

corals were conducted to determine their growth-rate, and the share they take in the composition of reef limestones. A statistical ecologic study of the reefs was made, and the reactions of corals to heat and salinity determined.

#### COMMITTEES UNDER THE BRITISH BOARDS OF TRADE AND AGRICULTURE

THE president of the Board of Trade has appointed a committee to consider and report what steps should be taken, whether by legislation or otherwise, to ensure that there shall be an adequate and economical supply of electric power for all classes of consumers in the United Kingdom, particularly industries which depend upon a cheap supply of power for their development. The members of the committee are: Mr. F. Huth-Jackson (chairman), Mr. H. Booth, Mr. J. Devonshire, Mr. J. Falconer, Mr. G. H. Hume, Mr. J. Kemp, Mr. H. H. Law, Mr. C. H. Merz, Sir Charles Parsons, Sir John Snell, Alderman C. F. Spencer and Mr. A. J. Walter.

The president of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries has appointed a committee to consider practical means for increasing the supplies of sea-fish for the home markets and for encouraging the consumption of such fish, whether cured or fresh, in substitution for other foods. The committee has received a grant from the development fund, with authority to expend the grant, subject to limitations and conditions recommended by the development commissioners and approved by the treasury, at their discretion for the increase of the fishing power of vessels other than steam fishing vessels. In general their expenditure will be confined to assisting fishermen who are owners of their own boats to develop their fishing power and to secure greater quantities of fish. The committee consists of: Mr. Cecil Harmsworth (chairman); Mr. H. S. M. Blundell, of the Admiralty War Staff (Trade Division); Mr. H. G. Maurice, of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries; Mr. E. H. Collingwood, of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries; Mr. Stephen Reynolds, representing the Development Commissioners; Mr. A. Towle, representing the Food Controller.

The president of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries has appointed a committee to consider whether any considerable addition to the home food supplies of fish could be provided from the rivers, lakes and ponds of England and Wales. The committee is requested to have special regard to considerations affecting the practicability of any scheme for bringing fresh-water fish supplies into consumption, such as transport to market, the food value of the different kinds of fish, the probability of its proving acceptable to the consumer, the necessity for interference with private rights, and the risk of damage to more valuable fisheries. Further, the committee will consider and report upon measures which might be taken for securing a greater output of eels from the waters of the United Kingdom for home consumption. The members of the committee are: Lord Desborough (chairman), Mr. R. B. Marston, Mr. A. R. Peart, Mr. F. G. Richmond, Mr. H. T. Sheringham, Mr. A. Tate Regan, Sir John Wrench Towse. The Hon. A. S. Northcote will act as secretary to the committee.

#### BASE HOSPITALS ABROAD

SIX of the base hospitals organized by the American National Red Cross for service with the medical department of the United States Army have been ordered abroad for active duty. The hospitals are: Base hospital No. 2, the Presbyterian Hospital, New York, Dr. George E. Brewer, director; base hospital No. 4, the Lakeside Hospital, Cleveland, Dr. George W. Crile, director; base hospital No. 5, Harvard University, the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Dr. Harvey Cushing, director; base hospital No. 10, the Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia, Dr. Richard H. Harte, director; base hospital No. 12, Northwestern University Medical School, Dr. Frederick A. Beasley, director; base hospital No. 21, Washington University Medical School, St. Louis, Dr. Frederick T. Murphy, director. Three of the units are expected to embark at once and the others to follow soon.

The Harvard University unit includes the following:

*Majors*—Robert U. Patterson, Medical Corps, U. S. Army, commanding officer; Harvey Cushing, director; Richard P. Strong (absent in Europe), chief laboratory section; Roger I. Lee, chief medical section; Robert B. Osgood, chief surgical section.

*Captains*—Daniel F. Harmon, Medical Corps, U. S. A., Adjutant; Walter B. Cannon; Reginald Fitz; George S. Derby; Walter A. Boothby; Edward B. Towne; Charles Rund, Jr., quartermaster, O. R. C., U. S. Army; Percy Browne, Horace Binney, Elliot Cutler, Henry Lyman.

*Lieutenants*—George P. Denny, Gilbert Horrax, Frank R. Ober, John J. Morton, Oswald H. Robertson, Thomas R. Goethals, Samuel C. Harvey, James L. Stoddard, Henry Forbes, A. V. Bock.

*Dental Surgeons (Lieutenants)*—William Potter, Harrison L. Parker.

Those with the Presbyterian Hospital and Columbia University unit include: Drs. George Emerson Brewer, Homer Swift, William Darach, Sidney R. Burnap, Fordyce B. St. John, Alex McCreery, John A. Peters, Benjamin R. Allison, William F. Cunningham, William Barclay Parsons, Robert Kennedy, William C. Woolsey, Gerhard Cocks, Armitage Whitman, Willard B. Soper, Louis Casamajor, Alwin M. Pappenheim, A. R. Stevens, Roderick Grace, Austin Hobbs, Malcolm McBurney, Henry S. Dunning and E. H. Raymond.

The Mayo Foundation of the University of Minnesota has offered the government for foreign service a fully equipped field hospital unit, headed probably by Dr. William J. Mayo. The organization is known as the University of Minnesota Field Hospital Unit and has 500 tented beds of the latest model, full surgical apparatus and a portable shelter for an operating room. Dr. E. H. Plummer, Dr. Charles Judd, Dr. Frank C. Todd, Dr. H. Robertson and Dr. S. Marx White are among the medical men who have enrolled.

After the conference of the medical board of the Council of National Defense with Colonel T. H. Goodwin, of the Royal Army Medical Corps, in Washington, D. C., on April 29, it was announced that plans had been made to send one thousand American surgeons to Europe for service with the allied armies. This offer came from the American College of Surgeons. The deans of forty-six medical schools

met in conference with the general medical board and agreed to continue instruction without shortening the courses so as to furnish new graduates. Both the schools and the hospitals, however, will cut down in the number of men on the staff as much as possible so as to set them free for service in the army.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

At the recent meeting of the National Academy of Sciences, Dr. Charles D. Walcott, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, was elected president, in succession to Professor William H. Welch, of the Johns Hopkins University. To fill the vacancy in the secretaryship, caused by Dr. Walcott's election to the presidency, Dr. A. A. Michelson, of the University of Chicago, was elected.

THE Franklin Medal awarded by the Franklin Institute to Dr. M. A. Lorentz, professor of mathematical physics at Leiden, will be received by the minister from Holland at a meeting on May 16. A Franklin medal will also at the time be presented to Admiral D. W. Taylor, chief constructor of the United States Navy, who will make an address on "The Science of Naval Architecture."

ON May 3 of each year the Howard Taylor Ricketts prize for research by students in the departments of pathology and bacteriology and hygiene, in the University of Chicago, is awarded by the university, this being the anniversary of the death of Dr. Ricketts from typhus fever acquired by him while investigating that disease in Mexico City. The prize this year is awarded to Mr. Enrique E. Ecker, for his work entitled, "The Pathogenic Effect and the Nature of a Toxin produced by *Bacillus Paratyphosus B.*"

THE seventh Edison medal, which was awarded to Nikola Tesla "for meritorious achievements in his early original work in polyphase and high-frequency electric currents," will be presented to him at the annual meeting of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers in the auditorium of the Engineering Societies Building, New York, on the evening of May 18. President H. W. Buck will preside, and addresses will be made by Dr. A.