

provide the 11 laboratories 200 research workers who will have high potential for creative research.

"GeoScience Abstracts"

GeoScience Abstracts is the new monthly abstract journal that has been started by the American Geological Institute to replace *Geological Abstracts*, which had been published by the Geological Society of America for the member societies of the AGI since 1953. The launching of the reorganized and expanded journal has been made possible through a grant from the National Science Foundation.

At the outset, *GeoScience Abstracts* will work toward complete coverage of North American geological literature; abstracts translated from the Russian abstract journal, *Referativnyi Zhurnal*, will also be included as the translations are processed by the AGI Translation Committee.

The new journal will feature organization of abstracts into 15 subject sections, and the objective is to cover geology, solid earth geophysics, and related areas of science. An effort will also be made to provide effective coverage of geologic maps.

The cooperation of all regular geology-geophysics and other scientific journals is being sought, as is the aid of all appropriate government agencies in Canada, Mexico, and the United States. Colleges and universities that publish research results are being invited to contribute. The success of *GeoScience Abstracts* will depend upon the cooperation of the profession. For subscription information, write to the AGI, 2101 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington 25, D.C.

Public-School Enrollment

Public-school enrollment in this country was approximately 1,843,000 over the normal classroom capacity of the public elementary and secondary schools as the current school year began, compared with an excess enrollment of 1,943,000 in the fall of 1957. This was shown in reports from the states in the Office of Education's fifth annual survey of public-school enrollment, teachers, and school housing (Office of Education Circular No. 551).

The number of public-school pupils in excess of public-school classroom capacity was 5.4 percent of the total enrollment in the fall of 1958, compared with 5.9 percent in the fall of 1957. Twenty-four states reported that the number of pupils in excess of public-school capacity had been reduced as school opened last fall, while 18 other

states and the District of Columbia reported an increase in excess enrollment. One state reported no change, and for five states comparisons were not possible.

The states reported a need for 140,500 additional instruction rooms, compared with 142,300 a year ago. Of the 140,500 rooms needed at the beginning of the current school year, 65,300 rooms were needed to accommodate the 1,843,000 pupils enrolled in excess of normal capacity and 75,200 to replace facilities considered obsolete or otherwise unsatisfactory.

Enrollment in the public schools increased 1,148,000 over the previous year. The states reported about 33,936,000 pupils enrolled in the fall of 1958, an increase of 3.5 percent over the previous fall.

The number of classroom teachers rose from about 1,253,000 in the fall of 1957 to about 1,300,000 in the fall of 1958, an increase of 47,000 or 3.8 percent. Overall, the pupil-teacher ratio was 26.1 in the fall of 1958, compared with 26.2 in the fall of 1957. The proportion of teachers with less than standard certificates declined from 7.3 to 7.1 percent.

Kitt Peak Observatory

Astronomers may now submit requests for use of the facilities at Kitt Peak National Observatory. Observing can probably begin about January 1960. Observing time can also be assigned to a limited number of graduate students. Subject to the availability of funds, travel expenses and subsistence will be granted to students.

The 36-inch and the 16-inch telescopes at the observatory will be equipped for ultraviolet-blue photometry with refrigerated photomultipliers. A classification spectrograph will be added to the large telescope shortly after January 1960. A ratio spectrometer is currently available on the small telescope, and a similar unit will soon be added to the large one.

Requests for further information and applications should be sent to the Director, Kitt Peak National Observatory, 1033 North Park Ave., Tucson, Ariz.

Federal Council for Science and Technology Established

On 13 March President Eisenhower signed the executive order that brought the recommended Federal Council for Science and Technology into being. The new council, which will have James R. Killian as chairman, has the responsibility of promoting coordinated policy planning for the many federal agencies

engaged in scientific and technological work. The recommendation for the establishment of the group was made last December by the President's Science Advisory Committee.

The council will be composed of eight members representing the following departments and agencies: Departments of Defense, Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, and Health, Education, and Welfare; the National Science Foundation; the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Atomic Energy Commission. In addition, the executive order authorizes the Secretary of State and the director of the Bureau of the Budget to send observers to the council meetings.

In its last section, the order states: "The council shall be advisory to the President and to the heads of federal agencies represented on the council; accordingly, this order shall not be construed as subjecting any agency, officer, or function to control by the council."

Associated Colleges of the Midwest

The Ford Foundation has granted \$525,000 to help ten private Midwest colleges launch a broad cooperative plan to improve their educational and financial problems. The grant went to Cornell College, Mount Vernon, Ia., which is the fiscal agent for the group, known as the Associated Colleges of the Midwest (ACM). The grant will cover the basic operating costs of the organization for 5 years. The group will raise matching funds to be used for special projects and later operations.

Besides Cornell College, the other colleges are Beloit (Beloit, Wis.), Carleton (Northfield, Minn.), Coe (Cedar Rapids, Ia.), Grinnell (Grinnell, Ia.), Knox (Galesburg, Ill.), Lawrence (Appleton, Wis.), Monmouth (Monmouth, Ill.), Ripon (Ripon, Wis.), and St. Olaf (Northfield, Minn.). Together, they enroll 10,000 students and have about 700 faculty members.

The aim of the ACM members is to achieve steady improvement in the quality of their educational programs through strengthening and making the best use of their available resources. The assumption is that they can accomplish some things collectively that they cannot do as well singlehandedly. Although ACM will conduct joint studies and experiments and certain joint operations, each member college will retain full independence of control over its own affairs.

The studies may cover such topics as trends in academic courses, the relation of size to costs, alternatives to the conventional academic year, utilization of facilities, the effects of varying class