

earth where one can travel from sea level to such heights over an area in which the climate is determined by a fully marine tropical air mass free from the distortions of continental effects. For this reason, the observatory affords an unusual opportunity for many types of geophysical research.

White Mountain Joint Support Program

The White Mountain Research Station on Mount Barcroft in California's White Mountain range is to receive combined support totaling \$36,000 per year for a three-year period from the National Science Foundation, the Office of Naval Research, and the Rockefeller Foundation, according to a recent NSF announcement. The laboratory, located within the limits of the Inyo National Forest, was acquired by ONR from the Naval Ordnance Test Station in 1950 and has been operated as a year-round high-altitude research facility by the University of California, with funds provided under an ONR contract. The University will continue to maintain the station under the direction of Professors Nello Pace and S. F. Cook, who are assisted by an interdepartmental committee composed of staff members of the University representing various divisions of the physical, medical, and biological sciences. It is intended under the new program that the committee be broadened to include scientists from all geographical regions of the United States and from the various fields of science which require high altitude research facilities. Two laboratories, one at the 10,500-foot level and another at 12,500 feet, are now available to scientists. In addition, limited experimentation may be carried on at heights up to 14,256 feet.

Radiation Research

A New Society is Organized

The Radiation Research Society, which held its first meeting in New York City last April 15th, has been organized in recognition of the present need for better integration of the various scientific disciplines involved in the study of radiation effects. The council of the new society includes two representatives for each of the fields of physics, chemistry, biology, and medicine, and two additional members elected to represent science in general. The initial membership of the organization is over 250. Officers for 1952-53 are: Raymond E. Zirkle, president; Alexander Hollaender, vice president; Abraham Edelmann, secretary; and Harvey Patt, treasurer.

Miscellany

International

Visiting professorships in physics are currently open for qualified applicants at the University of Karachi and the University of the Punjab, Pakistan, and the University of Malaya, Singapore, according to the State Department. Inquiries or applications should be addressed to Mr. Gilbert Anderson, Chief, American

Grantees Section, Professional Activities Branch, Educational Exchange Service, U. S. Department of State, Washington 25, D. C.

The Italian Society of Geophysics and Meteorology, organized in May of this year, has announced plans to begin publication of a Bulletin within the next few months. The society was formed to serve the interests of those persons who are concerned with climatology, seismology, volcanology, oceanography, hydrology, geodesy, and other subjects which might fall under the general categories of geophysics and meteorology. The secretary is Professor M. Bossolasco of the Geophysical Institute, University of Genoa.

Israel and Unesco have signed an agreement providing that five scientists will be sent to that country and that five Israeli scientists will receive fellowships for study abroad. Unesco plans to provide teachers in experimental physics, optics, geology, and biochemistry, as well as a scientist to work with the National Physical Research Laboratory.

Israel has also formed an Atomic Energy Commission, according to reports from Tel Aviv. The move was made by Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion following a survey of the country's natural resources which indicated the presence of radioactive minerals.

Government

Statistical and fiscal information on the programs of federal agencies for the last two years in supporting scientific research and development by educational and other nonprofit institutions has been requested by the National Science Foundation. NSF is compiling such data on a continuing basis at the request of the Bureau of the Budget, which has gathered similar information on federal research and development programs in previous years.

Expansion of the research programs of the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force has been insured by a bill which President Truman signed in mid-July. The legislation also provides for part-time consultants and specialists to serve on advisory committees and for the employment of alien scientists.

Reactor-produced radioactive polonium 210 may now be purchased at Oak Ridge for use in research. The first alpha-particle emitter to be sold by the AEC's Isotopes Division, polonium can also be used as a source of high-energy neutrons, and it has been announced that polonium-beryllium neutron sources, enclosed in nickel cylinders, will be assembled at Oak Ridge for distribution to licensed purchasers.

