creasing or even of maintaining agricultural production. There was special concern as to the sufficiency of the supply of labor that would be available for farming operations and much apprehension was manifested over the disturbance of the supply as the result of industrial demands and the drafting or volunteering of men for service in the army and navy. As a matter of fact, there was no little disturbance and in some sections the situation was especially acute. There were other difficulties confronting the farmers, including those of securing fertilizer and machinery in sufficient quantities at a reasonable cost.

Notwithstanding all the difficulties, however, the farmers, patriotically responding to the appeals to them and influenced by the prevailing prices, labored energetically to meet the needs of this nation for food and also those of the friendly nations in Europe. They planted the largest acreage in the history of the country, produced and harvested record crops of most products except wheat, and succeeded in increasing the number of live-stock, including not only work animals, but meat and milk animals.

The farmers of the nation planted during 1917, an acreage of 246,275,000 of the leading food crops (winter wheat, spring wheat, corn, oats, barley, rye, buckwheat, rice, Irish potatoes, and sweet potatoes), which was 23,038,000 acres (10 per cent.) greater than the acreage in 1916, and 32,339,000 (15 per cent.) greater than the average for the 5 years preceding the outbreak of the European War.

The farmers not only planted these acreages, but they harvested record crops of corn, oats, barley, buckwheat, and Irish and sweet potatoes. The total production of these products and of spring wheat and rice was 5,771,928,000 bushels, or 1,204,659,000 bushels (26 per cent.) more than in 1916, and 1,002,442,000 (21 per cent.) more than the average for the 5-year period (1910–1914). Winter wheat and rye are omitted from this comparison because the 1917 harvests of these crops were from sowings made in the fall of 1916, before the United States entered the war. It should be borne in mind in this connection that the percentage of soft corn this year was very much higher than usual, and also that the aggregate crop of spring and winter wheat harvested in 1917 was short.

During the first half of 1917 there was particular apprehension lest the number of live stock should be decreased. As a matter of fact, owing to the greater abundance of feedstuffs that the large crops of the year made available and the prevailing prices, there was revealed a most gratifying increase in the principal classes of live stock—an increase in the number of horses during the year of 353,000, or 1.7 per cent.; of mules, 101,000, or 2.1 per cent.; of milch cows, 390,000, or 1.7 per cent.; of other cattle, 1,857,000, or 4.5 per cent.; of sheep, 1,284,000, or 2.7 per cent., and of swine, 3,871,000, or 5.7 per cent.

The total estimated value of all farm products, including animals and animal products, for 1917 is given as $19,443,849,381, as against $13,406,364,011 for 1916, and $9,388,765,779 for the five-year average (1910–1914). These valuations are based upon prices received by producers, which are applied to the total output regardless of whether the products are consumed on the farms or sold.

PLAN OF WAR ORGANIZATION OF DIVISION OF MEDICINE AND RELATED SCIENCES OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

I. OFFICERS

Chairman, Richard M. Pearce (National Research Council) 1023 16th St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

Vice-chairman, Major Robert M. Yerkes, Surgeon General's Office, Washington, D. C.

Executive Committee: H. D. Dakin, 819 Madison Avenue, New York City; C. B. Davenport, Cold Spring Harbor, L. I., N. Y.; Major Simon Flexner, Rockefeller Institute, New York City; W. H. Howell, School of Hygiene, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.; Major Chas. H. Mayo, Rochester, Minn.; Major Wm. J. Mayo, Surgeon General's Office, Washington, D. C.; Colonel F. F. Russell, U. S. Army, Washington, D. C.; E. R. Stitt, U. S. Navy, Washington, D. C.; Major V. C. Vaughan, Surgeon General's Office, Washington, D. C.; Wm. H. Welch, School of Hygiene, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.; the *Chairman* and *Vice-chairman ex-officio.*

II. COMMITTEES INCLUDED IN MEDICAL DIVISION

1. *Anatomy Committee: Chairman,* H. H. Donaldson.

2. *Physiology Committee: Chairman,* W. B. Cannon. *Vice-chairman* and *Acting Chairman,* W. H. Howell.

(*a*) *Subcommittee for Investigations on the Physiology of Shock: Chairman,* W. B. Cannon.

(*b*) *Subcommittee on the Control of Hemorrhage: Chairman,* W. H. Howell.

(*c*) *Subcommittee on Solutions adopted for Transfusion after Hemorrhage: Chairman,* L. J. Henderson.

(*d*) *Subcommittee on Fatigue in Industrial Pursuits: Chairman,* Frederic S. Lee.

3. *Committee on Medicine and Hygiene: Chairman,* Victor C. Vaughan.

(*a*) *Subcommittee on Psychiatry: Chairman,* Stewart Paton.

4. *Psychology Committee: Chairman,* Robert M. Yerkes.

(*a*) *Subcommittee on Methods for the Psychological Examination of Recruits: Chairman,* Robert M. Yerkes.

(*b*) *Subcommittee on Tests of Special Skill: Chairman,* Edward L. Thorndike.

(*c*) *Subcommittee on Problems of Aviation, Including the Examination of Aviation Recruits: Chairman,* Edward L. Thorndike.

(*d*) *Subcommittee on Incapacity, Reeducation and Vocational Training: Chairman,* Shepherd I. Franz.

(*e*) *Subcommittee on Visual Problems: Chairman,* Raymond Dodge.

5. *Committee on Anthropology: Chairman,* Wm. H. Holmes; *Vice-chairman,* C. B. Davenport.

