

operation of Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Appointments will be for a minimum period of two or three years. The salary range will depend on previous research experience and other qualifications. For information, communicate with the Physics Research Laboratory, Massachusetts General Hospital, Fruit St., Boston, Mass.

Gravity. The Gravity Research Foundation has announced that for the ninth year it is offering five awards for short essays on gravity. The awards will be made on 2 June for the best 1500-word paper on the possibilities of discovering: (i) some partial insulator, reflector or absorber of gravity, or (ii) some alloy, or other substance, the atoms of which can be agitated or rearranged by gravity to throw off heat, or (iii) some other reasonable method of harnessing, controlling, or neutralizing gravity. Essays must be received *before 15 April* by the Gravity Research Foundation, New Boston, N.H. The foundation will send detailed instructions on request.

Medical student research. The Lederle Laboratories Division of the American Cyanamid Company has announced that it is making available to medical schools throughout the United States and Canada its publication, *Lederle Medical Student Research Fellowships*. These fellowships, in amounts not exceeding \$600 per year for any one individual, are intended to relieve in part the financial burden of students who desire to devote their summer vacations to research in the preclinical departments. The selection of students to receive such awards will be made by the dean of the medical school, or by the regularly constituted committee of the faculty charged with such selections.

News Briefs

Beginning 31 March, the Atomic Energy Commission will no longer accept new requests for gamma irradiation service from the public when the requested service is readily available commercially. A recent commission survey indicates that at least 16 academic and industrial organizations are prepared to provide gamma irradiation service on a commercial basis. A list of these organizations, showing the gamma flux available, the number and size of samples that can be accommodated, and the approximate amount of space available, may be obtained from the Office of Industrial Development, Atomic Energy Commission, Washington 25, D.C.

The Crop Protection and Pest Control Exhibition that is being organized by *World Crops*, international journal of agriculture, will be held 12-15 May at

the Royal Horticultural Society's new hall in London. The organizers hope for a minimum attendance of 25,000, drawn from all over Europe.

Russell Cave, near Bridgeport, Ala., the oldest known site of human habitation in the southeastern United States, has been given to the Federal Government by the National Geographic Society as a national archeological monument.

As part of the safety precautions for the forthcoming nuclear tests at the Eniwetok Proving Ground, the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission has announced the danger area that will be established in the Pacific Ocean effective 5 April. The area is generally rectangular in shape and comprises roughly 390,000 square nautical miles. It is approximately the same size as the danger area used in the 1956 test series, but its east and west boundaries have been shifted approximately 120 nautical miles to the west. It is estimated that most, if not all, of the danger area will be disestablished during August 1958.

Plans for the new museum building of history and technology for the Smithsonian Institution have been approved by a Special Joint Committee of the Senate and House of Representatives, the Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, the Commission of Fine Arts, the National Capital Planning Commission, and the General Services Administration. Construction will start early next summer.

The following chemicals are wanted by the National Registry of Rare Chemicals, Armour Research Foundation of Illinois Institute of Technology, 13 W. 33rd St., Chicago 16, Ill.: 2-hydroxy-*n*-caprylic acid; α -methyl styrene oxide; *p*-dinitrosobenzene; *l*-ethylcyclohexanol; *m*-hydroxyphenylpropionic acid; mono-fluoroacetic anhydride; *n*-pentacosane; *l*-phenylcyclohexene; *n*-dotriacontane; 4-chloro-2-hydroxy-3,3-dimethylbutyric acid; pentaphenylethane; *n*-tetracosane; 2,4-dichloro-3,3-dimethylbutyric acid; mellon; cinchomeric acid (pyridine-3:4-dicarboxylic acid); α,α -dimethylsuccinic acid; 1,2-anthraquinone; diethyl disulfide; humulene; and 2-methylacrylic acid (isocrotonic acid).

A millenary celebration for Al-Mas'udi, 10th-Century Arab geographer, traveler, and encyclopedist, was held recently in India at Muslim University, Aligarh, under the joint auspices of the Institute of Islamic Studies, Aligarh, and the Indian Society for the History of Science. In addition to the many Indian papers presented, there were some 30 papers from different parts of the world,

including the United Kingdom, the United States, the Soviet Union, France, the Netherlands, Egypt, Lebanon, and Iran. Among those present from abroad were Bernard Lewis, Von Grunebaum, Myron Smith, Academician Tolstov, Nicola Ziadeh, and Said Naficy.

