

THE SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT—A SUMMARY

This summary describes, in brief, each of the subjects covered in detail by the Sixth Annual Report. Page numbers are indicated for those who desire to read the more complete report.

Recent Developments Affecting the Scientific Community

Surveys of the Nation's Scientific Potential.—With publication during the fiscal year of four monographs on amounts, kinds, and costs of scientific research in the United States, the Foundation provides further information about the Nation's scientific research and development activities. These publications were *Science and Engineering in American Industry*, *Scientific Expenditures by the Larger Private Foundations*, *Research by Cooperative Organizations*, and *Federal Funds for Science*.—Other surveys in preparation are discussed. Prepared under the direction of the Foundation's Office of Special Studies, these studies provide sound statistical bases on which Federal science programs and policies can be developed. (p. 1.)

Considerations of Loyalty in Relation to Government Support of Unclassified Research.—The Administration outlines the practices which will be followed by the departments and agencies of the Government with reference to grants or contracts for unclassified scientific research. (p. 9.)

Science and Scientific Manpower in the U. S. S. R.—United States science is seen against a perspective of Soviet technological advances. Nicholas DeWitt's book, *Soviet Professional Manpower*, published and widely circulated by the Foundation and the National Academy of Sciences, provided data about the role of education and training in contributing to large-scale advances in Soviet technology. (p. 12.)

The National Committee for the Development of Scientists and Engineers.—President Eisenhower establishes a citizens' action committee, with staff support from the Foundation, to stimulate nongovernmental programs for the development of well-qualified scientific manpower to meet the United States economic, health, and defense needs. (p. 17.)

Recruiting and Retaining Scientific Personnel in Government Service.—Problems of recruitment of scientists and engineers for Federal employment, their retention in Government, their salary schedules, and their status generally are cause for concern. (p. 20.)

The International Geophysical Year.—Over 50 nations of the world will cooperate in a vast worldwide study of man's physical environment during the IGY, mid-1957 to the end of 1958. Progress of the United States program during fiscal year 1956 is described. (p. 22.)

Federal Policy on Conduct and Support of Research and Development in Synthetic Rubber.—The United States Government withdraws from the special support of synthetic rubber research and is disposing of the Government laboratories at Akron, Ohio, following congressional approval of such disposal. (p. 28.)

A Photographic Sampling of Foundation Activities

Often a picture conveys meaning better than words. Here an attempt has been made to show graphically something of the content of each of the major programs of the Foundation—from scenes characteristic of the environment of basic research, to science-minded teen-agers browsing among the books of a traveling science library.

Program Activities of the National Science Foundation

The Research Report describes the program of two divisions of the Foundation—the Division of Biological and Medical Sciences, and the Division of Mathematical, Physical, and Engineering Sciences—during fiscal year 1956. These divisions supported basic research through 734 grants totaling over \$9.6 million, in 258 institutions, located in 47 States, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and a small number of foreign countries. (p. 44.)

The Facilities Report.—The Foundation started to provide financial support for the establishment of new facilities urgently required for basic research as well as support for existing special-purpose research facilities. Facilities supported during fiscal year 1956 or projected for support during the period ending June 30, 1957, include a radio astronomy facility, an optical astronomical observatory, nuclear research reactors, high speed computers, and biological field stations. (p. 54.)

The Manpower Report describes the work of the Division of Scientific Personnel and Education with particular reference to its program of institutes for high school and college science teachers, and of its fellow-

ship programs. The latter provided 775 graduate fellowships for students studying for advanced degrees in the sciences, 80 postdoctoral fellowships for scientists engaged in postdoctoral training and research, and 40 senior postdoctoral fellowships for more advanced and mature scientists than those who have but recently received their doctorate. (p. 61.)

The Communications Report describes the work of the Office of Scientific Information in making research results more widely accessible to scientists everywhere. Objectives are achieved essentially through:

1. Making the results of foreign scientific research available to American scientists.

2. Establishment of more effective machinery to enable scientists to locate and obtain results of unclassified Federal scientific research.

3. Support of research directed toward improving methods of documenting results of scientific investigation.

4. Emergency support of current scientific publications and reference tools.

5. Enabling American scientists to attend important international scientific meetings. (p. 76.)

Conferences in Support of Science presents a brief synopsis of each of the 29 conferences of scientists for which the Foundation provided partial support during fiscal year 1956. Such conferences serve as an effective clearinghouse and catalyst for exchange of ideas and information among scientists, many of whom are drawn from other nations, working in new and incompletely explored fields. (p. 83.)