

# NUCLEAR PHYSICS AND MEDICAL WORK IN BURMA

Useful information connected with environmental radioactivity has already been obtained by the Rangoon Nuclear Physics Laboratory, Burma, the setting up of which was helped by the Agency's Technical Assistance Programme. Other assistance has helped the Rangoon General Hospital to instal a scanning unit with which medical diagnosis and treatment can be aided.

During a two-year assignment in Burma as Visiting Professor in Experimental Nuclear Physics at the Rangoon Arts and Science University, Dr. J. Skrivanek, of Czechoslovakia, helped to establish the University's Nuclear Physics Laboratory. His visit there, arranged as part of IAEA Technical Assistance, ended late in 1966.

The laboratory has been set up in one of the ground floor rooms of the Physics Department with instruments of which some were made locally and others provided by the Agency. One of these is the low background counter used to measure small amounts of radioactivity in the environment. It has yielded interesting results, particularly through measurements taken during the 1966 monsoon period.

Dr. Skrivanek was also engaged in teaching activities, mainly with post-graduate students and members of the University staff. It was found possible later to include undergraduates as further help to the teaching of physics. He was also able to assist in solving certain maintenance problems.

In the medical application of radioisotopes the Rangoon General Hospital has been supplied with a Japanese Scintiscanner. By recording, photo recording and printing simultaneously the machine can provide maps of the distribution within the body of radioactive materials given to a patient. As a result vital information can be provided for doctors and surgeons. At present it is the only machine of its type in Burma and is used not only for patients in the hospital but for those sent from other parts of the country. Dr. R. Höschl, of Czechoslovakia, has been acting as technical expert for the project, assigned under IAEA Technical Assistance.