Atomic Energy, composed of representatives of Brazil, Canada, France, India, the U.S.S.R., the United Kingdom, and the United States. The agenda and rules of procedure for the conference were sent earlier this year, along with formal invitations, to all members of the United Nations or of affiliated specialized agencies. Titles and abstracts of papers to be presented at the conference are to be submitted *by 1 March 1958* and the full texts *by 1 June*.

Allergy Fellowships

The American Foundation for Allergic Diseases has announced the availability of 2-year postdoctoral fellowships in research and clinical allergy. The stipend for the first year is $4500; second year, $4750; laboratory and travel expenses for the 2-year period, $750. Candidates must be graduates of approved medical schools and must have completed 1 or 2 years of the graduate training required as a preliminary to certification by the Boards of Internal Medicine or Pediatrics.

Requests for applications should be sent to Dr. Colin M. MacLeod, University of Pennsylvania, 820 Maloney Clinic, 36th and Spruce Streets, Philadelphia 4, Pa. Applications should be filed no later than *15 December*.

Research Support in Engineering Schools

The National Science Foundation reports that in 1953–54 more than one-fourth of the cost of research and development conducted by colleges and universities was spent by engineering schools. Their share of a total of $300 million in research expenditures by academic institutions was $75 million. Of this amount, about $55 million represented government research support, chiefly through contracts with the Department of Defense.

These figures are given in *Funds for Research and Development in Engineering Schools, 1953–54,* which is No. 7 in the NSF series of *Reviews of Data on Research and Development*. Copies of the report may be obtained by writing to the National Science Foundation, Washington 25, D.C.

Berkeley Program for Public Health and the Social Sciences

A new research program designed to acquaint doctoral candidates from the fields of public health and the social sciences with the problems and practices of each other's profession has been established at the University of California, Berkeley. The work will be directed by L. Knutson, former chief of the behavioral studies section in the General Health Services Division of the U.S. Public Health Service, Washington, D.C.

The first participants in the Berkeley program will be four doctoral candidates in public health who will undertake research in behavioral science. There are about 2000 local public health departments in the United States, but there are probably less than 50 public health workers who have been trained at the doctoral level in the behavioral sciences. There is an ever-increasing shortage of this type of public health leader, and this is one of the first programs specifically organized to satisfy the need.

Office of Critical Tables

Guy Waddington, chief of the thermodynamics branch of the U.S. Bureau of Mines Petroleum Experiment Station, Bartlesville, Okla., has been named director of the newly established Office of Critical Tables at the National Academy of Sciences–National Research Council. The new office will seek to make more readily available to science and industry the large quantity of numerical data about the physical properties of chemical substances which are being collected and confirmed by independent research groups in universities, industry, and government.

The independent data-reporting groups will continue to perform the fundamental task of collecting and confirming the essential information. The projected contributions of the Office of Critical Tables are (i) to survey current programs for preparation of critical tables and to determine the need for new tables; (ii) to encourage the reporting groups to provide these tables on a continuing basis (iii) to suggest uniform standards of presentation; and (iv) to maintain a current indexing and directory service.

The contemplated body of information is so vast that—for the present, at least—there are no plans to assemble all data in a single set of volumes. It is anticipated that the total budgets for all cooperating independent groups will approach $1 million a year.

The new operation grew out of a report submitted by an Academy–Research Council committee in 1955. The committee had been asked to assess the practicality of revising the International Critical Tables, a compilation of similar numerical data published as a series of volumes from 1926 to 1933 under the auspices of the NAS–NRC. The report of this initial committee stated that the extent to which recent research had revealed new data, increased the accuracy of current data, and opened up completely new areas of investigation made revision appear unwise. The report also pointed out that there was a need for a new approach to accommodate the accumulation of unorganized data and the multiplicity of publications. The solution offered was the present program of the Office of Critical Tables.

An Executive Committee for the Office of Critical Tables was established under the chairmanship of Allen V. Astin, director of the National Bureau of Standards, to formulate policies for the new enterprise. Representatives were selected from the four divisions of the Academy–Research Council most concerned: chemistry and chemical technology, Frederick D. Rossini of Carnegie Institute of Technology; physical sciences, Robert B. Brode of the University of California; engineering and industrial research, Fred B. Llewellyn of Bell Telephone Laboratories; and earth sciences, Francis Birch of Harvard University. This committee will continue to serve as a policy-making group. (At present the Division of Engineering and Industrial Research is represented by Edgar C. Bain, division chairman.)

Mathematics TV Series

"Adventures in Number and Space" is the title of a new educational TV film series designed to make mathematics interesting to secondary school students. The program, which will start on 10 November, was conceived by the Westinghouse Broadcasting Company and prepared with the cooperation of the department of mathematics at Columbia University Teachers College. It will star Bill Baird and his Marionettes, and will be aimed primarily at junior high school students. The series will first be seen over the WBC TV outlets in Boston, Baltimore, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, and San Francisco, but the films will be made available at no cost to educational TV stations elsewhere.

Physics of Fluids

In January 1958 the American Institute of Physics will publish the first issue of *The Physics of Fluids*. F. N. Frenkiel, of the Applied Physics Laboratory, Johns Hopkins University, will edit the new journal with the aid of an 18-member editorial board. *The Physics of Fluids* will start as a bimonthly and will become a monthly as soon at it appears desirable. The journal will contain original papers on significant research results that have not been reported elsewhere.

Correspondence on editorial matters should be addressed to: F. N. Frenkiel,

The Physics of Fluids, Applied Physics Laboratory, Johns Hopkins University, Silver Spring, Md. Subscription information may be obtained from the American Institute of Physics, 335 E. 45 St., New York 17, N.Y.

