

views a given product in terms of volume usage, rather than avoirdupois weight. Although net weight . . . is included on the package because the law so decrees, the consumer views his purchase by so many cupsful, so many servings, or so many teaspoonsful. . . . The housewife," he declared, "is buying performance and service, in terms of usage. Fractional weights are actually of minor significance when compared to product performance."

While spokesmen for the industry have attempted point-by-point refutations of criticisms made at the hearings, various parts of the industry have taken steps which indicate a realization that the resentment expressed by consumers is intense and has now found an open channel for political action. One major chain store recently undertook a survey to make certain that its so-called large economy sizes cost less per ounce than the smaller sizes. A spokesman said it found a few that did not. And several associations of food packers have urged their member firms to reexamine their practices in the light of complaints made at the hearings.

These industry efforts will probably lead to a number of reforms which will be held up to the committee as proof that self-regulation and enlightened policies have removed whatever need there may have been for Federal action. The committee, however, has set forth consumer rationality as the value it wishes to support. The industry, by its own testimony, has come to regard this as an illusion, and whatever efforts it may make at self-control, the dynamics of the highly competitive, \$55 billion a year food business are likely to overwhelm any voluntary effort to encourage consumer rationality in the supermarket.—D.S.G.

A Boost for Educational TV

With few exceptions, educational television has been blocked from the pathways to large audiences. This has come about because the very-high-frequency band, for which most sets are exclusively equipped, is almost fully occupied by commercial stations. Educational television has a standing invitation to set up shop on the ultra-high-frequency band, but generally has been reluctant to do so because the number of UHF-equipped receivers is negligible.

Last week, the Federal Communications Commission acted to open the way for educational television broad-

casts that can be received on standard sets in the New York Metropolitan area. In an action still subject to court review, the FCC approved the sale of WNTA-TV, Channel 13, to Educational Television for the Metropolitan Area, Inc. The purchase price, \$6.2 million, has been subscribed by five commercial stations in the New York area, a number of foundations, and individual contributions. The operating expenses, estimated at \$2 million annually, will be solicited from the public.

The new station is expected to become the anchor of a thriving "fourth network" of some 50 educational television stations now in operation across the nation. These have provided elevated TV fare by pooling their resources for taped productions which they circulate among themselves. The new station's relatively substantial resources, along with the vast audience within its reach, will make this fourth network an increasingly influential force on millions of TV screens, much along the lines of what Walter Lippmann suggested when he wrote that the solution to the ills of television may be establishment of a network "run as a public service with its criterion not what will be most popular but what is good."

West Ford: Outcome Uncertain

The uncertainties of space technology have provided an anticlimax for the first attempt to carry out the controversial Project West Ford. At midweek, it appeared that the 350-million hairlike copper filaments that were carried aloft 21 October by a Midas satellite had failed to form the intended earth-circling belt.

West Ford's goal was to create an artificial ionosphere for experiments in long-range communications. Military planners regard the project as holding promise for a jam-proof communications system.

The announcement of West Ford brought protests from astronomers who contended it might interfere with radio and optical observations. Their fears were discounted by the President's Science Advisory Committee and the Space Science Board of the National Academy of Sciences.

It was reported that the canister containing the filaments apparently had separated from the satellite but had failed to discharge its load. Present plans call for another attempt if the belt fails to develop.

Announcements

A **science resources planning office** has been established by the National Science Foundation to study the nation's future needs and resources for research and education in science. The new office, headed by Richard H. Bolt, NSF's associate director of research, will use information developed in cooperation with educational institutions, industrial firms, and government agencies, and will sponsor relevant studies by other organizations, both public and private.

The American Academy of Allergy is requesting physicians to submit names and addresses of persons who experience severe **allergic reactions to insect stings**. Questionnaires on the subsequent sting history of persons in these various categories (to be completed by the patient) will enable the academy to determine how much treatment should be given, or what happens to the majority of these people if they remain untreated. (Executive Office, American Academy of Allergy, 756 N. Milwaukee St., Milwaukee 2, Wis.)

The Public Health Service's Communicable Disease Center in Atlanta, Georgia, has been designated the inter-American **arthropod-borne virus regional reference laboratory** for the World Health Organization, in recognition of the growing number of viruses carried by insects, spiders, and ticks. The new unit will offer reference diagnostic services to public health laboratories for detailed identification of arboviruses, and limited quantities of reference diagnostic materials to laboratories concerned with these diseases.

Psychologists who have recently completed research studies in **human factors engineering** under government contract are invited to submit manuscripts based on their findings for publication in the *Journal of Engineering Psychology*. (Elias Publications, P.O. Box 662, Washington 4, D.C.)

The American Board of Nutrition will hold the next examinations for **certification in human nutrition** on 8 April 1962 in Atlantic City, N.J. Deadline for receipt of applications: *1 March 1962*. (Robert E. Shank, Department of Preventive Medicine, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis 10, Mo.)

The proceedings of the 5th **World Forestry Congress** (Seattle, Wash., 29 Aug.-10 Sept. 1960) will be published early in 1962. The price for advance orders, placed prior to January 1962, is \$25. A folder describing the contents of the three volumes is available on request. (V. L. Harper, 5th World Forestry Congress, c/o Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.)

