

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-