South Pole Snow Pit

The International Geophysical Year Committee of the National Academy of Sciences has announced that a snow pit dug at the Amundsen-Scott IGY South Pole Station had reached a depth of 50 feet on 1 October. The pit, which has been dug by hand during the Antarctic winter, serves a dual purpose: the successive levels of snow laid bare provide an unspoiled record of climatic and other history, and the snow itself is melted for the station's water supply.

The snow in the pit is so hard that even saws cannot be used. The snow must be chipped loose with mattocks or ice axes and then shoveled into bags and hauled to the surface. Each man at the station spends a minimum of 2 hours every week either cutting or hauling snow. An 18-degree ramp is maintained to provide access to the pit.

The temperature in the pit is nearly constant at $-60°$F, while at the surface a record temperature reading of $-102.1°$F was recorded on 17 September. During the period 11 May to 17 September, South Pole temperatures were lower than $-95°$F 17 times.

A study of snow stratification, combined with examination of snow crystals and density, yields a history of the Antarctic. For example, traces of ash may indicate that a volcanic eruption took place hundreds of years ago, and pollen deposits provide a clue to past wind systems. Paul Siple is scientific leader at the Pole station, where there are eight other scientists and a similar number of Naval personnel.

New Miniaturization Award

Miniature Precision Bearings, Inc., has announced that entries are now being accepted for the first annual Miniaturization Award, a competition established to recognize outstanding contributions by an individual or firm which further the concept of miniaturization. The award, sponsored by M.P.B., is being administered by an independent committee of specialists representing industry, government, and education.

Award entries are being judged by the following sets of criteria: (i) products, components, or parts which show outstanding ingenuity in solving problems, make use of new design concepts and special materials, and develop new-type components or parts that extend the frontiers of miniaturization; (ii) individuals, companies, or organizations which have broadened the horizons of miniaturization by creating a better understanding and use of the concept through education, research, engineering, and standardization.

Entries outlining contributions toward the concept of miniaturization should be submitted to the Awards Committee, Miniature Precision Bearings, Inc., Precision Park, Keene, N.H.

November Scientific Monthly

Articles appearing in the November issue of *The Scientific Monthly* are as follows: "Measuring Geologic Time," A. Knopf; "Aspects of Insect Flight," B. Hocking; "Vitalistic Mechanistic Controversy," L. F. Koch; "How Adequate Is the World's Food Supply?" R. W. Phillips. Twelve books are reviewed.

News Briefs

A new building that will house the Hunter Radiation Therapy Center, a joint enterprise of Yale University and the Grace–New Haven Community Hospital, is under construction at the Yale–New Haven Medical Center. The building also will provide space for an extension of the existing Laboratory for Medicine and Pediatrics.

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Ground-breaking ceremonies for the new Irene Walter Johnson Institute of Rehabilitation of the Washington University Medical Center were held on 16 October. The structure, which will cost about $725,000, is expected to be completed within 15 months.

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When the Soviet satellite was announced, the Boulder, Colo., division of the National Bureau of Standards was one of the few U.S. laboratories properly instrumented to study its 20- and 40-megacycle radio signals. Boulder scientists had been observing radio energy emitted by the star Cygnus; by an adjustment of equipment, they were able to monitor *sputnik* almost from the outset.

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The Office of Test Information of the Atomic Energy Commission (Nevada Test Organization) at 1235 South Main St., Las Vegas, Nev., has closed. Inquiries about tests and related matters can now be directed to Office of Information, Albuquerque Operations Office, P.O. Box 5400, Albuquerque, N.M.

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Two $5000 fellowships, one for Egyptological studies and one for Islamic studies, are being offered by the American Research Center in Egypt, a nonprofit organization affiliated with the Archaeological Institute of America. Applications must be filed *before 1 March* with Mrs. Elizabeth Riefstahl, Executive Secretary, American Research Center in Egypt, 489 Huntington Ave., Boston 15, Mass.

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Key activities of the International Geophysical Year, such as the study of earth satellites, scientific expeditions to Antarctica, and the coordination of weather data, are described in the September issue of the *Courier,* published by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. The entire issue is devoted to the 18-month IGY program.

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Aeronutronic Systems, Inc., a new Ford Company subsidiary on the West Coast, has bought a 200-acre mesa near Newport Beach, Calif., where it plans to build an extensive research and development center. The first unit to be constructed will be a series of aerothermochemical laboratories for the investigation of problems associated with the design of advanced missile systems.

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A study of sensory deprivation is being carried out by the Psychiatry Service of Boston City Hospital, Boston, Mass. Philip Solomon, physician-in-chief in the Psychiatry Service, reports that the research team in his unit would very much like to hear from anyone else doing work on sensory deprivation.

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Texas Instruments Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Texas Instruments Incorporated, of Dallas, Tex., has opened its new plant in Bedford, England, for the manufacture of transistors and other semiconductor devices. The plant is the first Texas Instruments manufacturing facility to be established outside the United States.

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The University of Alabama has received title to 136 acres of Government land, valued at $176,000. Approximately 90 acres of the area, which is approximately 3 miles from the main university campus, are to be developed by the biology department into an arboretum that will be used in the department's teaching and research program. E. Gibbes Patton has been named director of the aboretum.

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The U.S. Public Health Service has reported that by the end of this year's poliomyelitis season only 1576 paralytic cases had been reported, compared with 7886 cases in 1955 and 5241 cases last year. This year's total represents an 80 percent reduction in paralytic cases in the past 2 years.