Meeting Notes

A **science writers' seminar on arthritis**, sponsored by the National Foundation in cooperation with the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, will be held in Baltimore from 5 to 6 December 1961. The seminar, planned as a backgrounding workshop, will cover current knowledge and problems in research, treatment, and epidemiology of arthritis and rheumatic diseases. Registration deadline: *10 November 1961*. (Charles Bennett, Science Information Division, National Foundation, 800 Second Ave., New York 17)

The second international congress of **radiation research** will be held in Yorkshire, England, from 5 to 11 August 1962. Papers, which must be unpublished at the time of the congress, may cover radiation physics; radiation chemistry; or radiation biology, including human radiation biology, and may be submitted in either English, French, German, or Russian. Deadline for registration (\$24) and submission of 250-word abstracts (five copies): *15 January 1962*. (Alma Howard, Mount Vernon Hospital, Northwood, Middlesex, England)

Courses

A 10-week training session for **secondary-school science teachers and supervisors** will be held in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, from 8 January to 16 March 1962. The session, designed to help participants organize science teaching in depth, will cover chemistry, physics, and other sciences, with emphasis on the development of lecture demonstrations in radiation chemistry, physics, and biology, and in atomic energy. Deadline: *25 November 1961*. (Science Demonstration Lecture Program, Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies, P.O. Box 17, Oak Ridge)

Scientists in the News

Hidden T. Cox, executive director of the American Institute of Biological Sciences, will serve a 6-month term as the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's assistant administrator for public affairs, effective in December. **John Olive**, AIBS deputy executive director, will serve as acting executive director of the society for the 6-month period.

Recent awards of the American Chemical Society:

Charles R. Hauser, James B. Duke professor of chemistry at Duke University, will receive the 1962 synthetic organic chemistry award.

George B. Kistiakowsky of Harvard University, former special assistant to President Eisenhower for science and technology, has won the Charles Lathrop Parsons award for outstanding public service.

Paul J. Flory, of Stanford University's chemistry department, has won the William H. Nichols medal.

Jack L. Strominger, of Washington University, is the 1962 recipient of the Paul-Lewis Laboratories award in enzyme chemistry.

William G. Chace, a research director at Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratory, will serve as advisory science editor for Plenum Press in New York, editing a forthcoming series in the field of high-energy pulse techniques.

Recent awards of the Botanical Society of America:

William R. Taylor, of the University of Michigan, and **F. C. Steward**, of Cornell, have been named merit award winners for their contributions to North American botany.

Paul B. Green, of the University of Pennsylvania, has won the annual Darbaker prize for his work in the study of algae.

Ernest D. Riggsby, professor of physical science at Troy State College (Alabama), has been appointed educational consultant to United States Steel Corporation.

Recent staff appointments at the University of Miami's Institute of Marine Science:

John H. Steele, biophysicist at the Aberdeen (Scotland) Marine Labora-

tory, will spend 1 year at the institute as visiting research assistant professor.

Robert J. Hurley, former underwater systems research oceanographer for Bell Telephone Laboratories, has been named research assistant professor.

Recent Deaths

W. S. Benedict, 73; dentist and former professor of dental radiology and oral surgery at Georgetown University; 17 Oct.

Edward R. Dye, 59; auto safety engineer at Cornell University aeronautical laboratory until 1958, when he founded the New Products Research and Development Engineering Company in New York; 14 Oct.

Harvey B. Haag, 61; former professor and chairman of the department of pharmacology at Medical College of Virginia; 14 Oct.

Paul R. Heyl, 89; retired physicist formerly with the Bureau of Standards, and consultant in physics and mathematics to various government and industrial projects connected with the war effort; co-inventor of the earth induction compass; 22 Oct.

Robert McKinney, 66; retired chemist formerly with the U.S. Department of Agriculture; 21 Oct.

Allan McLaughlin, 89; former assistant surgeon general of the U.S. Public Health Service; 20 Oct.

Koichi Muraji, 52; Japanese radiologist who conducted research on the victims of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings; 13 Oct.

Gustav H. Rieman, 58; professor of genetics at the University of Wisconsin; 15 Oct.

George H. Young, 52, director of research at Mellon Institute; 10 Oct.

Erratum: In the report by A. D. McLaren and R. A. Luse on the "Mechanism of inactivation of enzyme proteins by ultraviolet light (2537 Å)" [*Science* **134**, 836 (22 September 1961)], two errors occur in the values given for Φ for enzymes in the last two lines of the table. The calculated value of Φ for ribonuclease is 0.03, not 0.30. The known value of Φ for trypsin is 0.015, not 0.105.

Erratum: In the article "Radio telemetering from within the body" by R. Stuart Mackay [*Science* **134**, 1196 (20 Oct. 1961)] one line was omitted and another line was printed twice in the paragraph beginning just above the middle of column 1, page 1199. The first line of the paragraph is repeated in the fourth line. The first two sentences should have read: "The permissible radio-frequency deviation is limited to the bandwidth of the receiver if loss of signal is never to occur. Receivers can record higher-deviation signals by tracking them with a standard automatic frequency-control circuit, the frequency-discriminator signal then being the useful output (8)" (italicized words omitted).