

Miscellany

Laboratories

The first of the new facilities that will comprise the U. S. Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory in San Francisco was recently completed and is now in operation. The new two million volt Van de Graaff accelerator which will be used by scientists in all the Laboratory divisions has been housed in a two-story structure with the generator located on the upper floor and the control and target rooms, a laboratory, and offices on the ground floor. The facility is under the over-all control of Andrew Guthrie, head of the nucleonics division of the Laboratory. Adjacent to the Van de Graaff building is a six-story main laboratory building which is still under construction. It is anticipated that it will be ready for occupancy next spring.

Argonne National Laboratory has announced that applications for temporary research appointments at the Laboratory for the next academic year will be accepted until December 15, 1954. Argonne, operated for the AEC by the University of Chicago, reserves temporary positions each year for members of university and college faculties who will return to their academic institutions after temporary residence at the Laboratory. Appointments will be made for a period of approximately one year, although applications for the summer, or for other periods less than a year, will be considered in cases where useful results can be anticipated in the shorter time. Each applicant must be endorsed by his own academic institution. Further information and applications may be obtained by communicating with J. C. Boyce, Associate Laboratory Director, Argonne National Laboratory, P. O. Box 299, Lemont, Illinois.

At Georgia Institute of Technology, plans have been completed for a new \$340 000 electronic computing center made possible by a grant of \$85 000 from the Rich Foundation of Atlanta, an additional \$85 000 from the Georgia Tech Research Institute, and a \$170 000 building provided through the University System Authority of Georgia. Preliminary plans call for the purchase of a medium-size, general-purpose computer to be housed temporarily by the Georgia Tech Engineering Experiment Station. Ultimately, a larger and more elaborate computer is to be designed and constructed as a cooperative project of the scientific personnel of Georgia Tech and the Station. The two computers will be used in the research and training activities of the Research Institute and their services will be

made available to industry and business in the Southeast.

A new research reactor providing an average thermal neutron flux of 3.3×10^{13} and an average fast flux of 1.6×10^{13} neutrons per cm^2 per second is to be constructed at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. These fluxes are about twice those of ORNL's low intensity test reactor and one-sixth of those of the materials testing reactor in Idaho. The reactor, which will cost an estimated \$2.8 million, will have a heterogeneous core using enriched uranium as fuel and ordinary water as moderator and coolant, and will operate at a power level of about five megawatts. Access holes for irradiation purposes will be available on the top and on three sides of the reactor core, with the fourth side facing an open pool of water, thus offering the added versatility of a swimming-pool type of reactor. Because of the ready access to regions of high flux, the reactor will be useful for important solid-state research and neutron diffraction studies, radioisotope production, and the testing of materials and systems for the applied reactor programs. The facility is expected to be completed in less than three years.

Education

Opportunities for teaching in foreign universities have been announced by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, which is currently serving as a clearinghouse for information concerning the availability of such posts. In the sciences, positions in physics, mathematics, astronomy, metallurgy, and chemistry have been declared open in Canada, Ecuador, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Liberia, Pakistan, and Turkey. In most cases, English is acceptable as the teaching language. Those interested in investigating the situation have been invited to write for details to the Exchange of Persons Programme of Unesco, 19 Avenue Kléber, Paris 16, France.

A series of posters for school bulletin boards, designed to stimulate students to study physics, has been prepared by W. M. Welch Scientific Company, 1515 Sedgwick Street, Chicago 10, Illinois, manufacturers of scientific instruments and laboratory apparatus. The posters are colorful and to the point and mercifully include no images of exploding bombs or stylized versions of the Bohr atom.

Organized

A new society for scientists and engineers working professionally in the atomic energy field has been formed. It will be known as the Society of Nuclear Scientists and Engineers (SNSE). The purpose of the organization, according to an announcement by the group, is to foster the "integration and advancement of nuclear science and technology primarily through the holding of meetings and the publication of papers." SNSE's first major activity will be a three-day tech-