

News of Science

Economic Status of Professors

A program for the improvement of the economic status of college professors and for the maintenance of high standards is outlined in the current [Spring 1958] issue of the *AAUP Bulletin*, official publication of the American Association of University Professors. The association proposes that the "absolute highest priority in the use of available funds be given to raising faculty salaries, with the goal of doubling the average level within 5 to 10 years." This recommendation is identical with the one made to "every board of trustees, every legislature, and all others responsible for academic budgets" by the President's Committee on Education Beyond the High School in its "Second Report to the President," July 1957.

The association also proposes that administrators and teachers rate their institutions' scales of minimum salaries by reference to a table containing minimum salaries in six grades, A through F. A grade of A will be given if the following minimum salaries have been attained: professors \$12,000, associate professors \$8750, assistant professors \$6750, and instructors \$5000. Minimum salaries by ranks for grade B are \$10,000, \$7750, \$6000, and \$4500. For grade C they are \$8750, \$6750, \$5250, and \$4000; for grade D, \$7500, \$6000, \$4750, and \$3750; for grade E, \$6250, \$5250, \$4250, and \$3500; and for grade F, \$5250, \$4500, \$3750, and \$3250.

The association makes this proposal in the belief that a graded salary scale will encourage the various sections of the public to increase their support of efforts to raise faculty salaries at institutions in which they are interested. A special grade of AA is included in the table as a goal for institutions which find their present salary schedules in grades A or B. Minimum salaries in this grade are \$14,000, \$10,000, \$7750, and \$6000 for the four academic ranks.

The table of minimum salaries, which the association proposes as a guide in this self-rating system, was determined after examination of the data in two reliable studies of academic salaries recently completed. One is the latest biennial salary report of the AAUP, which

is based upon the 1957-58 salaries reported by 39 selected institutions having higher than average academic salaries in recent years.

The other study, entitled "Higher Education Planning and Management Data, 1957-58," is based upon replies from 1146 colleges and universities. It was compiled under the direction of W. Robert Bokelman of the U.S. Office of Education and published by the U.S. Government Printing Office.

These studies, together with press releases on recent salary rises, show that current (1957-58) minimum scales of American institutions are found in all grades except AA, which is a 1960 target for present grade A and B scales. Some institutions may have low grades for their minimum salaries but would qualify for much better evaluations on other scores. Anticipating this disappointment, the association recommends the publication of supplementary information on average salaries, student-faculty ratios, and instructional expenses per student.

Colleges and universities are urged to adopt the following practices in the determination of faculty salaries: (i) the preparation and announcement of a salary schedule, (ii) provision for a meaningful annual audit and fiscal report on operations, and (iii) provision for faculty consultation on the budget, either by faculty representation on institutional budget committees or through a faculty budget committee created to advise with the appropriate officers and committees.

The association also proposes that long-range planning committees composed of faculty, or having faculty representation, be established in institutions now without them. These committees should deal with the critical problems associated with quality maintenance and with expansion. They would study such problems as the limit on the number of students to be enrolled, the staff and space requirements for the planned number of students, the budgetary requirements of planned salary increases and expansion of staff and facilities, the priorities to be established among competing needs, the extent to which the institution should continue to provide education at less than cost, and the means of aiding the superior but needy student.

A fifth proposal by the association is that state or regional conferences of professors be organized in areas where conditions justify them. Such conferences would have as their objectives the encouragement of long-range planning in all area institutions, the pooling of information concerning institutional plans, and the conserving of the educational dollar by encouraging and supporting the full use of existing institutions. These state or regional conferences could also serve a liaison function between faculties and state commissions or other planning groups in the area. They would be available to collect data on higher education in the region, as needed.

The chairman of the AAUP Committee on the Economic Status of the Profession is William A. Neiswanger, professor of economics at the University of Illinois.

Science Writing at Columbia

Columbia University's Advanced Science Writing Program will start next September on a scale enlarged over that originally announced [*Science* 127, 228 (31 Jan. 1958)]. This is possible because of a 3-year \$100,000 grant from the Rockefeller Foundation. The pilot financing was a 2-year, \$70,000 grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. The combined financial support provides for six to eight fellowships the first year and ten or more in each of the two following years. Within a month of the December announcement of the program, nearly 150 inquiries and applications were received by the Graduate School of Journalism.

The stipends have been set high; they will cover, in addition to university tuition and fees, up to approximately \$4400 travel and living expenses for the academic year. It is possible that there will be one or more of what might be called "corporate" fellowships, under which a publication or industrial organization will pay the tuition and fees and make its own salary arrangements with a qualified employee during his semester or year in the program.

The program will be kept as flexible as possible to meet the individual needs of the participants. In one case, for example, a writer might want to specialize in one phase of science, and thus would concentrate his studies in that area. Another, planning a career of "general assignment" science reporting, would take courses in several areas, either to get advanced training or to acquire knowledge in fields not studied in undergraduate days.

In general the program will include participation in regular or specially arranged science courses or seminars under Columbia's faculties of pure science,

medicine, or engineering; organized study of selected research and development projects in the New York area; special meetings with both university and industrial research leaders; and special writing, some of it for publication. All participants will be expected to undertake a major research writing project in addition to regularly assigned writing.

