

bilities of utilizing nuclear power at certain specific locations. In addition, the agency will provide ten experts for Burma, Greece, and the United Arab Republic.

The board also approved a project for the preparation, in conjunction with UNESCO, of a manual on atomic energy and its peaceful applications for use in secondary schools in member countries. The next series of board meetings will begin on 16 June.

Final Report of Advisory Committee for Aeronautics

The 44th and final report of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics was released at the end of April. The NACA, established by Congress in 1915 to coordinate and conduct aeronautical research, was absorbed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration under legislation enacted last year. The NASA took over facilities, property, equipment, and staff of the NACA on 1 October 1958.

NACA's concluding annual report contains a history of the agency, written by its last two chairmen, Jerome C. Hunsaker and James H. Doolittle. Hunsaker traced the NACA history for the first 40 years; Doolittle covered the final 4 years. In addition to the history, the 115-page report contains financial, personnel, and publications reports, plus a series of word and photo essays on various research projects.

Academic Freedom Declines

The decline of academic freedom in American universities during the 1950's is indicated by a survey that was undertaken at the request of the Fund for the Republic. Paul F. Lazarsfeld and Wagner Thielens, Jr., of Columbia University conducted the study and have recently published their findings in a volume entitled *The Academic Mind: Social Scientists in a Time of Crisis*. The report is based on questionnaire answers by 2451 social scientists associated with 165 college-level institutions.

Those queried listed 990 different instances of administrative action—most of them concerned with political conduct or belief—that resulted in 188 discharges at 102 of the 165 institutions, 40 forced resignations, 118 withheld promotions, and 99 instances of other kinds of discipline. Because of these incidents, it was found, both academic freedom and teacher morale suffered. It was reported that, while some instructors showed defiance by joining so-called controversial groups or reading controversial publications, more compromised by qualifying

their classroom statements. The latter also stopped taking part in political work, making public appearances, subscribing to certain magazines, or belonging to certain organizations.

Identification Method

A new method for rapidly identifying war or disaster victims has been developed by V. Sassouni [*Temple Law Quart.* 31, 1 (1958); *J. Forensic Sci.* 4, 1 (Jan. 1959)]. This involves eight different cranial and facial measurements taken from standard x-ray negatives. These are fed to an electronic computer, which selects the card for the proper individual from a coded file.

The great disadvantage of this novel and apparently accurate method of identification is the fact that an extensive catalog of coded individual measurements would have to be kept on file at some central agency. This might be feasible on a limited scale—for example, for the armed forces—but it seems unlikely that the method could ever be successfully applied to the population at large.

Advanced Degrees Earned, 1957–58

The Office of Education has recently released figures on the number of degrees earned in institutions of higher education during 1957–58. A comparison of these totals with those of the preceding year is provided in Table 1.

The compilation shows that, in all fields considered together, the number of degrees earned has increased by 7.5 percent as compared with 1956–57. Science registered a gain of 9.5 percent in bachelor's degrees; engineering, a gain of 13.1 percent.

There was an increase of 322 in the number of master's degrees granted in science but no significant change in the number of doctorates. Perhaps it should also be noted that biology barely retained its lead over the physical sciences in degrees granted at the bachelor level.

List of International Meetings

The National Science Foundation has announced that the first issue of the *World List of Future International Meetings* will be released in June by the International Organizations Section of the Library of Congress. This monthly calendar, which is supported by an NSF grant, will furnish a record of all meetings drawing on three or more nations that are to be held anywhere in the world during the next 3 years, giving the sponsors and the addresses of organizing committees wherever possible. The subjects will be indexed for convenient use. The new list will supersede NSF's *List of International and Foreign Scientific and Technical Meetings*, which ceased publication with the January 1959 issue.

The *World List* will be issued in two parts. Part I will be devoted to science, technology, medicine, and agriculture. Part II will record meetings in the social, cultural, humanistic, and commercial fields. The *World List* will be available from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D.C., at a subscription price to be announced.

The Library of Congress will welcome notices of any forthcoming international meetings. Please send the information, together with all inquiries about the *World List*, to: International Organizations Section, General Reference and Bibliography Division, Library of Congress, Washington 25, D.C.

Cockcroft Calls Space Program Extravagant

Sir John Cockcroft, chief of Britain's atomic research program is reported to have said that the "fantastic amounts" spent by the United States and the Soviet Union in trying to put a man into space could be better employed in medical and biological research on earth. The 1 May *New York Times* described a news conference in Melbourne, Australia, at which Sir John commented that "normal" space research was not a waste

Table 1. Earned degrees, 1956–1957 and 1957–1958.

Field	Bachelor		Master		Doctor	
	1956–57	1957–58	1956–57	1957–58	1956–57	1957–58
All	340,347	365,748	61,955	65,614	8,756	8,942
Agriculture	7,943	8,312	1,549	1,480	353	353
Biology	17,868	14,408	1,801	1,852	1,103	1,125
Mathematics	5,546	6,924	965	1,234	249	247
Physical sciences	12,934	14,352	2,704	3,034	1,674	1,655
Psychology	6,191	6,930	1,095	836	550	572
Subtotals	46,482	50,926	8,114	8,436	3,929	3,952
Engineering	31,211	35,332	5,233	5,788	596	647
Totals	77,693	86,258	13,347	14,224	4,525	4,599

of time, but that he believed the "thousands of millions being spent by the United States and Russia to get a man into space is not warranted. He said, further: "Space travel will not be of great use to humanity. I think there will be great difficulty in getting such a spaceman back to earth safely."

