

organize the physicians of the country who are ineligible for membership in the medical reserve corps on account of physical disability, over-age (55), civic or institutional needs, into the volunteer medical service corps. The members of this corps will be classified according to their ability to serve and will render aid to existing governmental agencies upon request of the Army, Navy, Public Health Service, American Red Cross, or the Council of National Defense.

It is hoped that every physician who, for any of the reasons enumerated above, is unable to enroll in the Medical Reserve Corps, will join the volunteer medical service corps. Since you have already indicated your desire to serve the government by applying for a commission in the Medical Reserve Corps you are among the first to be sent an application blank which it is hoped you will fill out and return immediately to this office.

The blank provides for details as to reason for ineligibility to the Medical Reserve Corps as to educational and professional experience and other details. The fact is also recognized that rejected applicants for service in the Medical Reserve Corps may overcome the physical defects that led to rejection, and may therefore become eligible, or that the essential public or institutional needs may become less important as the extreme needs of the Army and Navy become apparent. Each physician is asked, therefore, to pledge himself to apply for a commission in the Medical Reserve Corps if at any time he becomes eligible.

With the letter goes a leaflet setting forth the rules of the organization. The general management of the Volunteer Medical Service Corps is vested in a central governing board, which is a committee of the general medical board of the Council of National Defense, and the state governing boards consist of the state committees, medical section, Council of National Defense.

The procedure for joining is simple. The applicant returns his filled blank to the central governing board in Washington, and it is then referred to the proper state executive committee for its recommendations as to the qualifications of the applicant and as to the kind of work for which he seems most fitted.

The central governing board comprises the following: Dr. Edward P. Davis, president,

Philadelphia; Dr. Henry H. Sherk, vice-president, Pasadena; Dr. John D. McLean, acting secretary, Washington; Dr. Edward H. Bradford, Boston; Dr. Truman W. Brophy, Chicago; Dr. Duncan Eve, Sr., Nashville; Dr. William Duffield Robinson, Philadelphia; Dr. George David Stewart, New York City; Dr. Franklin Martin, Chicago, and Dr. F. F. Simpson, Pittsburgh, are members *ex officio*.

#### THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

THE President has issued the following executive order:

The National Research Council was organized in 1916 at the request of the President by the National Academy of Sciences, under its congressional charter, as a measure of national preparedness. The work accomplished by the council in organizing research and in securing cooperation of military and civilian agencies in the solution of military problems demonstrates its capacity for larger service. The National Academy of Sciences is therefore requested to perpetuate the National Research Council, the duties of which shall be as follows:

1. In general, to stimulate research in the mathematical, physical and biological sciences, and in the application of these sciences to engineering, agriculture, medicine and other useful arts, with the object of increasing knowledge, of strengthening the national defense, and of contributing in other ways to the public welfare.
2. To survey the larger possibilities of science, to formulate comprehensive projects of research, and to develop effective means of utilizing the scientific and technical resources of the country for dealing with these projects.
3. To promote cooperation in research, at home and abroad, in order to secure concentration of effort, minimize duplication, and stimulate progress; but in all cooperative undertakings to give encouragement to individual initiative as fundamentally important to the advancement of science.
4. To serve as a means of bringing American and foreign investigators into active cooperation with the scientific and technical services of the War and Navy Departments and with those of the civil branches of the government.
5. To direct the attention of scientific and technical investigators to the present importance of military and industrial problems in connection with the war, and to aid in the solution of these problems by organizing specific researches.

6. To gather and collate scientific and technical information, at home and abroad, in cooperation with governmental and other agencies, and to render such information available to duly accredited persons.

Effective prosecution of the council's work requires the cordial collaboration of the scientific and technical branches of the government, both military and civil. To this end representatives of the government, upon the nomination of the National Academy of Sciences, will be designated by the President as members of the council, as heretofore, and the heads of the departments immediately concerned will continue to cooperate in every way that may be required.

WOODROW WILSON

THE WHITE HOUSE,  
11 May, 1918

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. JOHN J. CARTY, colonel in the Signal Corps, until recently chief engineer of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, was presented with the Edison medal for "meritorious achievement in the science and art of electrical engineering," on May 17, at the annual meeting of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers.

COLONEL HENRY S. GRAVES, forester of the United States Forest Service, has been elected an honorary member of the Royal Scottish Arboricultural Society of Edinburgh, Scotland, in recognition of his eminent services to forestry. This distinction is shared by Colonel Graves with only one other citizen of this country, Dr. C. S. Sargent, who was elected in 1889.

At the annual meeting of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences held on May 8, acting on the recommendation of the Rumford Committee, it was unanimously voted to award the Rumford Premium to Theodore Lyman for his researches on light of very short wavelength.

At the commencement exercises of Colgate University, on May 7, the honorary degree of doctor of science was conferred upon Dr. Charles H. Herty, editor of *The Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry*.

DR. ALEXIS CARREL, of the Rockefeller Institute, has been promoted by the French government to the rank of Commander of the Legion of Honor. The new decoration was bestowed on May 16 by M. Mourier, Under Secretary of State for Medical Service, in the presence of a distinguished company. M. Mourier recalled Dr. Carrel's biological discoveries, his method of transfusion of blood, his conservation of living tissue, and his method of grafting bones, as well as the system of treating wounds which he has developed at the hospital at Compiègne.

THE Franklin Institute, on May 15, 1918, made the annual presentation of its Franklin Medal in the auditorium of the Institute. The Franklin Medal, founded in 1914 and awarded only to "those workers in physical science or technology, without regard to country, whose efforts, in the opinion of the Institute, have done most to advance a knowledge of physical science or its applications," was awarded to Signor, Guglielmo Marconi, electrical engineer and member of the Italian Senate, and to Dr. Thomas Corwin Mendenhall, physicist, of Ravenna, Ohio. The award to Senator Marconi was made in recognition of his "brilliant inception and successful development of the application of magneto-electric waves to the transmission of signals and telegrams, without the use of metallic conductors." The award to Dr. Mendenhall was made in recognition of his "fruitful and indefatigable labors in physical research, particularly his contributions to our knowledge of physical constants and electrical standards." His Excellency, Count V. Macchi De Cellere, on behalf of the Royal Italian Government, received the Franklin Medal for Senator Marconi, and addressed the institute when the medal was presented to him. Upon the presentation of the Medal to Dr. Mendenhall, he addressed the institute on the subject of "Some Metrological Memories."

MAJOR O. M. LELAND, of the 303d Regiment of Engineers, stationed at Camp Dix, has been appointed Lieutenant Colonel of Engineers in the National Army and assigned to the above regiment. Colonel Leland is professor of astronomy and geodesy at Cornell University,