

are made effectively subject to control in the interests of safety and that their owners make adequate provision for the payment of compensation should the need arise. The Government's intention to introduce legislation on these lines was announced in the House of Commons on February 10 by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Power. The operation of a nuclear reactor will require a licence from the Minister of Power (in Scotland the Secretary of State), and every licensee will have to pay compensation for any damage to property or personal injury from radioactive contamination even if it is due to an unavoidable accident, except to the extent that the claimant has been guilty of contributory negligence. The licensee will be required to insure his liability or show that he has adequate liquid assets. The liability is limited to £5 million in respect of any one incident. In the highly unlikely event of an incident causing more than £5 million worth of damage, special measures would be needed, and claims will be dealt with as Parliament determines. Since certain types of injury from radiation may become apparent only after a long time, the Bill provides that damages may be claimed up to ten years after the incident concerned. The U.K. Atomic Energy Authority already has a similar liability to that proposed in the Bill but it is not limited in amount; the Bill contains provision to extend the Authority's present liability to cover nuclear fuel in the course of carriage. The insurance market has informed the Government that it is ready to provide the necessary cover. Questions about premiums are a matter for the insurance market and the owners of reactors.

#### European Nuclear Energy Agency

In a pamphlet, "European Nuclear Energy Agency—Structure and Functions—First Joint Undertakings" (pp. 12. Paris: Organization for European Economic Co-operation, 1958), the Organization for European Economic Co-operation has issued what is largely a popular and illustrated version of the first report of the Steering Committee for Nuclear Energy. There are included some accounts of the organization of the Agency and the way in which it seeks to co-ordinate European scientific and technical activity in this field and to provide an overall view of research and investment programmes in nuclear energy in Europe, as a step towards harmonizing these programmes and avoiding duplication. Some account is also given of the stage reached in the construction of the nuclear study centre at Mol, where the small-scale joint plant for treating fuels from different reactors is to be built, of the boiling water reactor built at Halden by the Norwegian Institute for Atomic Energy and other projects of Eurochemie. There is also a map showing nuclear installations in member countries and a brief bibliography.

#### Civil Service Commissioners: Report for 1957–58

THE ninety-second annual report of the Civil Service Commissioners, covering the period April 1, 1957–March 31, 1958 (pp. 32. London: H.M. Stationery Office, 1958. 2s. net), again refers to difficulties in recruitment and failure to meet all requirements; in most of the main classes of the Civil Service there were more vacancies than suitable candidates. During the year, 111,702 candidates were dealt with, compared with 112,590 in the previous year, but the number of successful candidates rose

from 11,606 to 13,057 and the quality of applicants for the administrative class improved. There were thirty-nine successful candidates for forty vacancies, and it appears that the measures taken in recent years to make the work of the administrative class better known to university students have yielded results. The shortage of young trained scientists continued to affect recruitment to the scientific officer grade and more than half the vacancies advertised remained unfilled, although in the senior scientific officer competition most of the vacancies declared by departments were filled. Sixteen candidates of high promise were offered fellowships as a result of the Research Fellowship Competition, and, as a new departure, information about the 1958 Fellowship Competition was sent to British nationals at present holding Canadian and United States Fellowships. About seventy were willing to attend interviews which took place in Ottawa and Washington. Only thirty-six out of sixty-five declared vacancies for patent examiners were filled, and there was a decrease in applicants for vacancies in the engineering and technical classes. Recruitment of candidates with good scientific and technical qualifications into the Factory Inspectorate remained difficult. The continued lack of well-qualified young entrants for the engineering posts causes concern as to the future leadership in this field.

#### National Science Foundation Grants for Undergraduate Research

THE U.S. National Science Foundation has announced plans to make a limited number of grants to colleges, universities and non-profit-making research institutions to provide, on an experimental basis, opportunities for undergraduates reading for degrees in the physical, biological, mathematical and engineering sciences to participate in research projects conducted by experienced scientific investigators. This scheme may operate either during the academic year or during the summer. Approximately 1,000 undergraduates at about one hundred institutions in the United States will be able to participate in these laboratory and field programmes which will afford them an opportunity to become acquainted with the nature and methods of research in progressively more independent roles. The Foundation will provide grants up to a maximum of 400 hr. per student. Expendable supplies and secretarial and administrative expenses directly attributable to this student training will also receive support.

#### Talanta: a Journal of Analytical Chemistry

THE first issue of a new journal, *Talanta* (1, Nos. 1/2; July 1958. Pp. 196. Published bi-monthly. Subscription (including postage): 17 dollars a volume (Great Britain, 120s.); for subscribers certifying that the journal is for their own personal use, 15 dollars (Great Britain, 105s.). New York and London: Pergamon Press, 1958), has now been published, with Dr. C. L. Wilson, of the Queen's University, Belfast, as editor-in-chief, regional editors in the United States, Czechoslovakia and Japan, and an advisory board of chemists eminent in the field of analytical chemistry. The editors hope to expedite the publication of the results of research by publishing papers within three to four months of acceptance and short communications within thirty to sixty days. Papers can be submitted in English, French or German. The present double issue contains twenty-one research