

changes with the purse-holding Congress is a pronounced timidity on the part of Office of Education officials when they contemplate new programs. Under McMurrin, the office was widely lauded for starting a curriculum research program into better methods of teaching English literature, composition, and grammar, along the line of the successful science curriculum research programs sponsored by the National Science Foundation. Critics of the office insist that it should branch out into other curriculum studies, but the wish is not the act, since Congress, again, takes a close interest in just what the office is studying. It is widely felt that curriculum research could profitably be applied to the field of social studies, but various elements in Congress, with divergent political, social, economic, and religious views, are acutely sensitive to the fact that they may not like what emerges from a federally financed venture into social studies. The Office of Education has no desire to be daring in this regard; it has therefore gone over the matter carefully with its congressional committees and if authority is granted, which seems likely, it will undertake curriculum research in a thoroughly uncontroversial area of social studies—geography.

The type of people being considered to replace McMurrin reflect the realization that it is going to take an unusual combination of qualities to make the Office of Education an important force in American education. Ideally, the new commissioner would have the executive dynamism of Defense Secretary McNamara, the educational prestige of James Conant, and the political acumen of Sargent Shriver, who has transformed a once-doubting Congress into an enthusiastic supporter of the Peace Corps. No man combines these qualities, of course, but if one did, it is unlikely that he would want to devote his time to rebuilding the Office of Education. The salary, \$20,000, is something of an impediment, but first-class men have gone into government for less when they felt important results could be achieved. The search at present is concentrating on a number of educators who have sought or held elective office. On the basis of past experience it is not unlikely that the Administration will have to go far down its list of preferences to find a man who wants the job.—D. S. GREENBERG

Announcements

Forty secondary school students from the New York metropolitan area are taking a 6-week course at Columbia University in **computer mathematics and matrix algebra**. The course is given at the I.B.M. Watson Laboratory on the Columbia campus under the sponsorship of the Columbia Summer Session office and the university's School of Engineering and Applied Science. The students enrolled in the course were selected by competitive examination from among 1800 applicants.

The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration** plans to establish a New England Operations Office to coordinate activities between NASA and scientific and technical organizations in the area. The office, to be headed by Franklyn W. Phillips, assistant to the NASA administrator, will be located in the Boston area.

The Air Force Office of Scientific Research reports it provided \$28.9 million in grants and contracts for support of **basic research projects** in the fiscal year that ended 30 June. The office said the funds were for the support of 642 projects in North America, South America, Europe, Australia, and the Far East.

Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

Graduate training in **water resources** will be offered at the University of Texas in September under a Public Health Service grant. Stipends of \$250 per month are available for students working toward the master of science in environmental health engineering degree: stipends of \$300 per month are offered to candidates for the doctor of philosophy degree. (Director, Civil Engineering Department, University of Texas, Austin 12)

The American Association of University Women is offering the following fellowships in the **natural sciences** for 1963-64:

Marie Curie fellowship in radiology, physics, or chemistry (\$5000); open to women who are French or American citizens.

Sarah Berliner fellowship in phys-

ics, chemistry, or biology (\$5000), and the Ida H. Hyde fellowship in eugenics or eugenics (\$5000); open to women of any country represented in the International Federation of University Women.

Applicants must hold a doctorate in the field of research required. Deadline: *1 December*. (Fellowships Office, AAUW Educational Foundation, 2401 Virginia Ave., NW, Washington 7)

Scientists in the News

Menard M. Gertler has been named director of the work evaluation unit scheduled to open in September at the Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, New York University Medical Center. Gertler is associate attending physician in medicine at the University Hospital, and research director at the Institute. The new unit will be used for rehabilitation of cardiac patients.

Hans von Leden, associate professor of surgery at the University of California (Los Angeles) School of Medicine, has received the Casselberry award of the American Laryngological Association for his work in the mechanism of phonation.

The following have retired from the California Institute of Technology, receiving the title of emeritus professor:

Alfred H. Sturtevant, Thomas Hunt Morgan professor of genetics.

C. C. Lauritsen, professor of physics.

Earnest C. Watson, professor of physics and former dean of the faculty, on leave since 1960 as scientific attaché to the U.S. embassy in India.

Frederick J. Converse, professor of soil mechanics.

Gilbert Shapiro, formerly of Wayne State University, has become director of the Social Science Institute and associate professor of sociology-anthropology at Washington University. He succeeds Nicholas J. Demerath, who will devote full time to teaching and research after a year's leave of absence.

H. N. Laden, chief of new systems development at Chesapeake and Ohio Railway Company, Cleveland, has been elected director of National Computer Analysts, Inc., in Princeton, N.J.