

Miscellany

French Science Ministry

A broad plan for consolidating programs of the various French research establishments has been announced by M. Henri Longchambon, who was appointed to the newly created post of Secretary of State for Scientific Research and Technical Progress following the election of M. Mendes-France as Prime Minister of France. Among other contemplated changes in the organization of government research, the following projects are already included in the 1955 budget: establishment of an institute at the Sorbonne equipped with a 100 Mev synchrocyclotron, 2 Mev accelerator, and isotope separator; expansion of the center for nuclear physics at Strasbourg, which will have a 6 Mev accelerator; extension of the Lyons atomic physics institute, which will also have a new accelerator; a nuclear physics center at Grenoble equipped with "an accelerator of a wholly French design"; a 2 billion volt accelerator to be constructed at Saclay by the French Atomic Energy Commission; and a new betatron at the laboratory of atomic synthesis at Ivry, a 2 Mev accelerator at the Ecole Normale Supérieure, and a new laboratory and 500 Mev synchrocyclotron at Orsay. The new ministry under M. Longchambon, it is announced, includes a planning and policy council which will aid in coordinating the scientific efforts of the French government.

Industrial Research

The Department of Labor has announced the launching of a nation-wide survey of industrial research and development in the United States. The study, which is being carried out by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the National Science Foundation, will provide data on research spending and manpower in every major industry. Coordinated surveys of research activities in government agencies, colleges and universities, trade associations, commercial laboratories, and nonprofit institutions will be carried out by the National Science Foundation. The entire survey program is in conformance with the President's Executive Order 10521, which directed the Foundation to make comprehensive studies of research resources and to develop and recommend to him policies to strengthen the nation's scientific research effort.

Industry is in no danger of over-expanding its research, according to E. R. Weidlein, president of the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research, who spoke at

a December conference of the American Institute of Management held in New York City. Well-organized industrial research, being "the most effective mechanism ever devised by man to improve his standard of living", is a fruitful source of industrial progress and should be intensified, he indicated. Management officials were warned, however, against destroying the scientific creativity of researchers by attempting to turn scientists into administrators. A more satisfactory approach, he suggested, would be an organizational structure providing for scientific positions equivalent in stature and salary to business administration positions in order to permit scientists to continue working as scientists.

Established

The American Nuclear Society, which was originally called the "Society of Nuclear Scientists and Engineers", came into formal existence last October at a meeting held at the National Academy of Sciences. While primarily interested in nuclear power technology, the Society also includes in its sphere of activity radiation effects, the use of radioisotopes, and similar topics. Membership is open to persons professionally involved in nuclear science and engineering. In one of its first moves the group offered to assist the AEC in implementing the proposed international nuclear energy conference, a subject now under United Nations consideration. ANS will hold its first technical meeting June 27-29 at Pennsylvania State University. Headquarters of the Society are at 329 West 41st Street, New York 36, N. Y.

The Combustion Institute, an incorporated non-profit, professional society, has been established with executive offices at 200 Alcoa Building, Pittsburgh 19, Pennsylvania. An outgrowth of the Standing Committee on Combustion Symposia, which has sponsored meetings in 1948, 1952, and 1954, the Institute's purpose is to "promote the science and application of combustion and to disseminate knowledge in this field". The Institute has elected a board of directors of fifteen members and the following officers: Bernard Lewis (president), H. C. Hottel (vice president), Stewart Way (treasurer), Bernard M. Sturgis (assistant treasurer), and Glenn C. Williams (secretary). The Institute has also formed a committee with membership drawn from the United States and thirteen other countries which will be responsible for organizing and conducting future combustion symposia.

The Institute of Mathematical Sciences at New York University, representing "an expansion and integration of advanced research and instruction in the mathematical sciences", was formally dedicated on November 29th in ceremonies that included an address on mathematics and natural philosophy by Danish physicist Niels Bohr. Other speakers were Henry T. Heald, chancellor of NYU; George E. Roosevelt, president of the University Council; A. B. Kinzel, director of research for Union Carbide and Carbon Corporation and chairman of the Institute's advisory board; and Rich-

ard Courant, director of the Institute. Located in a nine-story building near Washington Square, the Institute operates in three interlocking divisions concerned respectively with mathematics and mechanics, mathematics research (mainly electromagnetic field phenomena), and numerical analysis (including AEC contract work carried on with the UNIVAC computing machine and a research and training program in new computing techniques). The Institute also issues a quarterly journal, *Communications on Pure and Applied Mathematics*, put out by Interscience Publishers, Inc. Future plans call for expansion of the Institute's interest in probability and mathematical statistics and a strengthened program of mathematical physics.

