

of the oldest known Biblical manuscripts, and contributed important dates to the history of the first men in America.

The first complete description of techniques used in the method is contained in a book on the subject written by Libby, according to the University of Chicago. The new volume, *Radiocarbon Dating*, was published on February 25th by the University of Chicago Press.

Education

Shift Reported from Arts to Sciences

The New York Times, in a report written by Benjamin Fine on March 9, has indicated that results of its survey of enrollments in one hundred representative colleges and universities in the United States suggest a gradual swing away from the liberal arts and humanities and a corresponding emphasis upon the natural sciences and on technical and professional subjects in general. In comparison with enrollments ten years ago, it was stated, proportionately fewer students are now in the liberal arts than in the technical and professional fields. Foreign languages, English, and history were reported to be the fields to have suffered the most, while the greatest gain, it was suggested, has occurred in the medical and related sciences.

Estimated drops in enrollment in 1952-53 indicated by the survey amount to about nineteen percent in the humanities, social studies, and liberal arts, and to only about five percent in the sciences. If this estimate is correct, the report points out, it will mean that the number of faculty members in the liberal arts will again be decreased more than in other departments.

A number of prominent educators from various parts of the country were reported in the *Times* story to have urged the importance of the humanities and liberal arts for students regardless of the particular fields of specialization they may wish to follow. One, W. B. Alexander, vice president of Antioch College, was quoted as having remarked that "scientists and technicians without a liberal education, turned out in too great numbers, may be positively dangerous in the long run, because wise use of our technological and scientific apparatus depends on a broad and informed view of history and culture."

Air Force Research

New Office of Scientific Research Formed

The Air Research and Development Command of the U. S. Air Force announced in January the establishment in Baltimore of its Office of Scientific Research, which will work with educational and industrial organizations, initiating and administering a program of research through contracts, especially in broad fields of interest to the Air Force. Graduate study and research in such fields as physics, fluid mechanics, chemistry, and mathematics will be sponsored under the new office, and the use of graduate skills in carrying out the research contracts will be encouraged, according to the Air Force statement. Establishment of the new organi-

zation, the announcement said, "marks an increased emphasis by the Air Force in basic research performed in the nation as well as within the Air Force, and in furthering understanding of the value of basic research to the Air Force mission."



Morris E. Leeds

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Morris E. Leeds, founder and chairman of the Board of Leeds & Northrup Co., Inc., Philadelphia, makers of electrical instruments and automatic controls, died on February 8th at Lake Wales, Florida, after having been ill for several weeks. He was eighty-two years of age. Born in Philadelphia, Mr. Leeds graduated from Haverford College in 1888 with the degree of Bachelor of Science and shortly thereafter joined James W. Queen & Co., then the leading American scientific instrument company. He studied for one year at the University of Berlin and visited a number of the leading German instrument firms, and within a few years after returning to the U. S. he founded his own instrument company in Philadelphia, later going into partnership with Edwin F. Northrup, a research physicist. Mr. Leeds helped to create a trade organization, the Scientific Apparatus Makers of America, and served as its president from 1920 to 1926. During this period he was active in the project whereby the scope of the official publication of the Optical Society of America was enlarged to include papers on all types of scientific instrumentation, its title being changed to the *Journal of the Optical Society of America and Review of Scientific Instruments*. Mr. Leeds served as consulting business manager of the journal from 1922 until 1937. The *Review* has appeared as a separate publication since 1930. Mr. Leeds was a member of the American Physical Society and numerous other professional scientific and technical organizations. He was deeply involved during much of his career with education matters and served for ten years as president of the Philadelphia Board of Education and for seventeen years as president of the board and of the corporation of Haverford College.