

GENERAL SCIENCE

World-Wide Science

UNESCO survey shows that 28 countries have some type of central agency for promotion of research. Earliest operation, in 1916, was in U. S. and England.

► TWENTY-EIGHT COUNTRIES have established some sort of central agency for the promotion of research in different fields of pure applied science. This is shown by a survey of national research councils throughout the world made by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in Paris. (See p. 76.)

Some countries like the United States have more than one such organization. Both the National Academy of Sciences, with its National Research Council, and the governmentally operated National Science Foundation are included in the list of organizations or agencies used by governments to assist them in promotion and coordination of research.

The National Research Council in the United States shares with Britain's Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, the distinction of having begun operation in 1916, which is the earliest for organizations of this sort. The UNESCO report calls these research councils "the most modern development of the relations between scientific workers and the government."

"The twentieth century has witnessed a profound change in the attitude of governments towards science as well as in the character of science itself," the report explains. "During the last 50 years scientific research has ceased to be the prerogative of individuals working in isolation or in groups divorced from the social and economic problems of their environment."

"Two world wars, with their urgent problems demanding immediate solution, have accelerated the change in the character of science from an individual to a collective basis, and have forced many governments to an acute realization of their dependence upon science and scientists, not only for the standard of living but for the ultimate survival of their countries."

Science today depends to an ever-increasing extent upon the support of government, the report observes. No longer can private enterprise and endowment finance entirely the large scale research projects which this modern technical age demands. In many countries, universities can no longer finance from their diminishing incomes their expanding scientific departments and constantly growing demands for personnel and equipment.

The encouragement of scientific research important to the development of medicine, agriculture, industry and defense has become, the report states, the concern of the states in most of the scientifically developed countries of the world.

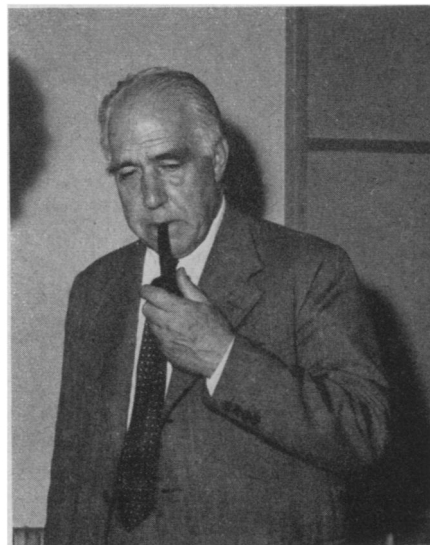
"With a world shortage of scientists," the

report says, "few governments today can afford to allow the scientific activities of their countries to proceed in a haphazard fashion, resulting in wastage of manpower and unnecessary duplication of scientific effort. The general co-ordination of research activities thus becomes added to the governments' function as a patron of research."

Whatever the means employed by agencies in various countries in the administration of government funds for the promotion of scientific research, there is fundamental consideration of maintaining a correct relationship between the government and the scientists, it was found in a survey.

The scientists need to be assured that the traditional environment to research will be preserved. This involves freedom of the scientist to select his own research projects, continuity of employment and freedom of communication and publication. The government needs to be assured that the money for research will be used for the best interests of the country as a whole.

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NIELS BOHR—*Theoretical investigations for the newly-formed European Organization for Nuclear Research, which replaces the temporary Council, will be under the direction of Dr. Bohr. Construction of the laboratory in Switzerland is expected to take seven years and cost \$28,000,000. It will house two accelerators, a synchro-cyclotron and a proton synchrotron.*



KALINGA PRIZE TO DR. HUXLEY—*Dr. Julian S. Huxley (left) is shown receiving the Kalinga prize for science writing from Prof. Pierre Auger, director of UNESCO's natural sciences department. The international prize is awarded annually for outstanding achievement in interpretation of science to the public. A requirement for the award is that the winner visit India to study conditions there.*