At least for the first year, there will be no set academic, experience, or age requirements for admission, but it appears likely that the initial participants will be college graduates with good academic records and fairly broad writing experience. Each case, however, is being studied on the basis of the applicant's potential as well as past performance. It is expected the selections will be made by 1 May. Because the Advanced Program is new, detailed plans will not be completed until the participants have been selected.

It is possible that, as the program develops, the school will offer writing courses for selected graduate students in the faculties of pure science, medicine, and engineering, courses aimed at making the scientists better able to communicate with each other as well as the public. It is also possible that special short-term conferences for experienced science writers from all parts of the country can later be arranged, perhaps using facilities such as the university's Arden House, home of the American Assembly. Here the writers would live and work together—probably for 1-week periods—in a concentrated program designed to give thorough briefings on the newest scientific developments and the techniques of presenting them. Such conferences would bring together the best minds in research and development and those actively engaged in reporting.

For guidance on policy matters, the program will have an advisory board with members from the Columbia faculties, publishing, industry, research organizations, and the National Association of Science Writers. The program has been greeted with good will and enthusiasm by scientists from all over the country. Their offers of cooperation auger well for the experiment being made possible by the Sloan and Rockefeller foundations.

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Army College Program

The Army has announced that it will offer to finance 4 years of college education for soldiers who agree to stay in the service for 12 years. The program for enlisted personnel—soldiers or WAC—will be similar to that carried out in the

education of officers in past years. It will encourage career service in the Army, while at the same time making select soldiers better educated. Participation will be strictly on a voluntary basis, and a soldier who wants to get into the program will not have to sign up for the whole 12-year enlistment right at the start.

Soldiers in college will remain on active duty with their GI pay and allowances and the government will pay the education costs. Applications for the first year will be made this spring, and about 300 enlisted personnel are expected to take part.

Cattell Papers

The papers of Joseph McKeen Cattell have been presented to the Library of Congress by his son, Jaques Cattell of Lancaster, Pa. Numbering some 15,000 items, they range over his career from his years as a student at Leipzig, Germany, in the early 1880's to his retirement in the 1940's.

Correspondence concerning Cattell's editorship of the journals *Science*, *The Psychological Review* (which he founded), *The Scientific Monthly*, *Popular Science Monthly*, and *School and Society*, and the biographical dictionaries *American Men of Science* and *Leaders in Education*, makes up the bulk of the collection.

In addition, the papers include material on Cattell's research, writing, and teaching in the field of experimental psychology at Columbia University in the 1890's, his operation of the Science Press, and the activities of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, of which he was president in 1924. When they have been organized, the papers will be available for use in the manuscript division of the Library of Congress.

Index to Plant

Chromosome Numbers

The need for up-to-date coverage of the literature dealing with plant chromosome numbers has led to an undertaking designed to compile and publish in annual installments a chromosome index for the entire plant kingdom. This is being done by a group of botanists who are reviewing some 200 journals and are listing all original chromosome counts occurring therein, except those resulting from endopolyploidy or deviating because of experimental treatment.

The index, compiled from the journals of a single year, will be published annually within the shortest possible time after the last issue of each journal is available. In addition, a supplement is

planned that will contain counts published in previous years but hitherto not indexed. Each issue of the index will contain a complete bibliography for the counts included in that number.

The first issue, in part supported by a grant from the University Research Council of the University of North Carolina, will be ready for distribution in May 1958. It will cover the 1956 journals, from which more than 2000 listings have been taken. It is being produced by offset process on 8½-by-11-inch paper, punched for looseleaf binders. The price is \$1. Advance orders would be helpful in determining the number of copies to print. Orders *must* be accompanied by payment and may be sent to C. Ritchie Bell, Department of Botany, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N.C. Further information can be obtained from Marion S. Cave, Department of Botany, University of California, Berkeley 4, Calif.

Chemical Crystallography

Pennsylvania State University has announced establishment of the Groth Institute to serve as world center for revision of *Chemical Crystallography*, encyclopedia of crystal chemistry and physics. The institute will operate within the College of Chemistry and Physics under the direction of Ray Pepinsky, research professor of physics and director of the X-Ray and Crystal Structures Laboratory. John A. Sauer, head of the department of physics, will serve as the university's administrative representative.

Chemical Crystallography was issued by the great German crystal chemist, physicist, and mineralogist, Paul Heinrich Ritter von Groth, in the years between 1906 and 1919. Pointing out that Groth's compilation of crystal properties still is of tremendous value to natural scientists, Pepinsky notes that it was conceived before the discovery of x-ray diffraction and crystal structure analysis and therefore contains little information compared to that now available relating crystal structures and chemical and physical properties.

Pepinsky will serve as editor-in-chief of the encyclopedia. The editorial board will consist of chemists, physicists, mineralogists, and metallographers from all parts of the world. An advisory board will be chosen, selected from editors and special compilations of chemical, physical and mineralogical data. A board of trustees, composed of representatives from supporting agencies, also will be selected.

The first revision of the encyclopedia is expected to take at least 10 years. The first 2 years will be concerned almost entirely with data collation. Since infor-