

THE CITIZEN

familiar with atomic energy matters have an obligation to take a turn in shouldering the administrative responsibilities.

To replace von Neumann on the AEC's General Advisory Committee, President Eisenhower appointed Edwin M. McMillan, professor of physics at the University of California. Also named to the GAC were W. C. Johnson, professor of chemistry at the University of Chicago, and J. W. Beams, professor of physics at the University of Virginia. The place vacated a few weeks earlier by Libby was filled by I. I. Rabi, whose term expired in June, 1954.

Nuclear Society

The first professional society concerned exclusively with atomic energy was organized last month. Called the American Nuclear Society, its membership will be open to engineers and scientists of any nationality engaged in nuclear technology. One of its chief purposes is to promote interchange among all branches of nuclear research.

The society's first meeting will be held next June. Pending election of officers, W. M. Breazeale of Pennsylvania State University is serving as acting secretary.

The 29-man organizing committee included representatives from universities, government laboratories and industry. Among the committee members were Karl Cohen of Walter Kidde Nuclear Laboratories, G. Failla of Columbia University, K. H. Kingdon of General Electric Research Laboratory, J. D. Luntz of *Nucleonics* magazine, W. G. Pollard of the Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies, W. E. Shoupp of Westinghouse Electric Corporation, Philip Sporn of the American Gas and Electric Company and Alvin M. Weinberg of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

Good Idea

In May, 1939, four years before the first atomic pile was built, and only five months after the announcement of uranium fission, physicists in a French laboratory set forth a detailed and reasonable idea for a nuclear power reactor. During World War II they obtained a Swiss patent on their invention. This intelligence was brought to public attention last month by the journal *Nucleonics*.

The reactor, the first on record, was

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