familiar with atomic energy matters have
an obligation to take a turn in shoulder-
ing 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 Chi-
icago, 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 con-
cerned exclusively with atomic ener-
y was organized last month. Called the
American Nuclear Society, its mem-
bership will be open to engineers and scientis-
ts of any nationality engaged in nu-
clear technology. One of its chief pur-
poses 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. Brenazeale of Pennsylvania State
University is serving as acting secretary.

The 29-man organizing committee in-
cluded representatives from universi-
ties, government laboratories and industry.
Among the committee members were
Karl Cohen of Walter Kieidel Nuclear
Laboratories, G. Failla of Columbia Uni-
versity, K. H. Kingdon of General Elec-
tric Research Laboratory, J. D. Luntz
of Nucleonics magazine, W. G. Pollard
of the Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear
Studies, W. E. Shoup 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 ura-
nium fission, physicists in a French labora-
tory 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 intelli-
gence was brought to public attention
last month by the journal Nucleonics.

The reactor, the first on record, was