

found that typhus is different from the Rocky Mountain fever, although they have many points in common; that the Mexican typhus is communicable to the monkey; and that it may be transmitted by an insect (*Pediculus vestimenti*). Some of these results are confirmatory of very recent results obtained by others, but on April 23 they were able to announce the new discovery of a microorganism, a bacillus, in the blood of typhus patients and in the insect. There is good reason to believe that this bacillus is the actual cause of typhus fever.

While courageously and devotedly pushing this and other work on to completion Dr. Ricketts was stricken with typhus, and the unfinished investigations of such fundamental importance must be taken up by others. Thus a young and noble career of great achievement and of large service to humanity came to a sudden and heroic end, and a new name was placed on the martyr roll of science.

Those near to him know that he fully understood the dangers to which he would be exposed and the risks he would run. He decided he would take those risks, meet the dangers with all possible means of prevention, and do the work that would come to his hands. And so he made the great sacrifice and gave all that a man can give for his fellow-men.

#### THE ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

THE hospital of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research was opened on October 17. There were no special ceremonies, but a number of guests were present to inspect the hospital. At the same time it was announced that Mr. Rockefeller had given securities valued at \$3,820,000 for the endowment of the institute, and that its organization had been completed.

The following announcement has been made:

The board of trustees is initially constituted as follows: John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Frederick T. Gates, William H. Welch, Starr J. Murphy and Simon Flexner.

The function of the board of trustees is to hold

and care for the property of the institute, including the investment of the endowment funds, and to hold the entire income at the disposal and under the full control of the board of scientific directors, which is constituted as follows:

Dr. William H. Welch, of Baltimore, president; Dr. T. Mitchell Prudden, of New York; Dr. L. Emmett Holt, of New York, secretary and treasurer; Dr. Christian A. Herter, of New York; Dr. Simon Flexner, of New York, director of laboratories; Dr. Herman M. Biggs, of New York, and Dr. Theobald Smith, of Boston.

The final establishment of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, with its present generous endowment, is the culmination of a series of carefully considered gifts, each one based on a thorough demonstration of existing needs and on evidence of competent stewardship of funds previously intrusted.

The initial gift was made in 1901, when \$200,000 was given, to be used in a limited number of years in the form of grants to support research in different localities. In 1902 a gift of \$1,000,000 was received to cover the erection of a laboratory building and the cost of running expenses for a few years. When the plans for the future organization of the institute were being prepared the necessity for having a hospital under the control of the institute was clearly felt.

Mr. Rockefeller became so clearly convinced of this need that the erection of a hospital was determined upon. For this purpose \$220,000 remaining from the previous gift of \$1,000,000 and an additional gift of \$620,000 were used. Meanwhile, in 1907, while the first plans for the hospital were being prepared, Mr. Rockefeller gave \$2,600,000, the first fund to be used solely for the endowment of the institution. With their first legal meeting, which took place this afternoon at the institute, the board of trustees assumed possession of Mr. Rockefeller's latest gift of \$3,820,000.

The hospital, which will profit largely by the new income, is not to be regarded as a separate institution; it is merely a part of the working equipment for medical research controlled by the one board of directors. Being now intrusted with by far the largest sum of money available for medical research, and with a wonderfully generous and perfect equipment at their command, the directors have a high sense of their responsibility to the public for the careful discharge of their great trust.

The hospital will accommodate only about seventy patients. They will be selected to enable the physicians of the institution to study particular diseases on the combating of which all their strength and ability will be concentrated. Only a small group of diseases will be included at a time, so as to permit thorough concentration. As a result of this arrangement the patient will get the best treatment and the benefit of the most up-to-date medical information.

Up to the present time the work of the Rockefeller Institute was confined to laboratory studies of physiological and chemical aspects of diseases and to surgical and other problems that could be studied on animals.

The need for the direct study of diseases under conditions that would permit the most minute and accurate observations with the aid of a most comprehensive equipment led to the foundation of the hospital. The physicians of the institute will devote all their time and energy to the cure of the sick entrusted to their care. They will not engage in outside practise. But instead of being compelled to treat almost every kind of disease, as in a general hospital, they will concentrate on a few ailments without being diverted by attending to others.

The hospital will have physiological, chemical and biological laboratories to supplement those of like nature in the institute. The laboratories of the hospital will be devoted to investigations bearing on the diseases under treatment, while the laboratories of the institute will continue their investigations as conducted at present. Any discovery of a new remedy in the laboratory of the institute will be immediately available to the hospital, and a constant cooperation of the two divisions will be assured.

The medical staff of the hospital will consist of the director, Dr. Rufus J. Cole, formerly of Johns Hopkins University; Dr. Christian A. Herter, Dr. C. C. Robinson and four internes, Drs. Draper, Swift, Marks and Peabody. The diseases to be admitted to the hospital at its opening to patients will be infantile paralysis, pneumonia and heart disease.

#### FOUNDATIONS FOR RESEARCH AT BERLIN

At the celebration of the centenary of the University of Berlin Emperor William made an address, in the course of which, according to the report in the *London Times*, he said:

The present occasion seemed to him to be peculiarly appropriate for a fresh movement towards the completion of Humboldt's aims. Humboldt's scheme required, in addition to the Academy of Sciences and the University, independent institutions for research as integral parts of the whole. The foundation of such institutions had not kept pace in Prussia with the development of universities, and this lacuna, especially with regard to the natural sciences, was felt more and more with the growth of knowledge. They needed establishments for pure research in close touch with the academy and the university, but unhampered by the giving of instruction. The early provision of such places of research seemed to him to be a sacred obligation of the present day, and it was his duty to appeal for general interest in this cause. Large sums were needed and could be obtained only by universal cooperation and by sacrifices. He would say to everybody, "*Tua res agitur*," and he was confident of success. The plan had been communicated only to a small circle, but already considerable sums, amounting to between nine and ten millions of Marks, had been forthcoming, together with enthusiastic expressions of approval from different parts of the country. It was his wish to found a society under his own patronage and bearing his own name for the foundation and maintenance of research institutions. It would be the care of his government to see that the new foundations did not lack state assistance as far as was necessary. Might that day mark a fresh stage in the development of the intellectual life of Germany.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE annual meeting of the American Society of Naturalists will be held from December 28 to 30 at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. The general program will consist of a symposium on the subject of "Genotypes or pure lines of Johannsen." Professor Johannsen himself, of Copenhagen, will contribute a paper, and other invited papers will be given by investigators working in the fields of inheritance and evolution. Each presentation will be followed by an open discussion. The naturalists' dinner will be arranged for the evening of December 29, when the president, Professor D. T. MacDougal, will deliver his address. Dr. Charles R.