

that such a woman should be favored with the admiration of the community in which she lives and not as at present with its commiseration and pity. The state may find it expedient, likewise, to encourage parenthood by considering the size of the family as a factor among others in fixing exemptions from taxes.

Individual selfishness is at bottom the source of the evil I have described. An increasing number of men and women do not assume the marital state or, when married, do not raise a family of children, because they prefer to live better than their forebears and to spend more on themselves than would be possible if they had children to raise and educate. Under present conditions children are not an economic asset. Restrictive compulsory education and child-labor laws make children an expensive luxury which only the poor can afford. In fact, there is no very good reason on the score of personal comfort alone why individuals should assume the obligations and sacrifices which large families entail. Such, indeed, is the logical conclusion of our growing materialism. Yet the shallowness of this attitude must be obvious. Men and women who to-day are rallying to the defense of the country in war time, need not be reminded that we live not for ourselves but rather for the fuller life of the community. If only the same spirit would animate us in times of peace! More would then meet their obligation to the state through parenthood. A new citizenship would then arise which would be worthy to receive the noble traditions from our past and to carry our civilization forward into the future. Our appeal must be made to the religious impulse in our individual lives. It will require all the religious power latent in our people to set us right. I do not mean the mandate of any particular religious sect but rather the

ethical force which arises within us when we realize clearly our relation to the community about us and the obligation which this relationship involves. The problem of the size of the family, like a whole host of other important social questions, will be solved only when men realize the holy purpose of life, that we are here to add to the sum total of the common good, in a word, that we must leave the world better than we have found it.

In conclusion, let me emphasize the need for birth release among the healthy and normal people of our country as a primary national duty. Such release must be conscious and deliberate, the act of will of free individuals who thus express a highly moral purpose.

LOUIS I. DUBLIN

METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

MINUTES OF THE WAR EMERGENCY BOARD OF AMERICAN PLANT PATHOLOGISTS

A SPECIAL meeting of the War Emergency Board was held in Washington, D. C., February 9, 10 and 11, 1918. The following commissioners were present: Professor H. H. Whetzel, chairman, of Cornell University; Dr. F. D. Kern, of the Pennsylvania State College; Dr. E. C. Stakman, of the University of Minnesota; Professor H. P. Barss, of Oregon State Agricultural College; Professor H. W. Barre, of Clemson College, S. C., and Dr. G. R. Lyman, of the Bureau of Plant Industry.

Dr. Mel T. Cook, of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, and Professor H. S. Fawcett, of the Citrus Experiment Station, Riverside, Calif., also took part in the deliberations of the board, and many of the federal pathologists were called in consultation. Open meetings were also held at which practically all the pathological workers of the Department of Agriculture were present, for discussion of the program of war emergency work.

All the commissioners reported practically universal approval of the aims and objects of

the War Emergency Board on the part of the pathologists and administrative officials directing the agricultural work of their respective districts. Hence the board is assured of active and enthusiastic support on all sides. The board will find its most important work in capitalizing and translating into action the spirit of cooperation which has been stimulated and developed by the national emergency caused by the war.

The board noted with approval the definite program of cooperation both in extension and research work adopted by the pathologists of the Southern Section in the conference held at Atlanta, Ga., January 30 and 31, which must greatly increase the efficiency of the pathological work undertaken in that section this season. It was decided that similar conferences should be called during February and March by the commissioners of the other five sections of the country, thus giving the pathological workers of each district an opportunity to discuss their common problems and decide upon definite plans for cooperative action.

Commissioner Kern reported on the progress of the census of pathologists being carried on under his direction. Enrollment questionnaires were sent out to pathologists and botanists some time ago, and all were urged to send in the names of others to whom the enrollment cards should be sent, in order that we might have as complete a census as possible of all persons able to carry on pathological work during the coming season. The response has been hearty and replies are still coming in. While it is not yet possible to make a definite statement as to the total number of available pathologists, it is already apparent that there will be a serious shortage of workers to carry out the important emergency work already planned by state and federal agencies. Every effort will be made to utilize all available men in the positions where they will be of greatest service, and lists of workers are being prepared for distribution, classifying those who have registered according to geographical location, special qualifications, length of time available for work, and in other ways.