Summer Program for High-School Students

The National Science Foundation has announced that this summer it will support 112 Secondary-School Student Training Programs at 105 colleges, universities, and nonprofit research organizations in 35 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. This program is designed to provide secondary-school students of high ability with college-level summer work in science, mathematics, and engineering that is designed especially for them. As a result of successful experimental programs last year, the NSF 1959 summer program has been expanded to include additional institutions and represent wide geographic areas. In most instances the sponsoring institutions bear some of the costs. Total outlay by the foundation for this work this year will be approximately \$1.6 million.

Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

Neurology. The Public Health Service's National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness recently reported on the status of its Special Traineeship Program in neurological and sensory disorders and called attention to additional opportunities for advanced study and research training. Since the inception of the program less than 3 years ago, 163 persons have received from 1 to 3 years of training at 48 institutions in the United States and 16 institutions in seven foreign countries.

To qualify for an award, a candidate should have an M.D., Ph.D., or other equivalent degree, and at least 3 years of training or experience pertinent to the training for which he seeks support. The applicant either must be an American citizen or must have filed a Declaration of Intent. Traineeship awards generally are made for not less than 9 months and not more than 1 year. However, all awards are subject to renewal for periods up to 5 years. Stipends are determined individually and may range from \$6500 to \$17,500 a year.

Requests for information about the Special Traineeship Program and application forms should be addressed to: Chief of Extramural Programs, National Institute of Neurological Diseases and

Blindness, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda 14, Md.

Science teaching. As a part of the AAAS Science Teaching Improvement Program, recently extended under a new grant to AAAS from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, a limited number of grants for research projects, averaging \$1000 each, will be made to science staff members of small colleges and teachers colleges. Consideration will be given only to proposals in which pre-service science teachers will be involved in the research project. The first grants will be made early in June. For additional information, write to J. R. Mayor, Director of Education, AAAS, 1515 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington 5, D.C.

News Briefs

The complete works of the late Irving Langmuir are being collected for publication as a set of six volumes by Pergamon Press, Inc., of London and New York. Langmuir, who was associated with the General Electric Research Laboratory from 1909 until his death in 1957, was the first American industrial scientist to receive a Nobel Prize. A group of 29 scientists from many different countries will serve as members of an editorial advisory board, which will be under the chairmanship of Guy Suits, vice president and director of research at General Electric. Peter Debye of Cornell University and Sir Eric Rideal of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, are deputy chairmen of the editorial group.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has announced that the first two space sciences working groups have been formed and 13 government, university, and industrial scientists have accepted membership on them. The new groups are Orbiting Astronomical Observatories, to be headed by Nancy Roman of the NASA Office of Space Sciences, and Satellite Ionospheric Beacons, with J. C. Seddon of the NASA Space Projects Center as chairman. A number of such NASA groups are being planned under a program that is directed by Homer E. Newell, Jr., NASA assistant director for space sciences.

The first issue of the *Bulletin of the International Atomic Energy Agency* was released last month. The new publication is available in English, French, Russian, and Spanish; it will appear quarterly. The purpose of the bulletin is to disseminate information about IAEA in layman's language. Effective dissemination will depend on the extent to which the material presented is suitably reused,

for the bulletin itself will not have a mass circulation. For information write to the Division of Public Information, IAEA, Vienna, I, Kärntnerring, Austria.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology has received from Mr. and Mrs. Cecil H. Green of Dallas, Tex., a gift of \$2,527,500, for the creation of a Center for Earth Sciences. The proposed building will house laboratories for work in geophysics, meteorology, oceanography, and related fields. Green, an M.I.T. alumnus, is a vice president of Texas Instruments, Inc.

A generally downward trend in rates of mortality from heart disease among persons in middle life in the United States is reported for the 8-year period 1949 through 1956 by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. This is in sharp contrast to the generally upward trend prior to 1949. Heart disease, however, continues to be the most serious health problem among people in the 45-64 age group, accounting for two-fifths of the total number of deaths and constituting a major cause of sickness and prolonged disability. The death rate from heart disease in the United States during 1955-56 for individuals in that age group averaged 6.8 per 1000 for white males and 2.4 for white females, a ratio of nearly 3 to 1.

A ground-breaking ceremony will be held on the site of the new National Library of Medicine building on the grounds of the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md., on 12 June. Arthur S. Flemming, Secretary of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, will deliver a short address. Senator Lister Hill, coauthor of the National Library of Medicine Act, will turn the first spadeful of earth. The chairman of the Board of Regents of the National Library of Medicine, Champ Lyons, will be the chairman of the proceedings.

The United Nations has announced the extension of the prepublication period for the *Spanish edition of the Proceedings of the Second United Nations International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy* to 30 June 1959, during which time complete sets may be ordered at the special price of \$166. It is further announced that the Spanish edition of the proceedings will consist of 13 volumes, rather than the previously announced 15 volumes.

The Engineers Joint Council, representing more than a third of the nation's engineers, backed the creation of a Cabinet-level Department of Science and Engineering in a statement before the Subcommittee on Reorganization and