

SCIENCE EDUCATION

New Programs

A **Science Resources Planning Office** has recently been established by the National Science Foundation to coordinate studies of the nation's future resources and needs for scientific research and education. The office will be headed by Richard H. Bolt, who has also been appointed by the Foundation to the newly created position of associate director for planning. Dr. Bolt has been on leave from his post as professor of acoustics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology during the past two years while serving as NSF's associate director for research.

The new planning office, in cooperation with educational institutions, industrial organizations, and government agencies, will collect and analyze data on scientific manpower, facilities, equipment, publications, etc., for the information of those responsible for forming policy and making decisions. It will, in particular, be responsive to the needs of the Federal Council for Science and Technology, and of the office of the President's special assistant for science and technology.

Another recent action of the Science Foundation is the inauguration of a program to provide assistance to educational institutions in acquiring laboratory and demonstration equipment for undergraduate science instruction. Colleges and universities which grant baccalaureate degrees in the sciences may request NSF grants for the purchase of equipment. Proposals may not exceed \$25 000, and all grants will be made on a matching basis (i.e., 50 percent of the total costs incurred must be obtained from sources other than the federal government).

In announcing the program, the Foundation noted that many schools have found it difficult to replace or improve instructional equipment, partly because of diminishing income from fixed endowment funds, coupled with the costs associated with rising enrollments and the necessity for increasing faculty salaries. A recent NSF survey of college science departments indicates that more than \$190 million will be required for such equipment in 1962-63.

Special recognition will be given to outstanding high-school physics teachers under a program initiated by the American Association of Physics Teachers and supported by a three-year grant of \$67 000 from the Carnegie Corporation of New York. Teachers with at least three years' experience in high-school instruction will be eligible to participate. Specially prepared examinations will test their competence in the subject matter of physics, and those who excel will be recognized by the award of a suitable certificate.

J. W. Buchta, associate dean of the College of Science, Literature, and the Arts of the University of

Minnesota, is chairman of the AAPT Committee on Teacher Recognition, which is administering the program. According to Dean Buchta, the recognition program is intended to encourage those teachers who strive to improve their knowledge of physics and their competence to teach. "The sponsors of this program fully realize that high competence in subject matter does not guarantee a master teacher," he stated, "but we believe there is a high correlation between mastery of subject taught and mastery of the art of teaching the subject."

Radioisotope Training

The first of a series of engineering drawings from which demonstration equipment for training in radioisotope engineering may be built have been made available by the Atomic Energy Commission. The project is part of a continuing educational program in isotope technology conducted by the AEC's Office of Isotopes Development, and the training kits are intended to aid educational institutions and training laboratories that wish to include laboratory isotope training in their curricula but find the specifications, cost, and size limits of commercial instruments prohibitive.

Twelve packages of drawings have been announced, of which six are listed under the category of radiochemical instrumentation, four under that of industrial gauging, and two for equipment employed in research and process analyses.

In some cases, instrument components are interchangeable for various demonstrations, thus resulting in a reduction in construction cost. The instruments developed under the project, according to the AEC, are being tested and evaluated at several universities and training laboratories. A list of the various sets of drawings is contained in Supplements 13 and 14 of the catalog *Engineering Materials List* (TID-4100), which is available without charge from the Office of Technical Information Extension, P. O. Box 62, Oak Ridge, Tenn.

Fellowships

Applications are now being accepted by the Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies for three categories of Atomic Energy Commission special fellowships to be awarded in 1962.

January 5 is the deadline for receipt of applications for graduate fellowships in nuclear science and engineering for study at any of 56 selected institutions. Applicants should be graduates in either physics, chemistry, mathematics, or engineering. Further information and application materials can be obtained from the