

use in the university's expanding program in nuclear engineering. The laboratory's largest piece of equipment is a subcritical nuclear assembly of the "pickle barrel" type, which is powered by \$80 000 worth of uranium on loan from the Atomic Energy Commission. Other facilities include a counter room for measuring and analyzing radioactivity, a reactor heat transfer research laboratory, and a machine shop. George Lepert, of Stanford's Mechanical Engineering Department, heads the new laboratory, which is located in the Ryan High-Voltage Laboratory building.

The December meeting in Paris of the heads of government of the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance resulted in agreement that NATO should have competent guidance in scientific matters to reduce needless duplication of effort and to ensure closer scientific collaboration among member states. In line with that decision, Norman F. Ramsey, professor of physics at Harvard University, has been named science adviser to Secretary General Paul-Henri Spaak of NATO. In addition, Dr. Ramsey will serve as chairman of the organization's new Science Advisory Committee, consisting of scientists representing NATO's member nations, which was also agreed upon in December. The United States has appointed Nobel laureate I. I. Rabi to be the US representative on the Committee. Dr. Rabi, who has been Higgins professor of physics at Columbia University since 1951, is also a member of President Eisenhower's Science Advisory Committee.

Grants and Fellowships

The US Government has again announced that it will award grants under the Fulbright Act for university lecturing and advanced research. To be eligible an applicant must be a US citizen and, in some cases, must have a knowledge of the language of the host country. For lecturing, at least one year of college or university teaching experience is a requisite, and for research, a doctoral degree or recognized professional standing is necessary. Candidates for the doctoral degree should apply to the Institute of International Education, 1 East 67th Street, New York, N. Y. Awards are issued for one country only and applicants should specify a first choice and list one alternative country. Fulbright lectureships and advanced research awards in physics for the 1959-60 academic year have been listed for Argentina, Chile, India, and New Zealand. Under an interim program for 1958-59 a physics lectureship will be available in Ireland. Closing date for application is April 25 and the necessary forms and additional information are available from the Conference Board of Associated Research Councils, Committee on International Exchange of Persons, 2101 Constitution Ave., Washington 25, D. C.

In addition, grants under the Smith-Mundt Act will be available for lecturing abroad in approximately forty countries which do not participate in the Fulbright Program. These grants are made available in re-

sponse to requests submitted by interested institutions abroad to the Department of State through its Foreign Service Posts. Eligibility consists of US citizenship, and recognized standing as a mature scholar in the field of choice with at least one year of experience teaching on the university level in the US or abroad. In some cases, knowledge of the language of the host country is also necessary. Those interested should register with the Conference Committee, from whose register requests of the State Department will be filed.

The Organization of American States will soon begin an undertaking designed to help individual specialists as well as the OAS member states. A new fellowship program, recommended by the Inter-American Committee of Presidential Representatives, will begin on July 1 and will offer grants for advanced study or research to specialists throughout the Western Hemisphere. Qualified persons who are looking for an opportunity to do pure research, improve their professional skill through a postgraduate course, or enroll in an advanced technical course may apply now to the program. By offering advanced study abroad, the OAS hopes to increase the individual's contribution to his country of residence.

Applicants will be screened by the OAS General Secretariat for technical or professional competence, including consultation with specialists in the given field. Awards will be made by the Secretary General of the OAS, taking into account the preferences expressed by the member states according to the fields of their most urgent needs, as well as the merits of each candidate. Over the years, the Secretary General will maintain a balance in the distribution between the number of fellowships available and the needs of the member states. Upon completion of their study, fellowship holders must return to their country of permanent residence.

According to the decisions made by the OAS Council the program contemplates approximately 170 fellowships for 1958-59 and a minimum of 500 annually in the future. Grants will be made for periods ranging from three months to two years, covering such items as travel, registration and tuition fees, study or work materials, and room and board.

Dr. Javier Malagón has been appointed Technical Secretary of the Fellowship Program by the Secretary General of the OAS, Dr. José A. Mora. Interested persons should address their inquiries and requests for necessary forms to: Technical Secretary, OAS Fellowship Program, Pan American Union, Washington 6, D. C.

