

drodynamics, and electronics are included in the twenty-million-dollar program adopted by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Corporation's Committee on Financing Development. About half of the amount is required for endowment and unrestricted funds and the balance will be invested in buildings and equipment. Money is already available for more than half the estimated two-million-dollar cost of the proposed building for nuclear science, which will house the interdepartmental Laboratory for Nuclear Science and Engineering organization already operating at MIT. Another eight hundred thousand dollars will go toward providing a nuclear field station.

Argonne National Laboratory, which presently occupies more than a dozen different sites in and around Chicago, has begun moving to the location of its new multimillion-dollar project in Du Page County, where thirty-three temporary quonset type buildings are nearing completion. Most of the permanent buildings are expected to be completed by 1952 and some are now under construction.

The first complete building of General Electric Company's new eighteen-million-dollar research laboratory was formally opened December 2. To be completed in 1950, the research center will comprise a virtual city. The Atomic Energy Commission has bought part of the site, for a research laboratory on atomic power generation, to be operated by G. E.

Standard Oil Development Company dedicated its new Esso Research Center at Linden, New Jersey on October 14, in a program at which Karl T. Compton was the principal speaker. Eighty individual laboratories are accommodated in the three-story building, as well as 250 offices and a library. The equipment includes over a dozen spectrometers—an indication of the growing application of physical methods to petroleum research.

### AEC News

AEC positions are to be permanently exempted from competitive civil service, beginning January 9, and placed under an independent merit system. The new policy, which succeeds a series of temporary personnel arrangements which have been in operation for the past two years, will preserve present pay scales and duplicate leave and retirement benefits granted to other federal employees.

Thirteen volumes of the National Nuclear Energy Series have been declassified and are being edited for early publication by the McGraw-Hill Book Company under contract with Columbia University, representing the Atomic Energy Commission and its research contractors. When complete, the series will run to about sixty volumes, grouped in eight divisions corresponding to the major projects in atomic energy research during the war: the electromagnetic separation, gaseous diffusion, special separations, plutonium, Los Alamos, University of Rochester, materials procurement, and Manhattan projects.

Eighteen AEC fellowship awards in health physics, the first to be made in this field, were recently announced by

the Atomic Energy Commission, together with twenty-three fellowships in the biological sciences—these in addition to awards previously made. A total of 247 students, selected by special boards within the National Research Council, are now participating in the AEC fellowship program, which includes, besides health physics and biology, the fields of medicine, agriculture, and the physical sciences.

### Honors, Awards

The Geological Society made its first award of the Arthur L. Day Medal to George W. Morey of the Carnegie Institution for his outstanding application of physics and chemistry to geological problems.

Sir Lawrence Bragg received the 1948 Roebling Medal, an award of the Mineralogical Society of America, for his work in mineral and crystal structure.

### Society Activities

Temple University in Philadelphia has been granted a charter to form a chapter of Sigma Xi. Sixty-five members of the Temple faculty are members of Sigma Xi, and since 1941 they have been conducting meetings on a club basis as provided in the by-laws of the society.

Officers are Ralph Wichterman, president; John F. Huber, vice president; James D. Page, secretary; and W. Glen Moss, treasurer.

Members of the American Physical Society who plan to attend the annual meeting of the Division of Solid State Physics March 10-12 in Cleveland should make reservations at the Hollenden Hotel not later than March 1.

The Southeastern Section of the American Physical Society will hold its fifteenth annual meeting April 16-17, 1949, at Clemson College, Clemson, South Carolina. Papers are invited, for which abstracts and titles should be sent in triplicate to Franklin Lowance, Department of Physics, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia, before February 19.

### Frederick Gardner Cottrell

Frederick Gardner Cottrell died November 16, 1948, in Berkeley, where he was attending a meeting of the National Academy of Sciences. Physical chemist and inventor, he created Research Corporation (a nonprofit organization devoted to support of research) by the gift of patent rights on the Cottrell electrical precipitator.

### William Gaertner

William Gaertner, 84, instrument designer and president of the Gaertner Scientific Corporation, died December 3 at his home in Wilmette, Illinois. Among the highly specialized instruments he made was the interferometer, for Albert A. Michelson.

### Oliver J. Smith, Sr.

Oliver J. Smith, Sr., vice president and assistant manager of the Lancaster Press, which prints all nine journals of the American Institute of Physics, died November 13 at the age of 70. He had been with the Lancaster Press for fifty-three years.