

Miscellany

The State Department has cut the professional staff of its Science Office in Washington from four members to two, according to the Federation of American Scientists, and has reduced the number of science attachés at U. S. diplomatic offices in Western Europe from nine to four.

The June 1953 Strasbourg meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Council of Scientific Unions, we understand, has asked the Committee on Cosmic Rays of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics to assume the role of specially appointed commission of the IUPAP to make plans—so far as regards physics—for the forthcoming international geodesic year (1957–1958).

The Naval Research Advisory Committee, established in 1946, advises the Secretary of the Navy, the Chief of Naval Operations, and the Chief of Naval Research on scientific research and its utilization by the Navy. Augustus B. Kinzel, formerly the Committee's vice-chairman, is the new chairman, succeeding Arthur H. Compton, and John A. Hutcheson is the new vice-chairman. Dr. Kinzel, president of the Union Carbide and Carbon Laboratories, is also vice-president and director of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers. Dr. Hutcheson, a member of the Committee since 1947, is vice-president of the Research Laboratories of the Westinghouse Electric Corporation. Other members of the Committee are A. V. Astin, Luis de Florez, R. E. Dyer, J. C. Hunsaker, Paul F. Lee, I. I. Rabi, William R. Sears, E. H. Smith, H. N. Stephens, J. W. Sterling, and George D. Stoddard.

A directory of the optical industry (which will include lists of companies and organizations, optical items and suppliers, personnel in the industry, and useful optical data) is in the process of being compiled from answers to a questionnaire circulated by the Optical Publishing Company of Huntington, Long Island, New York. Its editors have indicated that they want the *Directory* to be as complete as possible and will therefore be glad to hear from organizations or individuals who may have been omitted from their mailing.

Research Notes

The high-frequency auditory response of "a fresh caught, wild, adult bottlenosed porpoise" is considered in a paper by W. E. Schevill of Woods Hole and Barbara Lawrence of Harvard, which appears in the September issue of *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*. Since cetaceans in general are known to produce underwater sounds, many people have hypothesized that these sounds are used for echo-location and navigation, as in the case of bats. In this work no evidence to support the echo-location theory was found, although much information was gained concerning the audibility of sounds by the porpoise. Unfortunately, the pool that composed the experimental vessel "had a deplorably high background, chiefly caused by snapping

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