

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-

ing, all financed by the Atomic Energy Commission, is about one-half million dollars. The University's medical research project which will make use of the synchrotron is under the direction of Robert S. Stone, professor of radiology and a pioneer in the application of nuclear physics in medicine.

The new synchrotron will have considerable flexibility since it will cover the range between twenty and seventy million volts. The machine was expected to be completely assembled and in working order by November 1st, according to Gail Adams, physicist in charge of operating the accelerator.

Spectroscopy at Illinois Tech

Research Program Supported by OOR

A \$12,000 contract has been awarded to Illinois Institute of Technology by the United States Office of Ordnance Research to support the regular research program of the Institute's spectroscopy laboratory, according to a recent announcement. The spectroscopy laboratory, a part of the physics department, is engaged in research on the molecular structure and thermodynamic properties of various chemical compounds. Most of the laboratory's work is done with methane and ethane compounds, and the information obtained is of considerable value to research in such industries as petroleum and synthetic rubber. The research program is under the direction of Forrest F. Cleveland, professor of physics, and Arnold G. Meister, associate professor.

Standardization

First ASA Gold Medal Awarded

In recognition of a lifetime of service and leadership in the cause of standardization, the first award of an annual gold Standards Medal has been made to Paul G. Agnew, consultant to the American Standards Association and an outstanding authority on standards in the United States. Formal presentation of the medal, which will be given each year by the American Standards Association, was made at the Second National Standardization Conference in New York City, October 22-24.

Dr. Agnew, who was 70 in July, has spent 45 years in standards work. He served as first administrative head of the American Standards Association from the time it was founded in 1919 until his retirement to consultant status in 1947. Before joining the ASA in 1919 he served for 13 years with the National Bureau of Standards, joining that organization as a physicist a few years after it was founded.

Dr. Agnew's testimony before the hearings of the Temporary National Economic Committee on trade barriers in 1940 was an important milestone in bringing standardization to the attention of government and industry officials as a major factor in eliminating restraint of trade. He has been active in international standards work, participating in meetings which led to the founding of the International Organization for Standardization in 1946 and helping to draft its constitution at

meetings in Paris and London in that year. Dr. Agnew, who is sometimes called "Mr. Standards" by his friends and associates, received a PhD in physics at Johns Hopkins in 1911 and is the author of many pamphlets and articles on physics, electrical engineering, and standards. He wrote the section on standardization in the 1940 edition of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*.

Popularized Science

Kalinga Prize Established

Establishment of the Kalinga Prize of £1000 sterling to be awarded annually for the most outstanding works of scientific popularization has been announced by Unesco, under whose auspices the award will be made. Rules for the yearly competition will be drawn up and published by Unesco with the cooperation of the International Council of Scientific Unions and it is anticipated that the first award will be made next year. Established by an Indian industrialist, M. B. Patnaik, the Prize is named after the ancient kingdom of Kalinga, which two thousand years ago or more included much of Southern India and Indonesia. Further details regarding the Kalinga Prize can be obtained from Unesco headquarters at 19 Avenue Kleber, Paris XVI.

New Electronics Program

Offered at Saint Joseph's College

Saint Joseph's College of Philadelphia has announced that its department of physics has recently instituted a five-year cooperative curriculum in electronics leading to a Bachelor of Science degree in electronic physics. Through agreements between the College and five of the major electrical and electronic industries in the Philadelphia area, pre-junior students who qualify spend alternate three-month periods in the plants of the co-operating industries. Freshman and sophomore years under the new plan are the same as for those students who are majoring in pure physics. The exchange program between academic and industrial work continues for twelve quarters until graduation.

Edwin L. Hettinger

Edwin L. Hettinger, for more than thirty years director of optical research at Willson Products, Inc., Reading, Pennsylvania, died on September 2nd at the age of seventy-two. A specialist in the industrial applications of glass as an eye protective material, he was one of the pioneers in the development of the modern safety goggle, particularly through his work on the process of heat-treating glass lenses to increase their impact resistance. Mr. Hettinger was a Fellow in the American Ceramic Society, and was a member of the Optical Society of America, the American Chemical Society, the American Standards Association, the American Society for Testing Materials, the Sun Glass Institute, and the British Society of Glass Technology.