postdoctoral fellowships carry a stipend of \$3800. All fellowships include additional allowances for dependents, tuition, and other normal expenses.

The foundation has also announced that 345 grants totaling \$13,853,350 were awarded during the quarter ending 31 Dec. 1956 for the support of basic research in the sciences, for conferences in support of science, for exchange of scientific information, and for training of science teachers. This is the second group of awards to be made during fiscal year 1957. Since the beginning of the program in 1951, 3166 such awards have been made totaling almost \$49,900,000.

### **AEC Aids Nuclear Technology Training**

The Atomic Energy Commission has announced approval of grants totaling \$1,193,450 to 15 American educational institutions for equipping laboratories for training nuclear scientists and engineers. The commission also has made 16 loans to universities and colleges of material such as uranium metal and neutron sources.

More than 40 proposals for grants in this category have been received by the AEC since last September. All proposals will be reviewed and evaluated, and additional announcements of awards are planned for the near future. The largest grant—\$216,950 to the University of Puerto Rico—is for the establishment there of a nuclear training center. Copies of the criteria used in evaluating institutional proposals for AEC assistance may be obtained from the Director, Division of Reactor Development, Atomic Energy Commission, Washington 25, D.C.

### **Norelco Diffraction School**

The 27th Norelco X-ray Diffraction School for research and industrial registrants who can visit the Midwest will be held in the Morrison Hotel, Chicago, Ill., during the week of 3-7 June. Registration for the course will be limited to 125 for the first 4 days and to 150 on Friday, the day devoted to actual application problems when guest speakers deal with current methods used by modern plants.

Until the final day, the sessions will consist of classroom and laboratory work during which participants discuss their problems and become familiar with the use of all equipment types. The basic subjects to be covered by well-known educators and scientists include x-ray diffraction, diffractometry, and spectrography. There will also be discussions of new high- and low-temperature camera techniques, electron microscopy, and electron diffraction.

Application for attendance at the three Norelco Diffraction Schools held last year far outnumbered the available accommodations. It is recommended that those planning to attend the coming June meetings make their reservations at the earliest possible date. There is no registration fee. For information, write to Philips Electronics, Inc., 750 South Fulton Ave., Mount Vernon, N.Y.

### **Gypsy Moth Eradication**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced plans for a federal-state cooperative spray program this spring to eradicate the gypsy moth from almost 3 million acres of forest land in parts of New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. Spraying against this destructive forest pest from the air with DDT is scheduled to begin on about 15 Apr. and will continue to mid-June. The insecticide will be applied at the rate of 1 pound in 1 gallon of light oil to each acre treated. In area, this will be the largest single aerial spraying job ever conducted in the United States.

About \$5 million have been appropriated by state governments and the Federal Government for gypsy-moth control and eradication programs in the nine northeastern states during the current season. More than half of this amount will be used in the federal-state spray program along the southern and western periphery of the area generally infested with gypsy moth. In addition, state control operations will continue in other infested portions of the nine states.

The combined program calls for eventual complete eradication of the gypsy moth. By defoliating trees, the gypsy moth caterpillar destroys millions of

board feet of valuable timber and does great damage to forest and shade trees in recreation areas, on watersheds, and around homes. If left uncontrolled, the pest would threaten hardwood forests from Maine to the Ozark Mountains in the south-central United States.

### **Chinese Birth Control Measures**

The Associated Press has reported that the People's Republic of China has announced that it is starting a large-scale birth-control program. In addition, physicians are now permitted to perform abortions and sterilization operations when patients request them. The new program was described by the Minister of Health, Li Teh Chuan, in a speech to the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference that was broadcast by the Peking radio. China's population is estimated at more than 600 million; it is increasing by about 15 million persons a year.

### **Proposed Legislation**

Of the many bills introduced in Congress, some have a special relevance to science and education. A list of such bills introduced recently follows:

S 872. Provide school-construction assistance to states; establish a program of scholarship aid and long-term loans to students in higher education; provide facilities assistance to institutions of higher education; provide a 30-percent credit against Federal individual income tax for amounts paid as tuition or fees to certain public and private institutions of higher education; provide assistance to and cooperation with states in strengthening and improving state and local programs for diminution, control, and treatment of juvenile delinquency; study use of conservation programs to provide healthful outdoor training for young men; establish a Youth Conservation Corps. Humphrey (D Minn.) Senate Labor and Public Welfare.

S 844. Provide program of national health insurance. Murray (D Mont.) Senate Labor and Public Welfare.

HR 3865. Provide for further research and technical assistance required for control of mosquitoes and other arthropods capable of adversely affecting the health and welfare of man. Rogers (D Fla.) House Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

H Res 130. Authorize creation of a Select Committee on Problems of Aging. Powell (D N.Y.) House Rules.

HR 3764. Provide program of national health insurance. Dingell (D Mich.) House Interstate and Foreign Commerce.