The Columbia Broadcasting System has announced that a televised symposium on science, "The Role of the Scientist in America's Future" will take place on 16 March from 5 to 6 P.M. Participants will include Joseph Kaplan, Howard L. Bevis, Clifford C. Furnas, and William L. Laurence of the *New York Times*.

The National Science Foundation has announced plans for a conference on "Research and Development and Its Impact on the Economy," to be held in Washington in the spring. The conference will focus attention on the economic importance of the nation's research and development activities, now estimated to account for annual expenditures of about \$10 billion, more than 2 percent of the gross national product. The effect of such expenditures in stabilizing and promoting the growth of the economy, especially in periods of recession, will be one of the principal topics of discussion.

Scientists in the News

LAURENCE H. SNYDER, retiring president of the AAAS and chairman of its board of directors, will become president of the University of Hawaii on 1 July. He is at present dean of the Graduate College at the University of Oklahoma.

MANSON BENEDICT, professor of nuclear engineering, has been appointed head of the department of nuclear engineering that is to be established at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Under the new cultural and technical exchange agreement between the United States and the U.S.S.R., HUBERT A. LECHEVALIER, an associate professor of microbiology at the Rutgers Institute of Microbiology and codiscoverer of neomycin, plans to leave for Moscow in about 6 months. Lechevalier is an assistant to Selman A. Waksman, winner of the 1952 Nobel Prize in physiology and medicine as codiscoverer of streptomycin.

In exchange, the Soviet Union has agreed to send the Rutgers Institute G. K. SKRIABIN, a ranking member of the microbiological research team directed by N. A. Krassilnikov of the Soviet Academy of Sciences. Skriabin is expected to arrive here early in March.

BALTHASAR VAN DER POL, director of the International Radio Advisory Committee in Geneva, Switzerland, will hold the Victor Emanuel professorship at Cornell University for the spring term. Van der Pol gained international prominence for his discovery of relaxation oscillations, and he has made significant contributions to pure mathematics, particularly in number theory.

HARRY WEXLER, director of the Weather Bureau's Office of Meteorological Research, has been awarded the Department of Commerce gold medal "for significant contributions to the science of meteorology in extending the knowledge of the upper atmosphere, for the direction and encouragement of a broad program of meteorological research, and for outstanding leadership in the 1957-58 International Geophysical Year program." Wexler is chief scientist of the U.S.-IGY Antarctic Program.

HENRY G. HOUGHTON of Massachusetts Institute of Technology has received the American Meteorological Society's Award for outstanding services to the society. He was honored "for his important contributions to the growth of the American Meteorological Society through his guidance as president, as secretary, and his unfailing service in Council and Committee work."

Navy Distinguished Public Service Awards, the highest honor the Secretary of the Navy can bestow upon civilians, were presented recently to the director and four members of the staff of the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, Silver Spring, Md. At the same time Navy Meritorious Public Service Citations, the second highest honor, were presented to four other members of the laboratory staff. All the awards were made for work on the Terrier guided missile.

Those who received the Distinguished Public Service Awards were RALPH E. GIBSON, director of the laboratory since 1947; ALEXANDER KOSSIAKOFF, assistant director for technical operations; HENRY H. PORTER, assistant director of planning; RICHARD B. KERSHNER, supervisor of the Terrier division; and ROBERT C. MORTON, supervisor of the Terrier weapons system group.

Those who received the Meritorious Public Service Citations were ALVIN R. EATON, Jr., supervisor of the aerodynamics group; RICHARD T. ELLIS, supervisor of the Terrier development and test group; ROLAND W. LARSON, the supervisor of the Terrier electronics group; and THOMAS W. SHEPPARD, assistant supervisor of the Terrier division.

JOSEPH S. MITCHELL, Regius professor of physics at the University of Cambridge (England), will deliver Harvard University's annual Dunham lectures on 10, 12, and 13 March on "Studies in Radiotherapeutics."

