

# News and views

## NEW SCIENCE ADVISORY GROUP WILL CONSIDER DEFENSE MOBILIZATION

Eleven well-known American scientists were named by President Truman on April 20 to serve as a committee under the Office of Defense Mobilization to advise the administration in matters relating to scientific research and development for defense. In making the appointments, the President stressed the present lack of adequate liaison among Federal agencies principally concerned with research and development, and between them and the Office of Defense Mobilization. "Such liaison," he said, "is obviously essential to securing the full contribution of scientists to our defense planning."

As outlined by the President, the new committee is to be available to give "independent advice on scientific matters especially as regards the objectives and interrelations of the several Federal agencies engaged in research of defense significance, including relevant foreign relations and intelligence matters." It will also advise on matters relating to defense research progress and to the implementation and improved coordination of defense research effort. The committee will further be available, President Truman continued, "for transmitting the views of the scientific community of the country on research and development matters of national defense significance."

Oliver E. Buckley, for the past ten years President of the Bell Telephone Laboratories, has been named Chairman of the Science Advisory Committee. Other members are Detlev W. Bronk, President of Johns Hopkins University and of the National Academy of Sciences; William Webster, Chairman of the Research and Development Board; Alan Waterman, Director of the National Science Foundation; Hugh Dryden, of the Interdepartmental Committee on Scientific Research and Development; James B. Conant, President of Harvard University; Lee DuBridge, President of the California Institute of Technology; James R. Killian, President of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Robert F. Loeb, of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University; J. Robert Oppenheimer, Director and Professor of Physics at the Institute of Advanced Study, Princeton; and Charles A. Thomas, Executive Vice President of the Monsanto Chemical Co.

## ACADEMIC FREEDOM TO BE STUDIED AT COLUMBIA

A two-year research project to study the entire issue of academic freedom is scheduled to start sometime this autumn at Columbia University in New York City. The study, which has been made possible by a grant of \$60,000 to the University from the Louis M. Rabinowitz Foundation, will be directed by Robert M. MacIver, Lieber Professor Emeritus of Political Philosophy and Sociology at Columbia. The program has been outlined and planned in a preliminary manner by a committee headed by Louis M. Hacker, Director of the University's School of General Studies. One phase of the project will be to examine contemporary problems of academic freedom, which will depend to some extent

upon consultations with representatives of colleges and universities in all parts of the United States in an effort to determine the causes and consequences of specific situations involving questions of academic freedom. At the same time, the project will explore the problem's historical background, both here and in certain European countries. It is expected that the study will be completed by September, 1953.

## UNESCO NEWS

### NEW COUPONS ISSUED

The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization has announced through its Paris Office that a new comprehensive Unesco coupon has been issued which can be used for the purchase of publications, films, and scientific material, and which will replace the old 'book', 'film', and 'scientific material' coupons. It is emphasized that the same validity terms are applicable to all coupons at present in circulation, irrespective of their date of issue. All coupons at present in circulation will remain valid until such time as Unesco recalls them by public announcement, allowing a six-months' interval for the return of the coupons.

Unesco has recently launched a gift coupon plan, as an experimental measure, in the United States. Gift coupons exist only in denominations of \$10 and can be purchased by co-operating groups who wish to make their contribution to international educational assistance. These co-operating groups are the medium through which many people will be able to make their personal contributions of publications, films, or scientific material to Unesco assistance projects. The United States is the first Unesco member state to launch a national campaign in support of the gift coupon plan, but Unesco hopes to put the plan into operation in several other member countries before the end of this year.

## MATHEMATICAL PAPERS

### TRANSLATION PROJECT CONTINUED

The American Mathematical Society has announced that a recent allocation of additional funds by the Office of Naval Research has made possible the continuation of the Society's project for the translation of selected mathematical papers written in Russian and other languages not familiar to the majority of American mathematicians. Under the original Navy contract fifty-five papers have been translated and an additional thirty-four articles have been selected for translation in the near future. The papers are made available at cost, but only on advance orders, and the Society has emphasized that translations which have already been issued at the time an order is received will not be available. Additional information may be obtained from the American Mathematical Society, 531 West 116th Street, New York 27, N. Y.

## AUTHORS NOTE

### NEW PUBLICATION CHARGE FOR LETTERS

At the meeting of the Publication Board of the American Institute of Physics on January 30, 1951, a proposed publication charge for Letters to the Editor (and similar sections) was approved. The charge will be effective with the July issues of the journals listed below and will be at a flat rate of \$10.00 for each Letter. As in the case of regular articles, the charge will be made against the originating institution rather than the individual author and will be on