News and views

THIS FALL'S ENROLLMENT

OFFICE OF EDUCATION EXPECTS 8% DROP

Although earlier predictions have indicated a probable decrease in fall college enrollment of fifteen or twenty percent, a more optimistic view of the situation is taken by the United States Office of Education, according to Rall I. Grigsby, its deputy commissioner, who has reported an estimated drop of something less than eight percent under last year's figures. Dr. Grigsby, in addressing the eighty-ninth annual convention of the National Education Association held in San Francisco during early July, pointed out that the draft law has at least temporarily stabilized the status of college students and that most freshmen will be able to enter college and complete one year or more before becoming eligible for military service. Of considerably greater concern, he said, is the expectation that approximately twenty thousand college faculty members will either be dismissed or take leaves of absence this year. The loss of instructors would thus be about fifteen percent as compared with last fall's figures.

NPA PRIORITY AID FOR LABS

CONTROLLED MATERIALS FOR RESEARCH

The Department of Commerce announced on June 26th that the National Production Authority has acted to give priorities assistance to technical and scientific laboratories in the procurement of materials needed to carry on important research projects. The new NPA Order M-71 provides for a self-certification system to enable laboratories to obtain limited amounts of controlled materials during any one calendar quarter, the first of which began on July 1st. The amounts specified in the order are: carbon steel (including wrought iron), five tons; alloy steel (except stainless), one-half ton; stainless steel, three hundred pounds; copper and copper base alloy, brass mill products, copper wire mill products, copper and copper base alloy foundry products and powder, five hundred pounds; and aluminum, five hundred pounds. Prior to the new order, laboratories had been depending on emergency assistance from the NPA to acquire a substantial proportion of their needs, a time-consuming procedure that has caused delay in carrying out many research projects. Provision is also made in Order M-71 for allotment of controlled materials by the laboratory, within the limitations of the order, to its suppliers of CMP Class "A" products. Laboratories needing more than the amounts allowed by self-certification of delivery orders may apply to the National Production Authority for special quotas. Additional information may be obtained at Department of Commerce field offices.

NEW RESEARCH FACILITIES

MIT HYDRODYNAMICS LABORATORY

Dedication ceremonies were held early in June at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to celebrate the opening of MIT's new $600,000 hydrodynamics laboratory. Located on Vassar Street near Main Street in Cambridge, the new laboratory has been planned to provide space and facilities for all types of research in the mechanics of liquid flow. A 108-foot ship model towing tank, to be operated by MIT's department of naval architecture and marine engineering, is included in the laboratory's permanent equipment. Other laboratory facilities are designed primarily to serve the department of civil and sanitary engineering. Arthur T. Ippen, professor of hydraulics, is laboratory director. The dedication program took place during the opening session of a symposium on hydrodynamics in modern technology which was held from June 4th to 6th in Cambridge and which was attended by more than two hundred scientists, hydraulic engineers, and naval architects.

NEW COSMIC RAY STATION IN CHILE

Following the article describing the high altitude cosmic ray laboratories of the world which appeared in the November, 1950, issue of *Physics Today*, Serge A. Korff, professor of physics at New York University, has reported two South American stations which had at that time been overlooked. These were the Institute of Andean Biology laboratory at Morococka, Peru, and the observatory at Chacaltaya, Bolivia. The two stations were described in the February and June, 1951 issues, respectively.

In a recent communication, Professor Korff writes from Santiago de Chile that one more high altitude cosmic ray observatory has been added to the present roster. The University of Chile has commenced construction of a new cosmic ray station at Cerro Colorado (about three hours by automobile east of Santiago) at geographic latitude 33° 20′ south and longitude 70° west, the geomagnetic latitude being about 21° south. The station, which is at an altitude of 3370 meters, or roughly 11,000 feet, will be accessible by automobile during the summer in the southern hemisphere, the road being blocked by snow during the several months in the winter. The initial electric plant will be a seven kilowatt gasoline-driven generator. Facilities for running water are being installed, and living accommodations for eight persons will be provided. Professor G. Alvial (head of the physics department, Facultad de Filosofia, Universidad de Chile, Santiago de Chile) is in charge of the installation. He has indicated a cordial interest, writes Professor Korff, "in receiving visitors