

in statistics under a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation. The awards, which range from \$3600 to \$5000, are intended for investigators whose primary field is not statistics but one of the physical, biological, or social sciences to which statistics can be applied. The closing date for application is 15 February. For information, write to the Department of Statistics, Eckhart Hall, University of Chicago, Chicago 37, Ill.

**Therapy.** The American Therapeutic Society is accepting nominations for the Oscar B. Hunter memorial award, which is given annually to recognize an outstanding contribution, or series of contributions, to therapy by an individual or by a team of workers. The term *therapy* is used in a broad sense to include the use of any drugs, procedure, or device of benefit in the treatment of patients. Nominations must be submitted before 1 February to the chairman of the award committee, Dr. Harry E. Underleider, 393 7th Ave., New York 1, N.Y.

### Cancer Advisers

A Board of Scientific Counselors has been established by the Public Health Service to review, discuss, and make recommendations concerning the research conducted by the National Cancer Institute at the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland, and in the field.

The new board is composed of the following nongovernment scientists: Wendell M. Stanley, Nobel prize winner and director of the Virus Laboratory, University of California, Berkeley, chairman; Charles Huggins, professor of surgery, University of Chicago; E. K. Marshall, emeritus professor of pharmacology, Johns Hopkins University; Carl V. Moore, professor of medicine, Washington University; Eugene P. Pendergrass, professor of radiology, University of Pennsylvania; and Philip P. Cohen, professor of physiological chemistry, University of Wisconsin.

### New York Academy of Sciences

The year ending 31 October was the most successful in the 141-year history of the New York Academy of Sciences, according to the institution's annual report. The report described 15 special conferences, attended by 6700 scientists from most sections of the world, and 123 regular meetings on a variety of subjects ranging from electron diffraction to astrophysics to cancer. Fifty-six other societies also held 312 meetings at the academy during the year.

Publication of transcripts of meetings

and conferences, and of programs, was an important part of the academy's activities: 23 monographs, totaling 4601 pages, recorded 391 papers by 653 authors. Academy transactions accounted for 770 additional pages of type. Thirty-one volumes, in all, were published.

Though sale of publications was a major source of income for the academy, it was second to membership fees. The academy had a net increase in membership of 1869 during the year. Members are concentrated in the New York area, but also represent all 48 states, four U.S. possessions, and 65 foreign countries.

### News Briefs

Britain and France have agreed to link their electric power systems by means of a cross-channel cable system. The project is expected to be completed by the winter of 1960-61. The total annual saving for the two countries is estimated at £300,000 (\$840,000). The two countries will actually gain further because they will not have to provide additional facilities to meet daily and seasonal peak demands. The times of these demands are different for each country.

An extension to Britain's Radiochemical Center at Amersham, Buckinghamshire, was recently opened to enable the center to meet the demand for its radioactive products, about 70 percent of which are exported. The improved facilities are expected to make the scale of radioactive operations about 100 times greater than before.

Irene duPont of Wilmington, Del., has given \$35,000 to Dickinson College to equip and furnish a science library in the \$650,000 C. Scott Althouse Science Building that is now under construction on the campus and scheduled for completion next August.

The Lincoln Laboratory of Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Lexington, Mass., has announced the completion, on Millstone Hill in Westford, Mass., of a very large and high-powered long-range radar. Lincoln Laboratory is engaged in electronic research on new problems of air defense and is supported by the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

Childbearing is now safer than ever before, according to the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. In 1956, when registered births in the United States reached a record high of 4,168,000, fewer than 1600 deaths due to complications of pregnancy and childbirth were reported. The 1956 maternal mortality rate of 3.8 per 10,000 live births represents a reduction of about one-half in

the last 5 years, and of about three-fourths in the last decade.

A new \$10-million United Engineering Center is to be erected on United Nations Plaza in New York to replace the present Engineering Societies Building at 29 W. 39th St. The 22-story structure, which is to be occupied in the fall of 1960, will serve as the headquarters of 16 national engineering societies with a total membership of about one-quarter of a million engineers.

Fourteen leading engineering figures will act as sponsors for the 1958 National Engineers' Week, 16-22 February. The week is under the general direction of the National Society of Professional Engineers. The group of leaders includes James R. Killian, Jr., president of Massachusetts Institute of Technology and newly appointed special assistant to President Eisenhower for science and technology.

The Maritime Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, and the Atomic Energy Commission have awarded a contract for the construction of a nuclear powered merchant ship, the *Savannah*, to the New York Shipbuilding Corporation of Camden, N.J. The ship's nuclear propulsion system will be furnished by the Babcock and Wilcox Company under a separate AEC contract.

The Armed Services Technical Information Agency, with headquarters in Dayton, Ohio, has announced the opening of the ASTIA San Francisco Regional Office in the Oakland Army Terminal. The new office is designed to furnish technical report services and assistance to Department of Defense supported research and engineering activities in the San Francisco region, including northern California and the bordering states.

### Scientists in the News

WARREN WEAVER, vice president for natural and medical sciences of the Rockefeller Foundation, and AAAS president in 1954, has received the Public Welfare Medal of the National Academy of Sciences. The medal is awarded for outstanding public service in the uses of science rather than for achievements within a particular scientific discipline.

LARS ONSAGER, J. Willard Gibbs professor of theoretical chemistry at Yale University, has been selected to receive the Lorentz Medal of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences. The