Extension work for this season, in charge of Commissioner Whetzel, was considered at some

length. The activities of the War Emergency Board in this direction must consist largely in efforts to stimulate a more concentrated and correlated attack upon certain important diseases through the established state and federal channels. It was agreed that the decision as to what extension campaigns should be pushed must be decided by the conferences of pathologists of the various sections. These are in most cases regional problems and can not be wisely decided by the board for the country as a whole.

The teaching of pathology during war times was discussed by Commissioner Whetzel. In view of the great and increasing shortage of pathological workers, all teachers of pathology should endeavor to give their promising students special training. Particular emphasis should be laid on pathological courses in many educational institutions, and such courses should be introduced where they do not now exist. An increased supply of young pathological workers should thus be assured one year from now. Moreover, during the present semester special war emergency short courses open to all students without prerequisite should be instituted to give elementary training in plant pathology with a view to preparing the students for more effective work on the farms this coming season.

Commissioner Stakman outlined his work to date on the correlation of emergency research. Responses to his questionnaire on research problems were quite general and reasonably prompt. While it was the general opinion that much pathological research can not be called strictly war emergency work on account of the uncertainty as to time of obtaining results, yet there are many research problems of a distinctly emergency nature which can and should be pushed. The great work of the board in this field will be to coordinate research work and to secure voluntary cooperation in the solution of pressing problems by working through the established state and federal agencies. Such cooperative research on a broad scale has already been begun on the subject of seed treatment for cereal smuts and will be pushed to an early conclusion in order that present uncertainties as to

the best methods of treatment for different varieties and regions may be cleared up. There are other problems calling for nationwide cooperative attack, but in general research problems are regional and can best be organized in the sectional conferences of pathologists where the different problems are acute. Commissioner Stakman will, from time to time, issue notices of cooperative research projects which are being taken up, giving the names of the leaders and an outline of the work. The War Board felt that this work of promoting cooperative research is one of the most important it can undertake, and that it has very far-reaching possibilities affecting American plant pathology.

Commissioner Lyman, in charge of crop loss estimates, reported on the collecting of data. Very gratifying response to his request for information on this difficult subject was received from pathologists throughout the country. A questionnaire sent to the county agents also yielded valuable data on certain important diseases. As a result a large body of data, probably more extensive than has ever before been collected, is now being classified and arranged. These figures will be resubmitted to the state and federal pathologists for thorough revision with a view to making them as authoritative as possible. They will then be issued in a special number of the *Plant Disease Bulletin* for general distribution. The board agreed that these crop loss estimates should be utilized as fully as possible in educational and publicity campaigns. The board also requested the Plant Disease Survey to collect such data as may be available from all sources on losses due to transportation and storage rots.

Commissioner Kern reported on plans for the conduct of a publicity campaign. It was agreed that it is very important that the general public be more thoroughly informed as to the significance of phytopathological work, including the losses due to diseases and storage rots, the significance to the public of these losses and their connection with high prices and food shortage. All possible agencies should be employed by pathologists generally to get this information to the public which is now interested in the subject on account of war

conditions. Pathologists should publish articles in newspapers and popular magazines and should embrace every opportunity to deliver popular lectures on pathological subjects before miscellaneous organizations. Exhibits, displays and motion pictures should also be utilized.

The War Emergency Board adopted the following resolutions and it is hoped that all pathologists will assist in carrying them out and in translating them into action.

WHEREAS, the situation this year as regards extension work on the control of plant diseases presents many unusual and critical features, inasmuch as never before has there been such urgent need for control work in order that the food supply may be increased, while at the same time the general application of control measures will be rendered very difficult on account of the serious shortage of farm labor, making it almost impossible for the farmer to undertake any work not absolutely essential; whereas, on this account great care should be taken that the control work advocated is such as to bring tangible results, in order that the whole subject of plant disease control may not fall into disrepute among the growers.

Therefore, be it *Resolved* that principal emphasis this year should be placed on the serious diseases of the more important food crops for which control measures are thoroughly proven, and relatively easy and cheap of application; and

Resolved that all extension workers should be carefully instructed before going into the field as to the nature and scope of the work to be undertaken and the ways and means to be employed.

