

the 26,000 petitions filed in 1958 were the lowest number recorded since the end of the Second World War. The number of live births was 741,000, the highest figure since 1948. One-eighth of these births were conceived outside marriage, but 60 per cent of these were legitimized by the parents marrying before the birth of the child. It was still, however, premature to say whether this number indicated an increase in total family size, or merely a temporary change in the timing of births within marriage, though it was clear that the rates implied that the population was replacing itself with a margin to spare. In the extensive analysis of mortality, there is a comment on the gap between male and female death-rates. The male rate is now more than double the female in two age groups: 15-24, where men have much higher death-rates from accidents, and at ages 55-64, where the principal contributions are made by coronary disease, with a male rate 3.6 times that of the female, cancer of the lung (9.7) and bronchitis (5.2). There is the usual extensive discussion of cause of mortality. The volume contains a special note on deaths following vaccination and other prophylactic inoculations, and on deaths following from therapeutic misadventure.

#### Euratom Translation Office at Brussels

THE European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom), the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority and the United States Atomic Energy Commission have agreed to pool their efforts to collect and disseminate information concerning translations of nuclear literature, especially from such languages unfamiliar to Western readers as Russian and Japanese. A central information office, called 'Transatom', has therefore been established at Euratom's Brussels headquarters. The office publishes a monthly *Transatom Bulletin*, which lists existing translations recently reported to the Brussels office as well as new translations planned by international or national institutions and private firms in the European Community, the United States, the United Kingdom and in other countries. All data relating to translations, including those made before the establishment of Transatom, are being collected and recorded in a master file system at Brussels. Copies of this card file have been offered to appropriate institutions in countries with great interest in the nuclear field. Contacts have been established in order to avoid duplication of work when the European translation centre, to be established at Delft, Holland, is set up. The scope of this institution is much wider: it will cover all scientific and technical material in the field of exact sciences. The *Bulletin* is available on a subscription basis from Transatom, 51 Rue Belliard, Brussels, at 8 dollars per annum, or 16 dollars air mail.

#### Use of Film in Scientific Research

THE Department of Scientific and Industrial Research has set up a working party to consider national needs in the field of scientific film. It is especially interested in the aspects of film as a research tool and in communicating research results. To assist the working party the Department, in co-operation with the other research councils, the Atomic Energy Authority and some Government Departments, is circulating a questionnaire to industry, universities and research organizations. The working party consists of: Dr. W. L. Francis (chairman); Mr. Edgar Anstey, British Transport Commission, president of the Scientific Film Associa-

tion; Mr. D. E. H. Densham, Ministry of Aviation; Sir Arthur Elton, Associated Electrical Industries; Mr. C. Engel, Medical Illustration Department, Guy's Hospital; Prof. G. E. H. Foxon, Guy's Hospital, president, British Universities Film Council; Mr. L. E. Hallett, Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain; Prof. C. H. Waddington, Institute of Animal Genetics, Edinburgh. Three members of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research are also included: Mr. H. E. Beckett; Mr. L. Poole; and Mr. R. E. Overbury (secretary). Further information can be obtained from the Information Division, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, 14-18 Cornwall Terrace, London, N.W.1.

#### British Catalogue of Films for Universities

To assist the university teacher, who may have difficulty in locating films available for teaching purposes, the British Universities Film Council has issued a catalogue of some 1,400 titles classified according to the Universal Decimal Classification, together with an alphabetical index of titles (Pp. 166. Glasgow: British Universities Film Council, Royal College of Science and Technology, 1960). Besides a list of distributors there is appended a list of subject catalogues. The Catalogue has hitherto been issued as a card index, usually placed in the university library, but it is intended to reprint it in four or five years time. It is hoped that issue in book form, by widening its distribution, for example, so as to permit copies to be available in departments, will both stimulate the use of films in universities and comparable institutions and engender interest in expanding the catalogue. Suggestions as to films which might be included in future supplements are invited. Issue of the Catalogue in separate parts is contemplated and this should be an advantage to many users, particularly with further expansion of the Catalogue.

#### New British Oceanographic Research Ship

PLANS for a new research ship to replace R.R.S. *Discovery II*—now 31 years old—are almost complete, and it is hoped shortly to invite tenders for her construction by the early summer of 1962. The great advances in oceanography in the past decade have shown that there is a real need for a comprehensive research ship capable of working in any ocean, and in almost any weather. The demands for laboratory and ancillary spaces, together with present-day requirements for crew accommodation, alone necessitate a ship larger than *Discovery II*, and, as the life of a research ship may well be 25-30 years, allowance must also be made for future needs. The suggested design envisages a ship with an overall length of 260 ft., a beam of 44 ft. and a displacement of about 2,800 tons. Laboratory and other scientific spaces will occupy some 3,000 sq. ft. and will provide facilities for marine physics, biology, chemistry, geology, geophysics and meteorology. Diesel-electric drive, with a single screw, will allow a service speed of 10 knots and a range of about 15,000 miles. Special attention is being paid to the provision of adequate supplies of electric power, not only now but also in the future. Deck machinery will include separate winches for coring, trawling and all normal oceanographical work. Other special features are the bow propulsion unit, for giving sideways thrust, and an open trunk through the centre of the ship through which experimental apparatus can be lowered.