

#### WASHINGTON OFFICES OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

IN view of the present crisis, and at the request of the Council of National Defense, the Research Council has entered into close relations with the Defense Council, acting as a department of the latter. It is, in this capacity, charged with the organization of scientific research so as most effectively to contribute to national defense directly, and to the support and development of those industries affected by the war. The original organization of the Research Council, designed primarily for peace conditions, took the form of a number of subject committees, but this has been augmented by the addition of several special problem committees, the number of which will be increased as the necessity arises.

In order to carry out this scheme of cooperation the Research Council and several of its subcommittees have secured offices in the Munsey Building, Washington, D. C., where also are the headquarters of the Defense Council. The Research Council as a whole is represented by its chairman, Dr. George E. Hale, and by Dr. R. A. Millikan, the vice-chairman, charged with the correlation of research problems in general. The work has already grown to such dimensions that Dr. C. E. Mendenhall has been granted leave from the University of Wisconsin and has come to Washington to be associated with it.

The subcommittees are represented in Washington as follows:

Military: Dr. C. D. Walcott, chairman, Dr. S. W. Stratton, secretary, and other members representing various departments of the government. Physics: Dr. R. A. Millikan, Dr. C. E. Mendenhall. Chemistry: Dr. Marston T. Bogert, Dr. A. A. Noyes. Medicine and Hygiene: Dr. Victor C. Vaughan. Engineering: Dr. W. F. Durand.

As rapidly as possible these representatives are getting into touch with defense research problems through the military branches of the government, in which matter the military committee through its secretary plays an important part, and at the same time bringing these problems to the attention of the research men and organizations. The representatives

in Washington will, among other things, act as a central clearing house for the reception of problems from the government, and their proper distribution; will sift, distribute and follow up suggestions of a scientific or engineering nature received from any source, individuals or groups; and will keep those who are working on specific problems informed as to the progress being made by others working along the same lines. It is the desire of the Research Council to do anything possible to stimulate scientific activity and aid in any possible way its direction and concentration upon the most vital and immediate problems. As one further means to this end, it will shortly have available for limited distribution to investigators especially concerned, brief statements of the various problems, and some account of the conditions under which these problems develop. The attention of research men should, however, be given not only to the solution of suggested problems and the development of suggested methods, but, obviously, also to the unearthing of new problems, which may be their most valuable service.

The National Research Council may be addressed at the Munsey Building, Washington, D. C.

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#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. ARNOLD HAGUE, of the U. S. Geological Survey, distinguished for his work on the geology of the Yellowstone National Park and the Rocky Mountains, died at Washington on May 13 in his seventy-seventh year.

IN the last issue of *SCIENCE* it should have been stated that Professor A. A. Michelson, of the University of Chicago, had been elected vice-president of the National Academy of Sciences to fill the vacancy caused by Dr. Walcott's election to the presidency.

DR. D. T. MACDOUGAL, director of the Desert Laboratory, Carnegie Institution of Washington, Tucson, Arizona, has been elected president for the ensuing year of the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.