SAVERY F. CONEYBEAR has been named to the newly created position of director of new products development at the Colgate-Palmolive Company, New York, N.Y. He was formerly a director of research in the company's research and development department.

FINN BRUDEVOLD, director of dental research at the Eastman Dental Dispensary and assistant professor of dental research at the University of Rochester, has been appointed professor of dentistry at Harvard University and chief of dental medicine at the Forsyth Dental Infirmary. His appointment will be effective on 1 August. Brudevold will participate in the new postdoctoral program in dental education being undertaken jointly by Harvard and Forsyth that makes available to outstanding students the opportunity of training for a career in academic dentistry.

VINCENT G. FITZSIMMONS, consultant of the Naval Research Laboratory, has been awarded the Meritorious Civilian Service Award, the Navy's second highest award, in recognition of his "role in the development of new lubricant systems for both military and industrial uses."

HENRY K. BEECHER, Dorr professor of research in anesthesia at Harvard Medical School, lectured recently before the Royal Society of Medicine in London. Also, he has been invited to be one of the chairmen at a symposium, to be held 24 and 25 March in London under the sponsorship of the Wellcome Trust, on quantitative methods in human pharmacology and therapeutics.

EDMUND A. PRENTIS, who took his degree in mining engineering at Columbia University in 1906, has been selected as the recipient of the 1958 Alexander Hamilton Medal of the Association of the Alumni of Columbia College. The Medal, which will be presented at a dinner at the university on 30 April, is given annually to a former student or a member of the college faculty "for distinguished service in any field of human endeavor." Prentis, for many years a member of the New York engineering firm of Spencer, White and Prentis, has been a director of many important engineering projects, including the 1950 reconstruction of the White House and construction of tunnels for New York subways.

MANUEL F. MORALES, former head of the physical biochemistry division of the Naval Medical Research Unit at Dartmouth College, has assumed his new position as professor of biochemistry at Dartmouth Medical School. LAFAYETTE H. NODA, DOROTHY JEAN BOTTS, and SIDNEY A. BERNHARD, have been appointed associate professors of biochemistry to collaborate with Morales.

ALLAN R. A. BEEBER has been appointed vice president for research and development for the Arkwright Finishing Company, Fiskeville, R.I. He was formerly director of research for the Keuffel & Esser Company in Hoboken, N.J.

Recent Deaths

JOSEPH E. AVENT, Knoxville, Tenn.; 79; retired professor of educational psychology at the University of Tennessee; former president of Martha Washington College at Abingdon, Va.; 12 Feb.

BELA C. BALAS, Newton, N.J.; formerly a physician in New York; had been an associate professor at Loyola University in Chicago for 16 years; 16 Feb.

AARON BESNER, Bronx, N.Y.; 36; nuclear physicist; had been working on the development of a nuclear-powered locomotive for the Walter Kidde Nuclear Laboratories, Garden City, N.Y.; 14 Feb.

JOHN H. CLEWELL, Montclair, N.J.; 71; retired associate director of E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co. research laboratory in Arlington; 11 Feb.

ARCHIBALD EDGAR, Yonkers, N.Y.; 64; mechanical technician with Columbia University's cyclotron laboratories in Irvington, N.Y.; 12 Feb.

A. S. GIORDANO, Sarasota, Fla.; 65; pathologist and serologist of South Bend, Ind.; for 30 years director of the South Bend Medical Foundation; performed research on diagnoses of brucellosis and serology of syphilis; 15 Feb.

WALTER S. HUXFORD, Chicago, Ill.; 65; professor of physics at Northwestern University and former director of research for the National Defense Research Council; 13 Feb.

HAROLD R. MIXSELL, Locust Valley, N.Y.; 72; pediatrician; former editor of *Archives of Pediatrics*; 14 Feb.

CONSTANTINE RICCIUTI, Philadelphia, Pa.; 38; research chemist at the laboratory of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Wyndmoor, Pa.; 10 Feb.

FRANCIS E. SENEAR, Winnetka, Ill.; 68; retired professor and head of the department of dermatology of the University of Illinois Medical School; 12 Feb.