6. *Zoology Committee: Chairman,* E. G. Conklin.

(*a*) *Subcommittee on Medical Zoology, with groups representing* (*1*) *entomology,* (*2*) *helminthology,* (*3*) *protozoology.*

III. COOPERATING COMMITTEES (NOW EXISTING IN THE COUNCIL)

1. *Chemistry: Chairman,* M. T. Bogert.

(*a*) *Subcommittee on Biochemistry: Chairman,* Frank P. Underhill.

(*b*) *Subcommittee on Pharmaceutical Chemistry: Chairman,* Frederick B. Power.

2. *Food Committee: Chairman,* A. E. Taylor.

3. *Advisory Committee on Toxicity of Preserved Foods: Chairman,* J. J. Abel.

IV. PURPOSE

To concentrate in Washington a comparatively small body of men representing the existing committees, and thus provide for effective cooperation in the rapid organization of medical research as an aid to the solution of urgent military problems.

V. FIELD

Medicine, surgery, hygiene, physiology, anatomy, psychology, psychiatry, physical anthropology and closely related subjects.

VI. METHODS

1. To cooperate closely with the Surgeon General of the Army (through Colonel Russell) and of the Navy (through Dr. Stitt) in determining urgent problems and to enlist the aid of civilian laboratories in the solution of these problems.

2. To assist the Surgeons General of the Army and Navy in procuring trained investigators to enter the respective services as contract surgeons to undertake special field investigations during short periods of time.

3. To send, if it is considered advisable, individuals to England, France and Italy to determine the urgent problems which should be taken up without loss of time in civilian laboratories in this country.

4. To invite, if it is considered necessary, commissions or individuals from England, France and Italy to this country to advise with the Medical Division of the National Research Council.

5. To maintain correspondence with prominent medical investigators in the American Expeditionary Forces and in civilian laboratories in France, England and Italy and thus obtain reports of the important fields of research, the character of the work in progress and the needs of the workers.

6. To establish relations with and if agreeable to them, to cooperate with research organizations abroad as (*a*) British Medical Research Committee, (*b*) the Research Society recently organized in France by medical officers of American, French and British forces, and (*c*) the Committee on Medical Research of the American Red Cross in France, etc.

7. To obtain reports of all medical research organizations in this country dealing with war

problems and of individuals engaged in the investigation of war problems.

8. To maintain a bureau for the dissemination of up-to-date bibliographies of all forms of medical research bearing on war problems.

9. (*a*) Prepare lists of individuals and laboratories equipped and ready to undertake research at short notice.

(*b*) Prepare lists of individuals who will hold themselves in readiness to move from laboratory to laboratory to work for shorter or longer periods on special or emergency problems or to augment existing laboratory staffs in a group of selected laboratories.

10. To hold conferences from time to time in Washington or other central city for discussion of important research problems and methods of attack.

11. To hold military medical meetings from time to time, in the neighborhood of large cantonments for the discussion of medical problems by military and civilian physicians.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. ALLAN J. MCLAUGHLIN, health commissioner of Massachusetts, has been recalled to Washington by federal authorities. He will become assistant surgeon-general in the public health service of the United States. As second in command he will have control of all the domestic health work, particularly with respect to the military cantonment areas.

MAJOR FRANK BILLINGS, professor of medicine in the University of Chicago, who was appointed medical adviser to the governor of Illinois, in the creation of the medical advisory boards, has been assigned to the Provost Marshal General's office in Washington. Major Billings' work is understood to be that of adviser to the Provost Marshal in connection with the medical problems under the Selective Service Law.

DR. DOUGLAS W. JOHNSON, associate professor of physiography in Columbia University, has recently been commissioned major in the Intelligence Section of the National Army, and expects to leave for Europe on a special mission for the government.

PROFESSOR WILLIAM B. HERMS, associate professor of parasitology and acting head of the department of entomology, University of California, has been appointed captain in the Sanitary Corps, National Army, and has been ordered to Fort Sam Houston, Texas, for duty. Captain Herms was actively engaged during the past summer and autumn in investigating the sanitation of military camps in the western department, particularly as regards mosquitoes and flies.

DR. PAUL H. M.-P. BRINTON, professor of analytical chemistry in the University of Arizona, has been commissioned captain in the Ordnance Reserve.

ALBERT T. POFFENBERGER, Ph.D., instructor in psychology in Columbia University, has been commissioned a captain in the Sanitary Corps of the National Army and will be assigned to the psychological examination of recruits.

DR. DENNIE H. UDALL, professor of medicine and superintendent of the ambulatory clinic of the New York State Veterinary College, has been made a major in the Veterinary Corps of the National Army and has asked for a leave of absence for the duration of the war. Dr. W. E. Muldoon, assistant professor of materia medica of the same institution, has also been commissioned and has asked for a leave of absence.

CAPTAIN WALTER L. CONWELL, of Cornell University, until last June assistant professor of railroad engineering in the college of civil engineering, has been promoted to Major of the 307th Field Artillery, at Camp Dix.

A. P. MILLS, assistant professor of materials in the college of civil engineering, Cornell University, received his commission as captain in the Engineer O.R.C., and is awaiting orders.

POPE YEATMAN, consulting engineer of New York, has been placed in charge of the nonferrous metals department of the War Industries Board, in succession to Eugene Meyer, Jr.

AT the recent meeting of the American Association of Anatomists, held in the new Institute of Anatomy at the University of