

uranium isotopes for research purposes is permitted under license.

Another survey of Western German scientific research resources is now under way at the request of the Bonn Government to determine whether a need exists for the establishment of applied research institutes to serve small and medium-sized manufacturers and processors in West Germany. The survey is being conducted under the sponsorship of the Economic Cooperation Administration by a group including representatives from the Southwest Research Institute, the Stanford Research Institute, Battelle Institute, and the Armour Foundation. It was indicated that similar surveys might be undertaken elsewhere in Europe at the request of several other governments.

Infrared Absorption Spectra

New NRC Committee Established

The National Research Council has announced the formation of a new Committee on Infrared Absorption Spectra which is intended to take over the work of the Punch Card Committee of the Symposium on Molecular Structure and Spectroscopy of Ohio State University. The latter committee has been actively keeping track of papers on spectroscopic subjects in the published literature. The new committee is under the chairmanship of Wallace R. Brode, associate director of the National Bureau of Standards. Other members are E. Carroll Creitz, National Bureau of Standards, secretary; R. Robert Brattain, Shell Development Company; Bryce L. Crawford, University of Minnesota; Robert R. Hampton, U. S. Rubber Company; Lester E. Kuntzel, Wyandotte Chemicals Corporation; and James D. Stroupe, Rohm and Haas Company. Arrangements have been made for the committee to work in close collaboration with the National Bureau of Standards. Attempts are being made to solicit a rotating fund for use in reproducing infrared spectral and bibliography cards.

The expressed function of the committee will be to study and develop arrangements for collecting and distributing spectral absorption data on organic and inorganic compounds. More specifically the work of the committee will involve: (a) design of a punch card system for presenting and distributing infrared absorption data in both graphical and tabular forms; (b) devising and implementing methods of collecting the desired spectral data; (c) directing and supervising evaluation of the collected spectral data, appraising their quality and devising means for checking the reported observations and the making of new measurements when the available data are unsatisfactory or conflicting; (d) preparation of a bibliography; and (e) supervision of the printing of punch cards and other forms of record. The accomplishments of both the old and new committees include the preparation of a bibliography on infrared and related subjects of about 8000 papers with arrangements through ASTM Committee E-13 for abstracting 28 current publications so that the bibliography may be kept up-to-date, the collection of about

450 spectra and processing of them in preparation for printing, and the building of a file of chemical compounds covered in the literature.

Communications concerning the committee's activities should be addressed to the Secretary, E. Carroll Creitz, National Bureau of Standards, Washington 25, D. C.

New RDB Policy Group

To Encourage Use of Scientific Talent

The Department of Defense has announced the formation of a policy group within the Research and Development Board which will work closely with RDB chairman Walter G. Whitman in formulating and executing policy, with special emphasis on utilizing the talents of the many scientists and engineers from industry and the universities who stand ready to assist the Board in its work. The internal policy group will include James A. Perkins, executive associate of the Carnegie Corporation, Robert C. Gunness, manager of the research activities of the Standard Oil Company of Indiana, and Edwin A. Speakman, former Naval Research Laboratory physicist, who has been on the RDB staff since 1949 as executive director of the Committee on Electronics.

Radioisotopes

Two Firms to Study Commercial Production

The Atomic Energy Commission has accepted two proposals for private firms to study, at their own expense, the commercial feasibility of manufacturing, processing and selling radioisotopes. Contracts have been signed with Bendix Aviation Corporation of Detroit and Tracerlab, Incorporated, of Boston. The long-range goal of the two projects is wider commercial use of radioisotopes. The first step will be to study the AEC's isotope processing program and to investigate the possibilities of building and operating reactors to produce radioisotopes. After full security requirements have been met, reactor data in this field will be made available to small groups of scientists and technicians from Tracerlab and Bendix. Experts of the AEC and its contractors will assist them in carrying out their studies. Both firms are to make their reports and evaluations directly to the AEC within a year. These contracts are in line with the Commission's policy to encourage privately-financed groups to study the possibilities of taking over some segments of the atomic energy industry for commercial development. However, due to the urgency of the AEC expansion program, the Commission is not able at this time to consider additional proposals for this type of investigation.

