

the legends told us in our infant years than in "the truth we live to learn."

JAMES HARVEY ROBINSON

NEW SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH

## THE FOOD RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF STANFORD UNIVERSITY

THE Food Research Institute of Stanford University was founded in February, 1921, by the Carnegie Corporation of New York in conjunction with the trustees of Leland Stanford Junior University, California. It is organized for the purpose of intensive scientific study of the problems of the production, distribution, and consumption of food. The institute grew out of a suggestion offered by Mr. Herbert Hoover, and its location at Stanford University was due partly to the fact that this university possesses, in the Hoover War Library, a large and unique collection of documentary material relating to the food problems and other economic aspects of the Great War. The Carnegie Corporation guarantees stated funds for the work for a period of ten years. Stanford University provides quarters and facilities and has appointed the directors of the institute to positions on the Stanford faculty.

The control of its policies and the active direction of the work of the institute are entrusted to three joint directors. The plan of the founders called for the selection of an expert in agriculture and food manufacture, an expert in economics and food distribution, and an expert in the physiology and chemistry of nutrition. In accordance with this plan, the following directors were appointed in April, 1921: Carl L. Alsberg, M.D., Joseph S. Davis, Ph.D., and Alonzo E. Taylor, M.D. At the same time an advisory committee was appointed comprising the presidents of Carnegie Corporation and Stanford University, *ex officio*, and the following additional members: Hon. Herbert Hoover, secretary of commerce; Dr. James C. Merriam, president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington; Mr. Julius Barnes, formerly president of the U. S. Grain Corporation; Dr. William M. Jardine, president of the Kansas State Agricultural College; Mr. J. R. Howard, president of the American

Farm Bureau Federation; and Mr. George Roeding, formerly of the California Horticultural Commission.

The founding of the Food Research Institute is an outgrowth of war experience. During the late war, possibly for the first time in history, food production and distribution, nutrition and dietetics had to be considered by governments as national and even international problems. In determining policies required to meet the emergency, food administrators sought certain scientific information, from agriculturists, economists, physiologists, and physicians. Many valuable data were readily furnished. On the other hand, much of the desired information was not in existence, not because, given time, it would have been difficult to obtain, but because no one before the war had asked these questions or attempted to reach an adequate answer. Nutrition and dietetics had been studied mainly as individual problems, not as mass problems. The food supply had seldom been examined with adequate reference to its international aspects and to the particular commodities entering into it. Marketing problems had received mainly local investigation. There had been little coordination of studies in several important fields, and serious gaps were numerous. In many instances, therefore, the lack of essential information led to action more or less in the dark.

The founders of the Food Research Institute were convinced that the scientific study of such problems, from a broad national and international viewpoint, was important in peace no less than in war. While recognizing the essential services which research work in federal and state agricultural departments and colleges had rendered and will continue to render, they considered that a non-governmental organization with university affiliations could have advantages in attacking certain kinds of problems without the limitations which apply to these agencies.

The institute proposes, therefore, to investigate significant food problems from the standpoint of their bearing upon national economy and well-being, to deal with them as mass problems, and to emphasize the commodity and

international aspects. While it will frequently study data of individual businesses, it will do this not in order to serve as a business adviser, but primarily in order to discover principles of general importance.

The precise program of the institute will be developed gradually. Its exact form will be determined partly by the readiness with which essential data on particular subjects can be assembled, and by the work which is already in progress elsewhere. In the course of its activity the institute will concern itself with such subjects as the food elements in actual and normal standards of living, and the physiological and social aspects of sub-nutrition; the sources, production, marketing, and utilization of important staple foodstuffs, such as wheat; the financing of farm operations and the manufacture and marketing of food products; the analysis of important food industries and the problems which they present; the technology of food manufacture, and the desirable scope of public control thereof; and the elements in a sound national policy with respect to food production, internal distribution, and international trade.

Numerous existing organizations are already conducting research into food problems, from one angle or another, notably the Department of Agriculture, state bureaus of markets, agricultural colleges and experiment stations; research organizations of banks, business houses, trade and marketing associations; and university departments, committees, or individuals. It will be the policy of the institute to avoid, so far as possible, any serious overlapping of the work of established research organizations, public or private. It will endeavor rather to enlist the aid of existing organizations in the prosecution of researches in which there is a common interest, in which essential data are already collected or in process of collection, or in which another organization is in a better position to perform a portion of the research. Moreover, in numerous instances the institute will consider its purpose accomplished if methods which it may develop, or sample studies which it may make, can be utilized by public or private agencies in undertaking similar investigations on a far more extended scale.

The research work will be done, for the most part, at Stanford University. In general, subjects for investigation will be selected which do not necessitate extensive field work, or in which the results of field investigations conducted by other competent organizations can be utilized. It is recognized, however, that certain investigations which the institute can undertake will require more or less field work by the directors, fellows, or assistants, and for these necessary provision will be made.