The Boulder Laboratories of the National Bureau of Standards were formally dedicated on September 14, with President Eisenhower doing the honors. The \$4 million laboratory, under the over-all direction of Frederick W. Brown, houses two major NBS activities, the Central Radio Propagation Laboratory and the Cryogenic Engineering Laboratory. The CRPL consists of three divisions, devoted to radio propagation physics, radio propagation engineering, and radio standards, directed by Ralph J. Slutz, Kenneth A. Norton, and Harold A. Thomas, respectively. The cryogenics laboratory, sponsored jointly by NBS and the Atomic Energy Commission, is headed by Russell B. Scott and includes liquid hydrogen and nitrogen plants. Two conferences accompanied the dedication of the new NBS facility, one dealing with radio propagation and standards and the other with cryogenics.

Education and Research

The University of Delaware has announced the establishment of a curriculum leading to a doctoral program in physics. The Delaware physics department staff of seven includes specialists in microwave and radio-frequency spectroscopy and in theoretical nuclear physics. The latter field has been strengthened by the addition this year of Sydney Meshkov, who holds a PhD from the University of Pennsylvania, as an assistant professor. The department chairman is William V. Smith.

Formal dedication of the recently established Andre Meyer department of physics at New York City's Mount Sinai Hospital took place November 8th. Paul C. Abersold, director of the AEC's isotopes division at Oak Ridge, was the principal speaker. The department has been active since last spring.

Johns Hopkins University has announced that the recently constructed engineering building, which completes the group of major buildings on the main Quadrangle of the campus, has been named Ames Hall in honor of the late Joseph S. Ames, a noted physicist who served as president at Hopkins for five years prior to his retirement in 1935. He died in 1943 at the age of 78. A former president of the American Physical Society (1919-20), he received his PhD in physics at Hopkins in 1890, joined the faculty the following year,

became a full professor in 1899, was director of the physics laboratory for a quarter of a century until his appointment as provost in 1926. He became president in 1929. According to University spokesmen, the astrophysics and electrical engineering departments had already moved into the new Ames Hall by November and it was anticipated that all departments would be completely installed before the first of the year. Formal dedication of the building, which cost \$1.5 million, will be held sometime in the spring.

A graduate program of study and fundamental research in plastics has been announced by Princeton University. The curriculum covers the properties, evaluation, production, fabrication, design, and application of materials, and the chemistry of plastics. Contact with industrial plants representing various interests of the plastics industry is included in the program. Fellowships with stipends of from \$1500 to \$2500 (plus tuition and fees) and research assistantships with stipends of \$1500 per academic year are available. For further information write to Louis F. Rahm, Director, Plastics Laboratory, 30 Charlton Street, Princeton, New Jersey.

A research participation program at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory under which university faculty members will conduct research in physics, chemistry, metallurgy, biology, mathematics, and engineering has been announced by the Laboratory and the Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies. Faculty members may perform their research for periods ranging from three months to a year, with stipends approximating their university salaries. Applications should be submitted six months prior to the proposed time of starting work. Forms and further information may be obtained from the University Relations Division, Oak Ridge Institute for Nuclear Studies, P.O. Box 117, Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

Plans for the International Geophysical Year, scheduled for 1957-58, have already produced a tangible result in the embarkation of a Navy icebreaker on a five-month expedition to the Antarctic for preliminary scientific measurements. Besides making observations in meteorology, cosmic rays, oceanography, radio communication, and glaciology, the personnel of the USS *Atka* will examine sites for research stations in the Antarctic to be occupied during IGY. It is hoped that information obtained during the expedition will provide a realistic basis for the detailed IGY program in that region.

Publications

A new style guide, *Mathematics in Type*, has been issued for the use of "authors, editors, and others concerned with the preparation and economical production of books and articles containing mathematical expressions". Written "from a printer's viewpoint", the 58-page booklet includes sections on monotype and other methods of composition, mathematical symbols and