Plutonium Production

GE-AEC Contract Extended 5 Years

A five-year extension of the General Electric Company's contract with the Atomic Energy Commission for operation of the plutonium-producing Hanford

Works, near Richland, Washington, and the Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory, Schenectady, New York, was announced in September by Atomic Energy Commission and General Electric officials. The extended contract will run until June 30, 1956. General Electric has operated the Hanford plutonium plant for the government since September, 1946.

A New Publication

The British Bulletin of Spectroscopy

The first issue of the *British Bulletin of Spectroscopy*, "published by the Industrial Spectroscopy Group of the Institute of Physics, London, the Photoelectric Spectroscopy Group, the Infra-Red Discussion Group, the Physical Methods Group of the Society of Public Analysts and Other Analytical Chemists," appeared in September. The *Bulletin* will be published every third month and is available to subscribers in the United States at an annual rate of 75 cents. The September issue is divided into two sections, of which the first deals with emission spectroscopy under the editorship of K. Dixon of W. Jessop & Sons, Ltd., and W. Ramsden of the British Non-Ferrous Metals Research Association. The second section, on molecular spectroscopy, is edited by G. H. Beaven of the London Hospital and by W. C. Price of King's College. The *Bulletin's* treasurer, W. H. Storey, writes that in addition to its function as an intelligence bulletin for spectroscopists, the publication "marks a tentative approach towards the coordination of the activities of the several spectroscopic groups in Great Britain. Contact with similar groups and societies overseas is being established and it is hoped that the *British Bulletin of Spectroscopy* will also provide a forum for the exchange of views through the correspondence columns of ensuing issues." Subscriptions should be sent to W. H. Storey, Unicam Instruments (Cambridge), Ltd., Arbury Road, Cambridge, England.

Science in Palestine

Technion Plans to Expand

The Technion, Israel's Institute of Technology in Haifa, has announced its intention of increasing its academic staff in all grades and in most faculties and departments. Concerned mainly with the engineering sciences, the Technion is Palestine's only institute for training engineers, and its graduates now account for more than half of Israel's professional engineers. It was founded in 1912. Particular efforts are being made to recruit teaching personnel for the Institute's newly-established faculty of science which is responsible for providing a basic knowledge of the natural sciences for engineering students. The science departments, which include physics, chemistry, hydraulics, soil mechanics, electrical, and testing and measurement laboratories, are also faced with the ultimate responsibility for training the country's scientists and for providing Palestine with a center for scientific research.

Research Facilities

New Laboratory Building at Ames

Completion of the new Research Building of the Ames Laboratory, operated by Iowa State College through its Institute for Atomic Research, was announced in September by the Atomic Energy Commission. A general research laboratory located on the Iowa State campus on land leased by the government, the building has been under construction for more than three years and has cost approximately two million dollars. The building is a reinforced concrete frame structure with a floor area of 100,000 square feet and has been designed, according to F. H. Spedding, director of the Ames Laboratory, in accordance with the latest approved practices in the construction of research and development laboratories.

The physics laboratories located in the building are all linked by a coaxial system of electrical conductors to provide facilities for research requiring very high frequencies. Other laboratories include a temperature laboratory equipped for studies involving extreme temperature fluctuations and a high pressure laboratory in which pressures in the range of 75,000 pounds per square inch may be attained. A section has been included for research on radioactive substances in which every known precautionary measure for the protection of personnel has been incorporated. Reinforced concrete walls and ceilings, approximately two feet thick, enclose the area, and all air entering and leaving the section is filtered through glass wool and electrostatic precipitators. Lead or concrete shielding blocks are moved about by a traveling crane. Provisions have been made for installing remote control equipment. Constant monitoring will be employed so that the general level of radioactive exposure will be no greater than that experienced by wearing a wrist watch with a luminous dial. In addition to the regular ventilation system, the building contains a completely flexible system for individual ventilation of each laboratory unit.

The new Research Building, according to the AEC, will bring to one area a number of activities which have previously been scattered over the campus, and will provide facilities for intensified study in ten or more scientific fields of extreme interest to the national atomic energy program.

Cancer Research

UC Medical School's Synchrotron

A seventy million volt synchrotron capable of generating the most powerful x-ray beam ever to be applied to the treatment of cancer is being assembled at the University of California School of Medicine in San Francisco, according to announcements from the University and from the General Electric Laboratories, where the accelerator was designed and constructed. The instrument and its associated laboratory are housed in a specially constructed two-story building at the medical school. Total cost of the machine and the build-