Uranium 235, the fissionable isotope of uranium, will be produced at a new gaseous diffusion plant to be located in Pike County, Ohio, according to an announcement made August 12th by the AEC. The plant, costing an estimated \$1.2 billion, will be constructed in connection with the AEC's recently disclosed atomic weapons expansion program. Completion of the project is expected to take about four years, although some units of the plant may be in operation by 1954.

The AEC has also authorized two additional new projects: the construction of facilities related to the eventual development of nuclear propulsion for aircraft at the National Reactor Testing Station in Idaho; and development work on a nuclear power plant suitable for propulsion of large naval vessels, to be conducted by the Westinghouse Electric Corporation under a contract with the AEC.

A placement service for scientific and professional personnel at the Army Chemical Center in Maryland has made it possible for GI's with technical backgrounds to find employment upon their release from active duty and has provided industry, government agencies, and other employers of scientists with an opportunity to interview Army personnel for employment prior to their actual availability.

Industrial

Detroit Edison Company has established a nuclear power development department to coordinate atomic energy studies under an AEC contract which the company holds jointly with the Dow Chemical Company in order to examine the feasibility of the commercial production of electricity from a reactor.

Marketing of radioisotopes produced at Chalk River, which has been handled in the past two years by Eldorado Mining and Refining, Ltd., is now being handled by Atomic Energy of Canada, Ltd. The commercial products division of Eldorado has been transferred as an entity, but the division will continue to be located in Ottawa. Eldorado will produce radium as a by-product of its uranium operation, as usual, but will withdraw from the marketing of radium products.

Jena optical glass will soon be produced at a new plant in Western Germany, now in the process of being

built with the help of Marshall Plan funds. Formerly located in what is now the Russian Zone of Germany, the Jena plant was originally liberated by U. S. forces and, before the Russians took over, about 180 of the top personnel, including scientists, were evacuated to the west. The first section of the Jena Glass Works Schott & Gen. plant was formally opened a short time ago near Mainz with ceremonies attended by important American, French, and German officials. The Fish-Schurman Corporation, New Rochelle, N. Y., represents the Jena Works in this country.

The Computer Corporation of America has inaugurated a service which furnishes solutions to complex problems in dynamics for industrial organizations, government bureaus, and researchers. The new service, according to a company spokesman, should prove useful for qualitative and quantitative studies in aerodynamics, servo-analysis, thermodynamics, and many other fields. Inquiries should be addressed to Computer Corporation of America, 149 Church Street, New York 7, N. Y.

The X-Ray Diffraction School will hold its fall session at the plant of North American Philips Company in Mount Vernon, N. Y., from October 6th through the 10th. Basic subjects to be covered will include x-ray diffraction, new high and low temperature camera techniques, fluorescence analysis, geiger-counter x-ray spectrometer, and electron microscopy and diffraction.

Fourteen Eastman Kodak Company fellowships have been awarded to thirteen colleges and universities for the next academic year. The fellowships, worth \$1400 apiece, are made available under a program started in 1939 to help support advanced studies in physics, chemistry, and chemical engineering.

Brien McMahon, U. S. Senator from Connecticut and chairman of the Joint Congressional Committee on



Sen. Brien McMahon. *Black Star* photo by *Peggy Plummer*.

Atomic Energy, died at Georgetown University Hospital on July 28th at the age of forty-eight. A freshman senator with only eight months experience in Congress on August 6, 1945, the date of the Hiroshima explosion, McMahon applied himself at once to the task of learning as much nuclear science as possible and quickly became known as one of the more scientifically enlightened members of Congress. He was the author of a bill generally approved by scientists which was passed into law as the Atomic Energy Act of 1946—the legislation which formally established the civilian administration of the Atomic Energy Commission and which defined its powers and its limitations. As chairman of the Joint Congressional Committee, McMahon remained in close touch with the progress of the atomic energy program and was vigorously active in his efforts to bring about its six-fold expansion, from an expenditure of from one to six billion dollars per year. A lawyer by profession, McMahon served for several years in Washington as an assistant to the Attorney General of the United States before his election to the Senate in 1944.