

# The Month at Caltech

## *AGU Meeting*

THE ANNUAL PACIFIC Southwest regional meeting of the American Geophysical Union will be held on the Caltech campus from February 6 to 8. Vito A. Vanoni, Caltech professor of hydraulics and chairman of the Pacific Southwest Regional Committee of the AGU, will act as chairman of the program. James F. Bonner, professor of biology at Caltech, will speak on "World Population and Food" at a luncheon for the whole group on the opening day of the meeting. Some 200 guests are expected to attend the sessions which will be mainly concerned with new developments in oceanography, meteorology and hydrology. The AGU, a national organization of scientists and scientific workers in earth sciences, was established in 1919 by the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences.

## *On Leave*

RICHARD JAHNS, professor of geology, is now on a leave of absence at The Pennsylvania State University where he will spend six months in the College of Mineral Industries. Working on a National Science Foundation grant, Dr. Jahns will carry out experiments in synthesizing certain kinds of rocks to find out under what conditions these rocks form and how ore-forming fluids might separate from rock-forming melts.

## *Defense Science Chairman*

H. P. ROBERTSON, professor of mathematical physics at Caltech, is now chairman of the Defense Science Board in Washington, D.C., a group of 28 men chosen from civilian life by the Assistant Secretary of Defense. The advisory panel is making a study of new scientific research and development and its application to combat-worthy weapons systems for the Department of National Defense.

Dr. Robertson, who received his PhD from Caltech in 1925, has been on the faculty here since 1947. A member of the National Academy of Sciences and Fellow of the American Physical Society and the Royal Astronomical Society, he is recognized for his researches in differential geometry, the history of relativity, cosmology and applied mechanics. From 1950 to 1952 Dr. Robertson served the Government as the Director of Research,

Weapons System Evaluation Group, in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. From 1954 to 1956 he served as the scientific advisor to the Supreme Allied Commander in Europe. He is now also serving the Office of the Secretary of Defense as a member of the Technical Advisory Panel on Ordnance and acts as a consultant to other Government agencies as well.

## *AUFS Checks In*

ON JANUARY 6 the first of four representatives of the American Universities Field Staff came to Caltech to report on political, social and economic conditions in foreign areas. Willard Hanna, reporting on Indonesia, was on campus from January 6 to 15. James G. Maddox, agricultural economist, will report to students, faculty and friends of the Institute on current conditions in Mexico from January 20 to 29. Richard H. Nolte, specialist on the Arab nations of the Middle East, will be here from March 3 to 12, and Phillips Talbott, whose field is India and Pakistan, is scheduled to be here from April 3 to 12.

All four men have just completed 18-month periods of study in their chosen fields, under the auspices of the AUFS, which is sponsored by Caltech and nine other major universities.

## *Faculty Changes*

The following promotions have been made in the Caltech faculty, effective January 1.

TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR:

*Charles A. Barnes*—Physics

*Harden M. McConnell*—Physical Chemistry

TO ASSISTANT PROFESSOR:

*Felix H. Boehm*—Physics

*Vincent Z. Peterson*—Physics

TO SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW:

*H. Hollis Reamer*—Chemical Engineering

## *New Trustee*

JOHN S. FLUOR, Los Angeles industrialist, has been elected a member of the Caltech board of trustees. Mr. Fluor is president of the Fluor Corporation, Ltd., an engineering and construction firm founded by his father, the late John S. Fluor, Sr.