Science Education

A plan to stimulate science teaching in the high schools by sending specially trained "traveling teachers" on lecture-demonstration tours has been adopted by three states: Georgia, South Carolina, and Tennessee. The states are undertaking this activity through the Oak Ridge Traveling Science Demonstration Lecture

Program, jointly sponsored by the National Science Foundation and the Atomic Energy Commission, and administered by the Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies. The "traveling teachers" were supported by the NSF and the AEC during the first two years of the program. Seven teachers were selected for the 1956-57 school year and ten for 1957-58. It is the Institute's plan to increase the number to 22 for the 1958-59 school year, with seven teachers to be supported by the Foundation, and 15 to be supported by individual states with NSF-AEC assistance. The Foundation-sponsored teachers will visit schools in several states, while the state-sponsored teachers will confine their visits to schools within their respective state boundaries. The chosen teachers will participate in a three-month training program at Oak Ridge that will include attending a one-month summer institute for secondary-school science teachers. Several other states are now attempting to work out arrangements to sponsor traveling teacher programs during the coming year.

A Department of Nuclear Engineering is to be established on July 1 in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology School of Engineering at Cambridge, Mass. Classes will be open to undergraduates having the necessary prerequisites in physics, mathematics, and engineering, but the department will only award graduate degrees. MIT's \$2.64 million research reactor, which is to be completed this spring, will serve as the main laboratory facility. Manson Benedict, professor of nuclear engineering, will head the department; other members include Theos J. Thompson, who directed the design and construction of the MIT reactor, Irving Kaplan, Edward A. Mason, Melville Clark, Jr., and Gordon Brownell. In addition to classes at Cambridge, nuclear engineering students may attend the Engineering Practice School conducted by MIT at Oak Ridge, Tenn.

Among the special noncredit courses to be offered during the 1958 summer session at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology is an intensive two-week program on the *Physics of Infrared Radiation* (July 14-25). Offered by the Spectroscopy Laboratory and the Naval Supersonic Laboratory at MIT, it is designed particularly for research scientists. Admission to the course (tuition, \$300) will be restricted to those holding at least a bachelor's degree. Further information may be obtained from Dr. Richard C. Lord, Director of the Spectroscopy Laboratory, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge 39, Mass.

Another special MIT summer program designed for teachers, research workers, and development engineers is on *Modern Developments in Heat Transfer* (July 8-18). This course will cover fundamental concepts of heat transfer processes as well as recent developments. Tuition is \$250. Those wishing to participate should contact Dr. Warren M. Rohsenow at the MIT Department of Mechanical Engineering.

A basic course in *Principles of Radioisotope Utilization* (July 14-25) will require a knowledge of elementary physics, chemistry, and mathematics, but will as-

sume no previous knowledge of radioisotope techniques. Tuition is \$250 and information is available from Dr. Gordon L. Brownell at MIT.

A program is planned mainly for research workers in the field of Microwave Ferrites (August 4-15). Tuition is \$250 and Dr. Hermann A. Haus of the MIT Department of Electrical Engineering is in charge.

New Advisory Plan for NBS

A basic revision in the structure of the National Bureau of Standards advisory committee program has been announced by the Bureau and the National Academy of Sciences—National Research Council. Under the new arrangement, a number of the major professional scientific organizations of the United States will nominate representatives to serve as advisers to the Bureau. From the base provided by these delegations, the NAS-NRC will assemble several advisory panels, each of which will be responsible for evaluating a particular segment of the Bureau's work. Thus, certain NBS activities (such as building technology, which does not fall within the scope of any single society) can now be served by advisory panels staffed from various societies. At least once a year the panels will report on the status of Bureau activities under their cognizance, thus providing the basis for an integrated annual report by the NAS-NRC to the Bureau.

The NBS technical advisory committee program grew out of recommendations made in October 1953 by an ad hoc committee (composed of representatives of the American Institute of Physics and six other leading scientific organizations) which had been formed at the request of the Secretary of Commerce to evaluate the Bureau's functions and operations. The Bureau and its director had been under attack for having refused to endorse the claims of a manufacturer who maintained in the face of evidence to the contrary that his product, a packaged mixture of medicinal salts, was capable of rejuvenating storage batteries and prolonging their useful life expectancy. The ad hoc committee, headed by M. J. Kelly, conducted a thorough review of the Bureau's scientific program and came to the conclusion that the NBS staff was doing a thoroughly competent job in spite of an inadequate budget. Increases in the Bureau's operating funds were recommended, and it was proposed that each of the prominent scientific societies establish a technical advisory committee that would meet periodically with NBS personnel to review relevant aspects of the Bureau's technical program.

Since that time, advisory committees appointed by various societies have helped to keep the Bureau informed of the needs of the nation's scientific and technological community and have evaluated the Bureau's work in areas of interest to their professions. They have also provided an effective link whereby the scientists and engineers of the country have gained increased awareness of the scientific contributions and services available from the Bureau. The new plan for conducting these advisory activities will strengthen the