

sciences. The program will begin in the summer of 1956. The departments of physics, chemistry, and mathematics of the University will cooperate in organizing programs designed explicitly for high school teachers. The expenses of those selected to attend the institutes will be covered by the grant. A second series of institutes is planned for 1957. Information may be obtained from J. W. Buchta, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis 14, Minnesota.

The General Electric Company, as part of its extensive series of programs of assistance to education, is again co-sponsoring six-week summer fellowship programs for science and mathematics secondary and college teachers. More than two hundred teachers from twenty-four states and the District of Columbia are taking part in summer institutes offered at Union College, Case Institute of Technology, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and Purdue University, the four participating colleges. In addition to the secondary school teachers, each school has selected a small group of professors of physics, chemistry, and mathematics from state teachers' colleges to join in the program. GE supports the project, paying all expenses of the teachers as well as placing some of its facilities and personnel at the disposal of the colleges and arranging for trips to its local laboratories and plants. By the end of this summer, a total of 1350 secondary school teachers will have participated since inception of the programs ten years ago—at a total cost to GE of about \$700 000.

Special Courses

Nuclear engineering, a two-semester master's degree program, is being offered by the University of California's division of mechanical engineering at Berkeley in cooperation with the University's Radiation Laboratory and the Livermore Laboratory. Attention will be given to problems of analysis, design, performance predictions, and cost of nuclear power systems. Further information may be obtained from Professor E. D. Howe, Chairman of Mechanical Engineering, University of California, Berkeley 4, California. Application for admission should be made to the Graduate Division, Administration Building, at Berkeley.

Beginning with the fall term, New York University's College of Engineering will offer a graduate program in nuclear engineering and engineering science. The program is designed to answer the need for individuals who are "well-trained in the fundamentals of engineering yet who have a thorough knowledge of the unique problems encountered in the development of nuclear energy." The College has also announced plans for the construction this summer of a "sub-critical nuclear reactor" for laboratory use. If the project is approved by the AEC the device will be tested at Brookhaven National Laboratory before its installation in the basement of Butler Hall on NYU's Bronx campus. Costing a few thousand dollars, the reactor will consist of an arrangement of uranium rods immersed in a

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tank of water and supplemented by a polonium-beryllium source. Neutron intensity will be of the order of 10^8 neutrons per second. According to Lyle B. Borst, chairman of the physics department, the device will provide a tool with which physicists and engineers can be trained in the physics of the chain reaction, reactor theory, and diffusion theory.

A program of twenty-five lectures on titanium "open to persons with a general engineering and metallurgical background" will be conducted at NYU's College of Engineering from September 12 through 16. Information and applications (which will be accepted until August 20th) may be obtained by writing to Assistant Dean Wilbur K. McKee, Office of Special Services to Business and Industry, New York University, 6 Washington Square North, New York 3, N. Y.

Adelbert Ames, Jr., former director of research at the Dartmouth Eye Institute and one of the 18 charter members of the Optical Society of America, suffered a fatal heart attack in Hanover, New Hampshire, on July 3rd. His age was seventy-four. An outstanding authority on physiological optics and the psychology of visual perception, Professor Ames was honored in April of this year by the Optical Society when he was chosen to receive the Edgar A. Tillyer medal for notable scientific contributions in the field of vision. The son of General Adelbert Ames of the Union Army, he was born in Lowell, Massachusetts, graduated from Harvard College in 1903, and received the bachelor of laws degree from Harvard Law School in 1906. He engaged in legal practice in Boston for a time, only to abandon law in 1910 in order to study art and to paint. The four years that he gave to painting led to an absorbing interest in the functioning of the eye and in the psychology of vision—an interest that he pursued as a research fellow at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts, during the period 1914–17. Following World War I, in which he had served as an aerial observer and captain in the Army Signal Corps, he received an appointment as research professor of physiological optics at Dartmouth College (1921–46) and became research director of the Dartmouth Eye Institute in 1936. From 1946 until 1953 he was director of research of the Hanover Institute for Associated Research. In 1953 Professor Ames became a research consultant in psychology at Princeton University, where his demonstrations in visual perception are located. These are described in his recent book, *An Interpretation Manual for the Demonstrations in the Psychology Research Center, Princeton University. The Nature of our Perceptions, Prehensions, and Behavior* (Princeton University Press, 1954). The full citation for the award of the Edgar D. Tillyer Medal to Professor Ames, together with an extensive bibliography, a list of his patents, and his own response upon receiving the award at the Optical Society dinner in New York City on April 28th are printed in the May 1955 issue of the *Journal of the Optical Society of America*.