

Participation in contributions to these outside journals is a valuable phase of the survey's activity and should continue, but this method of publication has certain limitations by reason of both the capacity and the circulation of these journals. It appears, therefore, that the time has come to begin the issue of an annual volume in the survey series that will afford opportunity for publication of short papers and preliminary reports of a character not well adapted to any of the present forms of publication.

It is significant that so many of the geologists are making scientific contributions of general interest that represent results incidental to other investigations or that are of the nature of by-products in strictly economic work. In order to develop greater breadth of observation and investigation among the geologists of the survey and to promote the scientific possibilities of their professional work means should be provided for prompt publication of such papers in a permanent form that will commend itself to the author and to the scientific reader alike. Provision has been made since 1902 for the current publication of short papers relating to economic geology, and the time is opportune for a similar provision for scientific papers relating to general geology.

It is proposed to issue an annual volume in the Professional Paper series, entitled "Contributions to General Geology" (short papers and preliminary reports).

In advance of the printing of the full volume, separates, each including one or more papers, will be issued to the number of ten or twelve a year as the manuscript and illustrations are ready, without waiting for material for the full volume to be in hand or even promised. The papers included in these "Contributions to General Geology" may relate to any phase of geology, provided it possesses general interest—petrology, paleontology, stratigraphy, glaciology, structural geology, etc. This volume is intended not as a catch-all for current odds and ends, but as a dignified collection of scientific contributions, each worthy in importance of subject, value of results and qual-

ity of treatment for separate publication as a bulletin or professional paper if it were of sufficient length. Two papers before me which will probably be included in the first separate of the 1913 "Contributions" are Mr. Shaw's "Mud Lumps at the Mouths of the Mississippi" and Mr. Gale's "Origin of Colemanite Deposits." Illustrations in this publication, as in the "Contributions to Economic Geology," should be few in number and confined to line cuts and halftones, for prompt publication is essential. The date of actual publication will be printed on the title-page of each separate. The chief geologist will begin to receive manuscripts at once, in the hope that several separates may be issued between July and December, and that the 1913 volume may be published early in January, when the first separate for 1914 will also be expected.

GEO. OTIS SMITH,
Director

MEDICAL RESEARCH IN GREAT BRITAIN¹

MR. LLOYD GEORGE, as minister responsible to parliament for National Health Insurance, has appointed the following persons as a committee with executive functions, to be known as the Medical Research Committee, for the purpose of dealing with the money made available for research under the National Insurance Act:

The Right Hon. Lord Moulton of Bank, LL.D., F.R.S. (chairman).

Christopher Addison, M.D., F.R.C.S., M.P.

Waldorf Astor, M.P.

Sir T. Clifford Allbutt, K.C.B., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S., regius professor of physie, University of Cambridge.

Charles John Bond, F.R.C.S., senior honorary surgeon, Leicester Infirmary.

William Bulloch, M.D., F.R.S., bacteriologist to the London Hospital and professor of bacteriology in the University of London.

Matthew Hay, M.D., LL.D., professor of forensic medicine and public health, Aberdeen University.

Frederick Gowland Hopkins, M.B., D.Sc., F.R.S., reader in chemical physiology in the University of Cambridge.

¹ From the London *Times*.

Brevet Colonel Sir William Boog Leishman, M.B., F.R.S., professor of pathology, Royal Army Medical College.

These first appointments are for three years in each case; in and after 1916 three members, to be selected in manner to be prescribed, shall retire at intervals of two years, their places being filled (whether by reappointment or otherwise) by the minister responsible for National Health Insurance.

The duties of the committee will be to formulate the general plan of research and inquiry at the outset and for each year, to make arrangements for carrying it out, and to supervise its conduct so far as may be necessary, and in particular to secure adequate co-ordination of the various parts of the scheme. The committee will also deal with the collection and publication of information, and of the results of statistical and other inquiries so far as suitable or necessary. For this purpose it will determine, subject to the assent of the minister responsible for National Health Insurance, the expenditure of the money available each year, the total of the sums available under paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 16 of the Act being about £57,000 per annum. Before the minister responsible for National Health Insurance gives his final assent to the Medical Research Committee's scheme for any year, he will receive criticisms and suggestions in regard to it from the Advisory Council for Medical Research.

This Advisory Council has been appointed for the purpose by Mr. Lloyd George, as minister responsible for National Health Insurance, after receiving suggestions for suitable names from each of the universities of the United Kingdom, from the Royal Colleges of Physicians and of Surgeons, from the Royal Society, and from other important public bodies interested in the question. It includes medical representatives of the four National Health Insurance Commissions, and the other principal government departments concerned in medical work. The first appointments are for three years in each case; in and after 1916

one third of the members, to be selected in manner to be prescribed, shall retire at intervals of two years, their places being filled (whether by reappointment or otherwise) by the minister responsible for National Health Insurance.

The duty of the Advisory Council will be to consider the scheme of the Medical Research Committee, when referred to them, as above explained, and to afford to the minister all such criticisms and suggestions in regard to it as they may think desirable to submit to him from the point of view of securing that adequate consideration is given to the different problems arising and the various kinds of research work going on in the different parts of the United Kingdom and in other portions of the empire, in America, and in foreign countries, and also to the general scope of the research work to be undertaken under the committee's scheme.

The membership of the Advisory Council for Medical Research is as follows:

The Right Hon. Lord Moulton of Bank, LL.D., F.R.S. (chairman), Miss L. B. Aldrich-Blake, M.D., M.S., Sir W. Watson Cheyne, Bt., C.B., F.R.C.S., F.R.S., Sir William S. Church, Bt., K.C.B., M.D., Sidney Coupland, M.D., David Davies, M.P., Sheridan Delépine, M.B., Sir James Kingston Fowler, K.C.V.O., M.D., Sir Rickman J. Godlee, Bt., F.R.C.S., Sir Alfred Pearce Gould, K.C.V.O., F.R.C.S., David Hepburn, M.D., Arthur Latham, M.D., Sir John McFadyean, M.B., W. Leslie Mackenzie, M.D., J. C. McVail, M.D., W. J. Maguire, M.D., S. H. C. Martin, M.D., F.R.S., Robert Muir, M.D., Alexander Napier, M.D., Sir George Newman, M.D., Arthur Newsholme, C.B., M.D., J. M. O'Connor, M.B., Sir William Osler, Bt., M.D., F.R.S., A. C. O'Sullivan, M.B., Marcus S. Paterson, M.D., Sir Robert W. Philip, M.D., Sir William H. Power, K.C.B., F.R.C.S., F.R.S., H. Meredith Richards, M.D., Lauriston E. Shaw, M.D., Albert Smith, M.P., J. Lorrain Smith, M.D., F.R.S., T. J. Stafford, C.B., F.R.C.S.I., T. H. C. Stevenson, M.D., Harold J. Stiles, F.R.C.S., Edin., Sir Stewart Stockman, M.R.C.V.S., W. St. Clair Symmers, M.B., Miss Jane Walker, M.D., Norman Walker, M.D., J. Smith Whitaker, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Sir Arthur Whitelegge, K.C.B., M.D., G. Sims Woodhead, M.D.