to 26.5 in 1950. The United States birth rate was 24.2 per 1000 in 1926; fell to 19.4 by 1940; rose to 26.0 in 1947; and since 1950 has stabilized at around 25.

From 1950 through 1955, the rate of natural increase—the difference between the birth rate and the death rate—has been slightly higher for the U.S.S.R. than for the United States. In 1955 it was 1.7 in the U.S.S.R. and 1.6 in the United States.

The annual rate of increase in the U.S.S.R. is high compared with that in most of the countries to the west (France, 0.6 percent; Sweden, 0.5 percent; West Germany, 0.5 percent; United Kingdom, 0.4 percent). It is much lower than the rate in many underdeveloped countries, where the death rate has recently declined rapidly and birth rates have remained high. (The following countries have annual increases of approximately 3 percent a year: Ceylon, Egypt, Malaya, Algeria, and Mexico.)

The bureau's comparison of the two nations' death rates shows fairly parallel downward trends in the postwar years due to medical advances. That Russia's death rate of 8.4 in 1955 was lower than that of the United States (9.3) can be attributed to the relatively younger population of the Soviet Union. The Soviet's total population estimate of 200.2 million as of 1 April 1956 came as a surprise to western demographers, who had estimated the Russian population was considerably higher (216 million).

Soviet Metallurgy

The board of governors of Acta Metallurgica, the national organization which publishes the first technical magazine devoted exclusively to the science of metallury, has announced that beginning in January 1958 it will publish English-language editions of two Russian journals on metallurgy. A contract has been signed by Acta Metallurgica with the Pergamon Institute, a nonprofit foundation for the dissemination of scientific literature, to publish English editions of *The Physics of Metals and Metallurgy* and *The Journal of Abstracts—Metallurgy.*

A recent grant of $23,710 was received by Acta Metallurgica from the National Science Foundation to help defray the cost of preparing the English-language editions of the Soviet journals. Copies of the translations will be made available to technical libraries throughout the western world and to members of the 22 technical societies which participate in Acta Metallurgica. The first editions will be translations of the January 1957 issues of both Russian publications. It is estimated that the English editions of the two monthly publications will total approximately 1500 pages per year.

Radiation Effects Information Center

The Radiation Effects Information Center has been established by the Air Force at Battelle Memorial Institute, Columbus, Ohio, to gather and disseminate data concerning the effects of nuclear radiation on materials and systems that may be required in aircraft of the future. While the center has been organized to support the Air Force's nuclear-propelled aircraft program, its services are being extended to the Army, Navy, Atomic Energy Commission, and other Government agencies, as directed by the Air Force.

Initially, Battelle has assigned a 20-man team of specialists to the new unit. Coordinator of the center is Battelle's C. B. Voldrich, with Robert I. Leininger and Carl J. Lyons serving as assistants. Gilbert F. Arthur of Wright Air Development Center is the task engineer.

Color TV to Teach Mathematics

The first experimental use of color television to teach an academic subject was announced recently by the Advisory Board of Education of the National Academy of Sciences. Using the new closed-circuit color TV facility at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, the University of Maryland is offering 26 lectures on the concepts of calculus to a group of in-service high-school teachers of mathematics and science in the Washington, D.C., area.

The experimental value of the course has been greatly aided by a supporting grant from the Fund for the Advancement of Education of the Ford Foundation. The grant will enable the NAS to introduce a second innovation in audio-visual aids to teaching—color kinescopes of the televised lectures. These color kinescopes provide an opportunity for comparison of various techniques and are essential to evaluation of the experiment. They will later be made available to other suitably equipped institutions for further evaluation tests with student audiences.

Analgesic Drug Awards

The Institute for the Study of Analgesic and Sedative Drugs has announced that applications by research investigators for support of projects to be developed during the fiscal year beginning 1 July 1958 are now being considered. The institute is a nonprofit organization established for the purpose of obtaining basic biological and clinical information on the commonly used non-narcotic analgesic and sedative drugs, including aspirin, acetanilid, acetophenetidin, antipyrine, aminopyrine, N-acetyl p-aminophenol, and the bromides.

The deadline for the filing of applications by prospective research investigators is *28 February 1958.* Information concerning grants and applications for grants may be obtained by writing to The Institute for the Study of Analgesic and Sedative Drugs, Myrtle and McNaughton Streets, Elkhart, Ind.

The African Bushman

The Peabody Museum of Harvard University and the Smithsonian Institution are sponsoring a 6-month expedition to the Kalahari Desert in Africa. The expedition, which is expected to reach its destination sometime this month, will be the last of six visits to study the Bushmen, a small race of people who are an ethnic island in the middle of southern Africa. They live on a sparse basin plateau. They have no husbandry or agriculture but depend instead on hunting and gathering for their food supply.

The recording of native life on film and sound tape was initiated by the first expedition to these remote people, and continued by the other four. Approximately 250,000 feet of film has already been used, and this final expedition is expected to bring the work to a close. In addition, hundreds of reels of tape recordings of music and language have been made.

Eventually the study of the Bushmen will be contained in 25 documentary films. While there have been other films of primitive peoples and cultures, this will be the first time that a definitive work has been done entirely in this medium. The present expedition will fill in gaps in the material now at the Peabody Museum.

The Bushmen are a group distinct from the Bantus, who live all around them. They are short in stature, with extremely curly "pepper corn" hair. Their skin, while dark, has red hues not found among other African peoples. Their language and religion are also distinctive.

They live in small tribal groups of 30 to 100 persons, with a simple family and political organization. The ablest hunter often has the role of leader, though this is thought to be as much a chore as an honor.

The Bushmen have had almost no contact with the outside world. When the first Harvard-Smithsonian expedition arrived, most of the Bushmen saw