WHEREAS, approximately 130,000,000 bushels of wheat and other cereals are lost annually on account of the attacks of preventable smuts, and, since this loss can be prevented easily at a cost not exceeding 3 cents per acre for materials and labor,

Therefore, be it *Resolved* that the War Emergency Board urge the enactment of legislation or the adoption of other methods for securing compulsory treatment of seed wheat, oats, barley and rye to eradicate preventable smuts and other diseases.

WHEREAS, extensive observations have shown that the common barberry (*Berberis vulgaris*) including its horticultural varieties, is an important link in the life history of stem rust of cereals in the upper Mississippi Valley, enabling it to develop and spread early in the season, thus conducing to serious epiphytotics; and whereas, the value of the common barberry in that region is

insignificant compared with the value of the cereal crops, especially since the immune Japanese variety (*Berberis thunbergii*) is displacing the common variety in popular favor,

Therefore, be it *Resolved*, that the War Emergency Board of American Plant Pathologists do hereby endorse and support the efforts to eradicate the common barberry in that region.

G. R. LYMAN,
Secretary

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS THE YALE MEDICAL SCHOOL

PRESIDENT ARTHUR HADLEY, of Yale University, announced on February 22 to Yale men who had returned for alumni university day that the Yale Medical School, for the first time in the 104 years of its existence, possessed an endowment sufficient to insure its perpetuation and establish it in the fore rank of American medical schools.

Since June, 1914, as reported in the New York *Tribune*, the resources of the school of medicine have been increased by \$2,568,812.55. This sum is exclusive of \$266,075 donated for the exclusive use of the Yale Mobile Military Hospital in France.

The gifts to the school of medicine include \$125,000 for the Anthony N. Brady Memorial Laboratory and an additional pledge of \$500,000 for endowment from the Brady family, provided a total of \$2,000,000 more was obtained.

Toward this \$2,000,000 the General Education Board had promised the last \$500,000. The Lauder family have given \$400,000, the late Charles W. Harkness \$100,000, and numerous other contributions had brought the total sum above the amount needed.

Five years ago it seemed probable that the Yale medical school would cease to exist. Despite the fact that it was then just ready to celebrate its centennial, its total endowment was less than \$400,000, a sum insufficient to provide income to pay the salaries of professors.

The question of the continuance or discontinuance of the medical school was placed in the hands of men interested in Yale University. A committee consisting of the late

Dr. Lewis A. Stimson, Dr. D. Bryson Delavan, Dr. William B. Coley, Dr. Joseph A. Blake and Dr. Walter James was asked to confer on ways and means with President Hadley, Dean Blumer, of the medical school, and three members of the Yale corporation.

The status of the school itself was first taken into consideration. In the face of many difficulties it had maintained so high a standard that it was ranked "Plus A," the highest class, by the American Medical Association. If the school was to continue, the conferees decided, first, it must maintain the same standards it had set. Most important, if this was to be done, was an affiliation with a hospital for teaching purposes. A second consideration insisted upon by the Yale corporation was that the mere question of pride on behalf of the university should not impel the continuance of the school. There must be a real need for it, recognized by the medical profession at large, or else it would be discontinued. This need was found to exist. The generosity of the family of Anthony N. Brady made the affiliation with the New Haven Hospital possible.

FARM PRODUCTS OF THE UNITED STATES

THE following statement pertaining to the crop achievements of 1917 and indicating what is possible in 1918 is authorized by Secretary of Agriculture Houston:

The production of food crops and of animal products is always a matter of great interest to all the people of the nation. At this particular time it is of especial interest and concern. Statistics regarding the acreages and yields of important food crops planted during the year 1917 have been available in the Department of Agriculture for some time and have been made public. The recent report of the Bureau of Crop Estimates on the number of live stock on farms and ranges, however, makes it possible now to exhibit a summary of the principal results of the farmers' operations for the year.

Naturally, when the nation entered the war on April 6, 1917, there was much confusion and apprehension as to the possibility of in-