

THE SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT—A SUMMARY

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

Studies and Reports Relating to National Science Policies

Survey of the United States Research and Development Effort.—The Foundation's Office of Special Studies herein provides answers to such questions as what fields of science are being explored and to what extent, who performs the work, who pays costs, the nature of the costs, and the proportion of research that is basic or applied. The Foundation's work in this area was set forth in several monographs issued during the year, and notably in a new series of bulletins entitled *Reviews of Data on Research and Development*. (p. 5.)

Federal Financial Support of Research Facilities and Equipment.—Today's tools for scientific research are complex and expensive. This section of the report examines the role which the Federal Government should play in providing the research facilities required for modern scientific investigations, particularly basic research. (p. 12.)

Status of High-Energy Nuclear Research in the United States.—A panel of outstanding specialists in nuclear research reports the results of a survey, jointly sponsored by the Atomic Energy Commission, the Department of Defense, and the Foundation. (p. 14.)

A Plan to Assure an Adequate Supply of Mineral Resources.—A Foundation-appointed Advisory Committee on Minerals Research proposes a research program in geology, geochemistry, and geophysics designed to assure an adequate stockpile of minerals. (p. 19.)

Proposal to Establish a Geophysical Institute in Hawaii.—In response to a Congressional Resolution, the Foundation makes recommendations concerning the desirability of using Federal funds for constructing and equipping a geophysical institute in Hawaii. (p. 22.)

Research Results of Government-Supported Synthetic Rubber Program (1942-55) Made Available to the Public.—Through the Office of Technical Services, Department of Commerce, the Foundation releases to the public Federal research and development reports relating to synthetic rubber. (p. 23.)

United States Participation in the Brussels Universal and International Exhibition of 1958.—At the request of the Department of State, the Foundation is coordinating the United States program for the International Science Section at the Brussels Exhibition, 1958. (p. 24.)

A Photographic Sampling of Foundation-Supported Activities

Pictures heighten the interest of the narrative. These were chosen to supplement the text, and show graphically the types of activities supported by the Foundation in carrying out its function of promoting basic research and training and education in the sciences. (p. 25.)

Program Activities of the National Science Foundation

Support of Basic Research in the Sciences.—Through the Division of Biological and Medical Sciences and the Division of Mathematical, Physical, and Engineering Sciences, the Foundation during fiscal year 1957 supported basic research in an amount of \$21.5 million, representing nearly 1,000 grants to 250 institutions in all 48 States, the District of Columbia, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and a small number of foreign countries. (p. 34.)

Conferences in Support of Science.—During fiscal year 1957, the Foundation provided partial support for a total of 25 conferences and symposia on specific aspects of science. Such meetings are excellent opportunities for the interchange of information and ideas among investigators, both American and foreign, who are leaders in the never-ending search for new scientific knowledge. (p. 57.)

Training and Education in the Sciences.—The Foundation, through its Division of Scientific Personnel and Education, supported 96 summer institutes and 16 academic-year institutes for high school and college science teachers. For the same period, fiscal year 1957, the Foundation awarded 1,109 fellowships in the sciences—845 predoctoral fellowships, 109 regular postdoctoral fellowships, 55 senior postdoctoral fellowships, and 100 science faculty fellowships. Several other education-in-the-sciences programs are also discussed in this section of the report. (p. 67.)

Exchange of Scientific Information.—The Foundation subscribes to the tenet that no research is completed until its results have been published—and, most importantly, made readily accessible to all scientists. Herein is described the work of the Foundation's Office of Scientific Information, whose primary objective is to insure in every possible way the continuing availability of scientific information to the scientist. (p. 79.)

The International Geophysical Year.—As fiscal year 1957 closed, the International Geophysical Year began officially—July 1, 1957. Responsible for funding and Government coordination of the United States program, the Foundation reports on progress in this worldwide scientific venture in which more than 60 nations are cooperating. (p. 89.)