

W. F. M. Goss, Clemens Hershel, M. I. Pupin, Charles F. Rand, C. E. Skinner, S. W. Stratton, Ambrose Swasey, Elihu Thomson.

Previous to the appointment of this committee the following letter, dated April 18, 1917, was addressed to the presidents of the American Societies of Civil, Electrical, Mechanical and Mining Engineers:

The National Research Council desires to increase its means of serving the government in support of National Defense by enlisting through an engineering committee the services of a group of distinguished engineers drawn from the field of engineering research in each of the four main divisions of civil, mining, mechanical and electrical engineering.

The members of this committee would deal directly with engineering research problems falling within the spheres of their experience, and would serve as representatives of their respective national engineering societies for the calling upon other members of those societies for the services which the societies have offered to the government in connection with problems of defense and other problems that have been referred to the National Research Council.

The National Research Council operates through a number of central committees covering the physical sciences, medicine, hygiene, agriculture and other subjects as described in the pamphlet, enclosed herewith, which gives the scheme of organization of the council as developed up to January 15, 1917.

The engineering committee is a central committee coordinate with the other central committees therein listed.

In addition to services in the field of engineering research the council has need of some general engineering services auxiliary to problems of research, and desires to be in a position to enlist such services in support of the general objects of the council.

These objects are, to bring into cooperation existing governmental, educational, industrial and other research organizations with the purpose of encouraging the investigation of natural phenomena, the increased use of scientific research in the development of American industries, the employment of scientific methods in strengthening the national defense, and such other applications of science as will promote the national security and welfare.

The relation of the National Research Council to

The Engineering Foundation is described in enclosed report by the secretary of The Engineering Foundation.

The relation of the National Research Council to the Council of National Defense is indicated by the following resolution, passed on the 21st of February, by the Council of National Defense:

Resolved, that the Council of National Defense, recognizing that the National Research Council, at the request of the President of the United States has organized the scientific forces of the country in the interest of National Defense and National welfare, requests that the National Research Council cooperate with it in matters pertaining to scientific research for National Defense and to this end the Council of National Defense suggests that the National Research Council appoint a committee of not more than three, at least one of whom shall be located in Washington, for the purpose of maintaining active relations with the director of the Council of National Defense.

The executive committee of the National Research Council would appreciate it if on behalf of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers you would designate two engineers skilled in engineering research, whom the committee may appoint members of the engineering committee of the National Research Council, to render the services outlined in this communication and to serve as a means of calling upon other members of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers for services that the National Research Council may need in support of the national objects herein referred to.

GEORGE E. HALE,

Chairman, National Research Council,

JOHN J. CARTY,

Chairman, Executive Committee,

GANO DUNN,

Chairman, Engineering Committee

MEDICAL STUDENTS AND THE WAR

THE Medical School Committee of the Medical Board of the Council of National Defense has made the following report:

In your effort to solve the urgent problem before this board and assist the surgeon general in supplying an adequate number of medical officers for the Army and Navy, it is important that this country should not repeat England's blunder at the outbreak of the war in permitting the disorganization of the medical schools either by calling the faculties into active service or sanctioning the enlistment of medical students into any of the line organizations. Ordinary foresight demands that we face the possibility that the war upon which we

have entered may last for years. Medical schools to supply trained men for the future as well as the present emergency must be kept in active operation under any circumstances. While aiding to the uttermost in overcoming the present shortage of men, the necessity of keeping the source of supply open emphasizes the importance of conserving our raw material. Therefore, men now in college looking forward to medicine as a career should be made to understand that it is their patriotic duty to the nation at this time to continue their studies and enroll in the medical school of their choice. Furthermore, no medical student who has not completed three years of medical work should be permitted to give up his course, as the country needs his trained and not his untrained service.

There are, however, ways in which the medical schools can help the present situation. The following suggestions are made for your consideration and action:

1. Medical schools should be prepared to graduate senior medical students promptly in case of need. The faculties should urge all graduates who can be relieved of their obligations as internes in civil hospitals to enroll in the medical corps of the Army and Navy.

2. Medical schools should be encouraged to consider as a form of service, the Italian plan by which base hospital units can be organized through the Red Cross. These military hospitals carry with them the clinical faculty and students as medical personnel. This type of organization meets two ends—practical help can be rendered to the Army or the Navy in time of war and instruction may be continued at the base. This permits the graduation of men directly into the junior grades of the Army after the most practical form of military instruction.

3. Fourth-year students may be allowed to substitute, in special cases, service in a base hospital for the fourth year in the hospital at home when opportunities are offered for instruction in such military institutions.

4. Medical schools that do not adopt the Italian plan should be prepared to reduce the faculties to the minimum required for routine work and enroll all men so liberated in the Medical Officers Reserve Corps.

To put these recommendations into immediate effect, the committee suggested that the Council of National Defense send a telegram to the deans of all medical schools, urging that all medical students until the fourth year is reached should be discouraged from enlisting at present in any line or

sanitary organization; and another telegram to the presidents of all colleges and universities saying that national safety demands that all undergraduates planning to study medicine should enroll in the medical school of their choice at the earliest possible moment.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE following have been elected to membership in the American Philosophical Society: *Residents of the United States*: William Frederick Durand, Ph.D., Stanford University, Calif.; Pierre Samuel duPont, Mendenhall, Pa.; Carl H. Eigenmann, Ph.D., Bloomington, Ind.; Charles Holmes Herty, Ph.D., New York; Herbert E. Ives, Ph.D., Philadelphia; Waldemar Lindgren, Ph.D., Sc.D., Cambridge, Mass.; Walton Brooks McDaniel, Ph.D., Philadelphia; Winthrop J. V. Osterhout, Ph.D., Cambridge, Mass.; Harold Pender, Ph.D., Philadelphia; Frederick Hanley Seares, B.S., Pasadena, Calif.; George Owen Squier, Ph.D., Washington, D. C.; Charles P. Steinmetz, Ph.D., Schenectady, N. Y.; Oscar S. Straus, LL.D., New York City; Alonzo Englebert Taylor, M.D., Philadelphia; Edwin Bidwell Wilson, Ph.D., Cambridge, Mass. *Foreign Residents*: Archibald Byron Macallum, F.R.S., Toronto; Sir David Prain, F.R.S., Kew.

SIR ERNEST SHACKLETON has been elected to the honorary fellowship of the American Museum of Natural History, the highest scientific honor which the institution has to bestow. This is in recognition of his Antarctic explorations and his heroic efforts in rescuing the members of his party. Sir Ernest becomes the ninth honorary fellow of the American Museum, the others being: Roald Amundsen, Dr. Bashford Dean, Lieutenant George T. Emmons, U. S. N., Geo. Bird Grinnell, Baron Ludovic Moncheur, Rear Admiral Robert E. Peary, U. S. N., Dr. Leonard C. Sanford and Vilhjalmur Stefansson.

THE faculty of Wellesley College has awarded the Alice Freeman Palmer Fellowship for the year 1917-18 to Miss Hilda Hempl, A.B. (Stanford, '14), M.S. (Michigan, '15). Miss Hempl has been studying at the Serum