The institute is organized as an integral part of Stanford University, with the status of a department for the purpose of directing research and recommending degrees. For the year 1922-23 it has established four fellowships for graduate study in the field of food research. The directors will guide the work of these fellows, and occasionally a few other well-qualified graduate students, in studies which fall within the scope outlined above and which will frequently constitute a specific part of a piece of research which the institute has in process. Such individual research will ordinarily form a part of the work toward a higher degree at Stanford University, and will be supplemented by such work in other departments of the university as may be necessary to fulfill the usual requirements for degrees.

While the institute does not contemplate undertaking extensive experimental work on its own account, the university's established facilities for experimental research on foods, nutrition, etc., are available to graduate students, and to a limited extent the directors of the institute will cooperate in the direction of research in these fields. In addition, the directors will occasionally offer courses of instruction in other departments of the university.

In part the results of researches will be published through established technical journals. Where circumstances render this undesirable, the results will usually appear in a series of publications to be issued by the Food Research Institute. In cases where certain lines of research are of interest to specific groups of readers, other or additional channels of publication will be sought in order to reach those concerned.

The first year of the institute has been

largely occupied with the establishment at Stanford, the determination of general policies, the organization of a small staff, enlarging the collection of data which will be required for research, and making certain preliminary surveys and investigations designed to furnish the basis for more intensive studies. The work will be fully under way by the autumn of 1922.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### CANADIAN SOCIETY OF TECHNICAL AGRICULTURISTS

THE Canadian Society of Technical Agriculturists held its second annual convention at Macdonald College, Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Que., in the week of June 26 to July 1. In addition to the business sessions, a number of advanced lectures were given, the expense of which was borne by the Dominion Department of Agriculture. Professors W. T. Jackman, of the University of Toronto, and A. Leitch, of the Ontario Agricultural College, discussed topics appertaining to rural economics. Professor L. J. Cole, of the University of Wisconsin, spoke on "Genetics"; Dr. A. Bruce Macallum, of the Synthetic Drug Company, Toronto, on "Vitamins"; and Dr. M. O. Malte, National Herbarium, Ottawa, and Professor R. G. Stapledon, director of the Plant Breeding Station, Aberystwyth, Wales, on "Plant Breeding." President L. S. Klinck, of the University of British Columbia, delivered the presidential address and was succeeded in the chair by President J. B. Reynolds, of the Ontario Agricultural College. An interesting feature of the convention was an excursion to the Oka Agricultural Institute, La Trappe, Que., where the members of the society were very hospitably entertained by the staff of the institute under the Reverend Father Leopold. Speakers at the luncheons and banquets included the Honorable J. E. Caron, minister of agriculture, Quebec; Dr. J. H. Grisdale, federal deputy minister of agriculture; Dr. Jas. W. Robertson, Ottawa; the Reverend Father Leopold, principal of the Oka Agricultural Institute, and Principal F. C. Harrison, of Macdonald College. Professor W. H. Brit-

tain, of the Nova Scotia Agricultural Society, was appointed representative of the society on the council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The society maintains a Bureau of Records of its members, which serves as an employment agency, and a bilingual journal, *Scientific Agriculture* (*La Revue Agronomique Canadienne*), both of which are conducted by the general secretary-treasurer, Mr. F. H. Grindley, B.S.A., Gardenvale, Que.

### BISHOP MUSEUM FELLOWSHIPS

FROM the list of applicants for the Bishop Museum fellowships Yale University announces the selection of the following fellows for the year 1922-23:

Henry W. Fowler, ichthyologist, Philadelphia Academy of Science.

N. E. A. Hinds, instructor in geology, Harvard University.

Carl Skottsberg, director of the Botanical Garden, Gotenberg, Sweden.

Dr. Fowler will devote his attention to a study of the fish of Hawaiian waters; Dr. Hinds will continue his investigations of the geology of the island of Kauai; Dr. Skottsberg plans to make a study of the flora of Hawaii with particular reference to comparison with the plant life of Juan Fernandez and other islands of the southeast Pacific.

The four Bishop Museum fellowships yielding \$1,000 each were established in 1920 by a cooperative agreement between Yale University and the Bernice P. Bishop Museum of Honolulu. They are designed primarily for aid in research on problems in ethnology and natural history which involve field studies in the Pacific region.

The Bishop Museum fellows for 1921-22 were Dr. F. L. Stevens, professor of botany in the University of Illinois; Dr. Stephen S. Visher, professor of geography in the University of Indiana, and Ruth H. Greiner, graduate student in ethnology in the University of California. The results of Professor Stevens' work on Hawaiian fungi and of Miss Greiner's study of Polynesian art have been submitted to Bishop Museum for publication.