

the partial scientific basis of mental hygiene.

It is the conviction of the writer that urgent need exists for pioneering in psychobiology as a basic medical science. It has already been suggested that this pioneering should be done in a medical environment, for by taking the matter into its own hands the medical faculty should be able to secure, more quickly and satisfactorily than otherwise, those developments and applications of psychobiology which are clearly desirable. It will not suffice to meet the general needs of medicine, if psychopathology instead of, rather than in addition to, the more inclusive discipline psychobiology, is established in leading medical schools. For it is quite as improbable that the medical student will acquire adequate training in psychobiology during his premedical years as that he will acquire similarly adequate training in physiology or in anatomy.

There are three important possibilities with respect to the administrative relations of psychobiology in medical schools. The subject may be treated as a part of physiology, it may be established independently, or it may be associated with neurology and psychiatry. For the sake of its development as a fundamental discipline, it would appear preferable to have it either associated with physiology or given an independent status during the experimental stage of its development in a medical environment. To place it with physiology would tend to lessen administrative problems and to simplify the organization of instruction and arrangements for research, but, on the other hand, it should be recognized that the clinical relations of psychobiology are likely to be much more numerous and compelling than those of physiology and to make it more and more truly the connecting link be-

tween physiology and psychiatry. For the former subject, it must always appear as a logical extension of its field of interest; for the latter, as an essential part of its scientific basis.

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### SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

#### MEDICAL EDUCATION IN CHINA<sup>1</sup>

RECENT reports state that in all China there are found to be less than 2,000 physicians. What a small proportion of the population of 400,000,000 Chinese people can receive scientific treatment in case of illness or injury! In an effort to ascertain the exact number of students looking toward medicine, if not also to stimulate the youth of China to look toward the practise of medicine, a survey has recently been made of the middle schools of China. In 153 of the institutions reporting, there are 36,095 students, and of these 1,153 stated that they were planning to study medicine. Since this is only about 20 per cent. of all middle schools, the total number who may enter on the study of medicine will be considerably larger.

The Rockefeller Foundation is said to have abandoned its purpose of erecting at Shanghai a great medical school similar to the Union Medical College at Peking. This decision is said to be due to the fact that in its initial session the college had a class of only seven students, although \$6,000,000 had been expended for its construction and maintenance. This small attendance is said to be due to the fact that the medical course is given in the English language and that only a small number of the universities and schools in the neighborhood of Peking emphasize their courses in English. The situation is said to be quite different at Shanghai, where English is more generally taught, which will insure larger numbers of Chinese medical students.

In order to provide a clear field when a large

<sup>1</sup>From the *Journal* of the American Medical Association.

medical school in Shanghai was planned by the foundation, the Harvard Medical School of China was purchased by the Chinese Medical Board, and the Pennsylvania Medical School at Shanghai consented to step aside in favor of the larger institution. A few months ago, however, after the foundation withdrew from the field, the Pennsylvania Medical School began pushing forward its plans to enlarge its plant. The erection of a science laboratory building, to cost \$100,000, was promptly begun. This will house departments of physics, chemistry and biology and, temporarily, the medical laboratories also, but the latter will be removed to other buildings which will be erected later. The institution will provide a premedical course covering three years, and a medical course of four years similar to those established by the Peking Union Medical College.

#### THE FOREST SERVICE

ACCORDING to the annual report of Chief Forester W. B. Greeley, the receipts of the National Forests have increased 93 per cent. from 1915 to 1920, while the total appropriations for the Forest Service, exclusive of deficiency fire-fighting funds, has increased only 8 per cent. The receipts for 1920 were 10 per cent. greater than for 1919, and an equal increase for the current fiscal year may be expected, unless too much new business has to be rejected on account of lack of funds and trained employees. The appropriations for the current fiscal year were increased only 3 per cent.

In addition to the actual revenue, according to the report, there is an enormous return to the public through the protection of the 500,000,000,000-odd feet of timber for future use, the protection of the headwaters of innumerable feeders of navigation, irrigation and hydroelectric power and the recreational facilities made available to hundreds of thousands of people. "There will always be national resources not measurable in dollars which in public benefit exceed the receipts paid into the Treasury," the report says.

The purchases aggregated at the close of the

fiscal year 1,420,208 acres in the White Mountains and the Southern Appalachians and 12,094 acres in the Ozark Mountains of Arkansas. The original program of acquisition contemplated the purchase of about 1,000,000 acres in the White Mountains and not less than 5,000,000 acres in the Southern Appalachians. Nearly one half the proposed White Mountain area has been acquired, but slower progress has been made in the southern areas.

Further appropriations to carry on the purchase work within the areas have been recommended by the National Forest Reservation Commission. "To leave these Eastern forests in their present half finished condition would subject them to formidable fire hazards and other difficulties of management."

There is need also for some action to reduce the danger to the National Forests from the 24,267,723 acres of private lands that are intermingled with land belonging to the government. Most of this land is forested and its misuse, mismanagement and neglect jeopardize the government's holdings. General legislation is urged to acquire the private land by purchase or exchange.

The 1919 fire season was unusually severe and long drawn out, the report states. It was the third successive year of severe drought in the northwest, and the worst of the three. Fires began to occur before much of the customary work of preparation had been done, and this imposed a further handicap upon the forest force, which had been depleted by the loss of many experienced men. The total number of forest fires in the National Forests was 6,800, or 1,227 greater than in the previous year. The area of National Forest lands burned over was 2,000,034 acres, the estimated damage was \$4,919,769, and the total cost of fire fighting was \$3,039,615.

#### GYPSUM FELLOWSHIPS

At the recent annual meeting of the Gypsum Industries Association, they provided for six to eight fellowships, each bearing a stipend of \$1,000 to \$1,500 a year, depending on the training and ability of the holder.