

metal which may permit using the heat carried out of the reactor to generate electrical energy. The site for the reactor is at West Milton, New York, and construction is expected to begin within the year.

Argonne National Laboratory has completed the preliminary design of a revised version of the heavy water reactor now being operated at Palos Park. Improvements will permit considerably stronger neutron beams. An Argonne announcement states that the reactor will be located at the DuPage site, where it will be one of the laboratory's more important experimental tools. Construction may begin in about a year.

In addition to the above collection of reactors, there are the several older wartime piles at Hanford and at Oak Ridge. The Hanford piles, used exclusively for producing plutonium, operate with natural uranium. They have undergone extensive repairs recently, and the addition of new units now under construction will make possible a higher plutonium production rate than ever. The Oak Ridge pile has been the primary producer of radioisotopes, and has been used as a laboratory tool as well. Los Alamos possesses two reactors which are of considerable value as nuclear research tools. One, the "water-boiler," uses as fuel uranium in water solution, and is important as a source of slow neutrons. The other, an experimental fast reactor using plutonium as the fuel element and operating with high energy neutrons, is the only reactor of its type. Another new reactor is being built at the Brookhaven National Laboratory, and should be completed within the next few months.

The Commission is also studying the possibilities of designing a simplified research reactor which may be produced at a sufficiently low cost to become available for laboratory work and the training of technicians on a somewhat wider basis than is now feasible. Possibilities for future reactor development are being studied by the Commission, and by other agencies. The NEPA (Nuclear Energy for the Propulsion of Aircraft) Project has for the past two and a half years been engaged in investigations which someday may lead to power reactors for use by airplanes. NEPA is an Air Force project which is being carried out by the Fairchild Engine and Airplane Corporation. Another reactor type under consideration is one in which fuel, cooling, reflecting, and moderating elements of traditional reactor design might be mixed homogeneously, and which may lead to the development of a new type breeder and power pile in a single unit.

Taken as a whole the reactor development program seems aimed at constructing rapidly a broad foundation of facts in physics and engineering rather than at furnishing a specific and concentrated attack on any one of the several important aspects of reactor application.

Berkeley in the Summer

The physics department of the University of California at Berkeley has announced plans for two six-week summer sessions for 1949. The sessions, scheduled from June 20 to September 10, will include courses on both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Visiting faculty mem-

bers for undergraduate work will include S. S. Ballard of Tufts College, G. H. Dieke, of Johns Hopkins University, L. H. Fisher of New York University, J. H. Williams of the University of Minnesota, E. A. Uehling of the University of Washington, and G. J. Holton of Harvard University. In the first session J. R. Oppenheimer of the Institute for Advanced Studies at Princeton will give a graduate course in quantum mechanics and a seminar in theoretical physics, while Professor Dieke will give a seminar in forms of gas discharges and their interpretation. In the second session V. F. Weisskopf of Massachusetts Institute of Technology will conduct a graduate course in nuclear physics and a seminar on topics in quantum electrodynamics, while Professor Uehling will give a seminar on nuclear magnetic induction and Professor Williams will conduct a seminar on the scattering of nuclei.

Instrumentation Conference

The 1949 Gordon Research Conferences, sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, will include a conference on instrumentation to be held from August 1 to 5 at the Colby Junior College, New London, New Hampshire. The conferences are of an informal type consisting of scheduled lectures and free discussion groups. Additional information may be obtained by writing to W. George Parks, Director, Department of Chemistry, Rhode Island State College, Kingston, R. I.

New Name for New Lab

Cornell University's nuclear studies laboratory has been named the Floyd Newman Laboratory of Nuclear Studies by the board of trustees in recognition of a gift to the laboratory of securities estimated to be worth about one million dollars. Floyd Newman, the donor, is a director of the Ashland Oil and Refining Company of Cleveland and a Cornell alumnus.

Awards

Enrico Fermi has been awarded the Donegani gold medal for physics by Italy's Lincei Academy, according to a recent announcement. While still in Italy, Dr. Fermi received a 1938 Nobel Prize for physics. Since January, 1939 he has lived in the United States, where he has played an important role in the American atomic energy program. He is now with the Institute for Nuclear Studies at the University of Chicago.

Officers Elected

Officers elected by the fluid dynamics division of the American Physical Society for 1949 are H. L. Dryden, chairman, J. G. Kirkwood, vice-chairman, and W. Bleakney, secretary-treasurer. H. W. Liepmann and A. Kantrowitz have been elected to the Executive Committee for three-year terms, and W. Bleakney for one year.

Cleveland Norcross

Cleveland Norcross, general manager of the American Institute of Physics, died March 21, 1949, shortly after an emergency operation. He was 37 years old.