

# THE MONTH AT CALTECH

## Earthquake Protection

REAR ADMIRAL H. ARNOLD KARO, director of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, conferred early this month with George W. Housner, Caltech professor of civil engineering and applied mechanics, on a plan which would provide structural engineers with valuable new information on how to go about designing earthquake-resistant structures.

The Coast and Geodetic Survey now maintains about 50 scattered instruments in the western states which record "strong ground motions" of earthquakes—and thus show engineers and seismologists how the earth acts in the immediate vicinity of a quake.

To strengthen the Survey's present program, Dr. Housner has proposed the addition of several hundred more recording instruments. These newly-designed seismographs would cost about \$500 apiece, as opposed to the \$5,000 cost of the instruments which are now in operation.

This new battery of recording devices, spread over a wider area, would give engineers more basic data on the forces their buildings will have to withstand. The present earthquake protection program of the Coast and Geodetic Survey is being carried on with a \$35,000 budget and a staff of only three men. The enlarged program would cost about \$140,000, and funds are now being sought from Congress.

## Coming and Going

FRED HOYLE, fellow of St. John's College and lecturer in mathematics at Cambridge University, arrived on campus in March to spend four months here as a visiting professor in theoretical cosmology. Mr. Hoyle was at Caltech for short periods in 1953 and in 1954.

GEORGE W. BEADLE, chairman of the Division of Biology, returns the middle of this month from a three-week lecture tour of Pacific Northwest universities and col-

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leges. Dr. Beadle's trip took him to Reed College, the University of Oregon and Oregon State College, where he delivered the 1956 series of Thomas Condon lectures, sponsored by the Oregon State Board of Higher Education.

MAX DELBRUCK, professor of biology, leaves early in May for Germany, where he will spend the summer teaching at the Botany Institute of the University of Cologne.

JESSE L. GREENSTEIN leaves the middle of this month to spend a month as a visiting professor at the Princeton (N.J.) Observatory.

**Wind Tunnel**

FRED H. FELBERG, who has served as executive assistant at the Southern California Cooperative Wind Tunnel since 1952, has now been appointed associate director of the project. He succeeds Josiah H. Smith, who has resigned to work in the guided missiles research division of the Ramo-Wooldridge Corporation in Los Angeles.

Mr. Felberg, a Caltech alumnus (BS '42, MS '45), was appointed to the staff of the Cooperative Wind Tunnel in 1943, after working for three years at the 10-foot wind tunnel at Caltech. In 1945 he became CWT's first crew chief with full responsibility for all tunnel operations. After his appointment as executive assistant in 1952, Mr. Felberg was also made coordinator of the modification project at the wind tunnel which is to be completed this year. In addition to his work at the Cooperative Wind Tunnel, Mr. Felberg was a lecturer in aeronautics at Caltech from 1947 to 1955.

Josiah Smith, also a Caltech alumnus (BS '39, MS '40, AE '48), has devoted the last 17 years to wind tunnel design and development. Between his sophomore and junior years at Caltech he worked full time for two years with the Douglas Aircraft Company, where he became familiar with the production control system, airplane fabrication and assembly processes. He was made supervisor of the 10-foot wind tunnel at Caltech in 1939, and later was part of the Caltech team which originally conceived and designed the Cooperative Wind Tunnel, becoming assistant director of the project when it went into active operation in 1945.

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