

years. This movement into non-physics areas probably reflects the continuing adjustment of recent graduates to an inhospitable economic environment.

This tenth annual survey of bachelor's degree recipients, which is based upon names of graduating physics students supplied by department chairmen across the country, was conducted during the summer of 1972. Of the 5282 individuals awarded bachelor's degrees in physics during the academic year 1971-72, 3241 (61%) responded to the questionnaire. Of that number 981 planned to pursue graduate study in physics, 843 were to enter graduate fields outside physics, and 1174 sought employment.

Fewer bachelors are entering graduate study in physics. Between 1967 and 1972 the number of graduates indicating that intention declined from 55% to only 30%. For the same period, the fraction entering non-physics graduate study has increased from 19% to 26%. Of this group 125 chose to enter medical school, while 100 out of the same percentage group did so the previous year.

Job prospects do appear to be improving. Thirty-seven percent of this year's graduates sought employment, and only 380 (32%) of that group were without job offers immediately following graduation. This is in marked contrast to the situation last year when an unemployment high was reached. With only 29% of the graduates seeking employment upon graduation in 1971, 468 of them (49%) were without offers.

Of the group that received job offers, the fraction entering industry has declined steadily—from 43% in 1970 to 32% in 1971, to 29% in 1972. However, in the most recent survey the list of employers was revised to include service industry. Part of this past year's decline can probably be attributed to this modification in the questionnaire.

Nevertheless, many graduates were forced to take jobs that made little or no use of their physics training. But faced with a choice of jobs, all of which constitute underemployment, the bachelors selected those that offered the highest salaries. On that basis computer science, a service industry, became a popular choice.

Free copies of the seven-page report are available from Susanne Ellis, Manpower Division, AIP, 335 E. 45th St., New York, N. Y. 10017.

NRC reorganization will aid its advisory function

The National Academy of Sciences is reorganizing the National Research Council in order to better fulfill its ad-

visory function to the government. Three Assemblies and five Commissions will eventually be formed as constituent parts of the Council. An Assembly of Behavioral and Social Sciences and a Commission on Natural Resources have already been formed.

Assemblies in the physical sciences, life sciences and mathematics will be concerned with the welfare of their component disciplines and the contributions these disciplines make to the national welfare. The Assemblies will also serve as sources of manpower and ideas for the Commissions.

The Commissions, which will deal with broad areas of national concern, will be multidisciplinary in character. They will be established in the areas of human resources, peace and national security, international scientific affairs, and technologies in large, complex social systems such as transportation, communication and urban development.

As a part of the reorganization of the NRC, the Academy is taking measures to strengthen its procedures for the selection and appointment of advisory committees. This is intended to assure the quality of scientific advice to the government and prevent potential sources of bias that could undermine the credibility of the advisory process.

Canadian science moves toward national needs

The Science Council of Canada has released a report that gives basic science in Canada what a spokesman termed a "nudge" toward areas of research of particular importance to the country. The report, entitled "Policy Objectives for Basic Research in Canada," is careful to point out that "a significant proportion of that research must continue to be conducted free from any influences external to the inner logic of the science itself," but the fact remains that the council will try to direct more research into areas critical to Canada.

Some of the recommendations do not involve changes in the orientation of research, but instead are directed toward the strengthening of basic research in Canada. The report asks for the continuing development of "Canadian experts who are members of the international community of scientists." The Science Council expects that they will help improve basic science in Canada by maintaining contacts with leading researchers in other countries. The council also recommends support of R&D with a view to maintaining the quality of higher education and "exerting positive influence on R&D activities in general."

Areas of research that are mentioned

as being of particular interest to Canada are those that may have side benefits to Canadian industry or that may offer training for consultation on future problems or that could shed light on assessment of the impact of new technologies on Canadian society. The council report also recommended the establishment of an institute to study Canada's long-range scientific, technological and social problems.

New MIT laboratory will coordinate energy studies

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology has created a new laboratory to study the complex energy problems confronting the nation. The central purpose of the laboratory will be to coordinate the \$5 million in energy-related research already underway in various departments at MIT and to assemble a full-time staff of physical scientists, engineers and social scientists. A key feature of the new facility will be this interdisciplinary approach to the solution of energy problems.

The director of the energy laboratory is David C. White, Ford Professor of Engineering at MIT. Associate directors of the various functional divisions will also be drawn from the MIT faculty.

According to Albert G. Hill, MIT vice-president of research and the person to whom the laboratory reports, the first outside support for the facility, a grant of \$100 000, has been received from the New England Electric System.

in brief

The Council of The Institute of Physics has approved the formation of a Combustion Physics Group. The chairman of the steering committee is F. J. Weinberg of Imperial College, London. Information on membership in the Group may be obtained from the Meetings Officer, IOP, 47 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8QX, UK.

A report prepared for the Office of Science and Technology by Stanford Research Institute of Menlo Park, Calif., *Patterns of Energy Consumption in the United States*, is available from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. 20402, for \$2.25 a copy.

Copies of the National Science Foundation report, *Research and Development in Industry, 1970* (NSF 72-309), may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. 20402, for \$1.00 per copy.