

Project", by K. W. Gatland, is a 7,000-word article in which the United States of America's satellite project—called "Vanguard"—is explained in considerable detail and with numerous illustrations. The orbit selected for the satellite is inclined at 40° to the equator, and the launching is expected to be made before the spring of 1958 from the proving ground at Cape Canaveral, Florida, in a direction between 28° and 35° south of east. The satellite will move in an ellipse about the Earth, coming perhaps as close as 200 miles on one side and swinging out to as far as 800 miles on the other. It will complete a full circuit every ninety minutes. Details are also given of other proposed satellites to be launched as part of the programme of the International Geophysical Year and of the methods of tracking the progress of the satellites.

The Cambridge Instrument Co., Ltd.: 75th Anniversary

THE Cambridge Instrument Co., Ltd., celebrated the seventy-fifth anniversary of its foundation this year, and in commemoration of this interesting event a 28-page illustrated brochure has been issued in which the history and development of the Company are briefly outlined. The Company was one of the few pioneers in the introduction of instruments into industry, and it has played an important part in the subsequent progress over the years from the time when the scientific instrument was solely a university research tool to the present day when instrumentation is capable of controlling a complete factory. Some well-known instruments—the rocking microtome, the thread recorder, the electrocardiograph, the Wilson cloud chamber, Mallock's calculating machine, to mention but a few of those referred to and illustrated in the brochure—the Cambridge Instrument Co. can rightly claim as peculiarly its own. The original personnel consisted of Horace Darwin, a mathematician and a genius at designing instruments on kinematic principles; Dew-Smith, a wealthy experimenter; three mechanics and two boys. To-day, the Company has two factories and a head office and showrooms in London (13 Grosvenor Place, S.W.1); a factory in Cambridge; a separate mechanical thermometer division at one of the London factories; an associated American company; and representatives in most countries overseas.

The Miripinnati: a New Order of Teleost Fishes

THE creation of a new order of vertebrates is worthy of notice, even if it is only yet another order of fish. The teleosts are nowadays divided by many systematists into thirty or more orders, and in Dana Report No. 42 (pp. 34+1 plate. Copenhagen: Andr. Frøed, Høst and Son, 1956; 10 Dan. kr.) E. Bertelsen and N. B. Marshall propose that four newly described species of teleost fish are sufficiently distinct to constitute a new order, the Miripinnati. The four species fall into three genera and two families. They are all oceanic, pelagic or bathypelagic fish, scaleless and apparently feeding on Copepods. One species, *Mirapinna esau*, known from a single specimen caught in 1911, is remarkable in having the body covered with 'hair', composed of branched outgrowths of the epidermis which bear glandular cells of an uncertain nature. The lateral-line organs of *Mirapinna* are raised on projections. In the second family, the Taeniophoridae, the skin is smooth and the lateral-line system apparently reduced; larval stages of members of this family are described. The

Miripinnati are considered to be related to the order Iniomi.

Announcements

THE Royal Society is holding a conversazione and exhibition on November 21 to celebrate the tercentenary of the birth of Edmond Halley (see *Nature*, October 27, p. 891). The exhibits have been chosen by a special Tercentenary Committee of the Society under the chairmanship of Sir Edward Bullard.

THE 123rd meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science will be held in New York City during December 26–31, with headquarters in the Statler Hotel. In addition to the eighteen sections of the Association, eighty-five affiliated and associated societies will be holding meetings. Further information can be obtained from Sidney S. Negus, Medical College of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

THE following appointments have been made in the University of Birmingham: Dr. J. S. C. McKee, lecturer in physics; W. G. Ainslie, lecturer in engineering production; J. F. Soothill, lecturer in experimental pathology (metabolic diseases).

DR. D. S. BERTRAM, reader in entomology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, has been appointed to the University of London chair of medical entomology tenable at that School, in succession to the late Prof. P. A. Buxton. The title of reader in statistics in the University of London has been conferred on Dr. N. L. Johnson in respect of his post at University College.

COMMENCING January 12, a course of twelve lectures and appropriate practical work, designed to survey the principal branches of chemistry in which small-scale methods have been successfully applied, will be held on Saturday mornings, from 9.15 a.m. to 12 noon, at Norwood Technical College, Knight's Hill, London, S.E.27.

THE Thames Valley Section of the Royal Institute of Chemistry has arranged a symposium on "Techniques in Polymer Science" at Courtauld's Research Laboratory, Maidenhead, on November 30 at 2.15 p.m. The topics to be considered include light scattering and osmometry, chromatographic fractionation, infra-red methods, surface films, tracer techniques and kinetic techniques. Further particulars can be obtained from the honorary secretary of the Section, Dr. P. F. Holt, University, Reading.

THE Fourth General Assembly and International Congress of the International Union of Crystallography will be held in Montreal during July 10–17, 1957, and will be followed by two symposia on July 18 and 19, dealing with physical techniques of crystallographic interest and with electron diffraction, respectively. A brochure on the Congress can be obtained from the secretaries of the national committees of the member countries of the Union; from the general secretary of the Union, Dr. D. W. Smits, Laboratorium voor Anorganische en Fysische Chemie, Bloemsingel 10, Groningen; or from the secretary of the Canadian Committee, Dr. W. H. Barnes, Division of Physics, National Research Council, Ottawa 2, Ontario (envelope to be marked 'Personal'); or from the chairman of the Programme Committee, Dr. W. N. Lipscomb, School of Chemistry, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

THE Society for Analytical Chemistry has moved its offices, and its new address is 14 Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1.