

January 17, a conference was held in the office of Brigadier General C. E. Sawyer, physician to President Harding and chief coordinator of the federal Board of Hospitalization, to consider plans for the coordination of the health activities of the federal government. In addition to General Sawyer and the surgeon-generals of the army, the navy and the public health service, there were present Dr. A. W. Belting, president Eastern Homeopathic Medical Association, Trenton, N. J.; Lieutenant Commander J. T. Boone, Medical Corps, U. S. Navy; Dr. Claude A. Burrett, Rochester, N. Y.; Dr. Gilbert Fitzpatrick, chairman, executive committee, American Institute of Homeopathy, Chicago; Dr. C. W. Garrison, executive secretary and state health officer, State Board of Health, Little Rock, Ark.; Dr. James A. Hayne, secretary and state health officer, State Board of Health, Columbia, S. C.; Dr. A. T. McCormack, president, Conference of State and Provincial Health Authorities of North America, and secretary, State Board of Health, Louisville, Ky.; Dr. R. M. Olin, state health commissioner, Lansing, Mich.; Colonel W. O. Owen, Washington, D. C.; Dr. W. A. Pearson, dean, the Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital, Philadelphia; Dr. Ennion G. Williams, state health commissioner, Richmond, Va., and Dr. William C. Woodward, executive secretary, bureau of legal medicine and legislation, American Medical Association.

According to the plan submitted by General Sawyer, the proposed department will be known as the Department of Education, Health and Welfare, with a secretary who is to be a cabinet officer at its head, and an assistant secretary. The plan calls for the creation of a bureau of education, a bureau of health, a bureau of social service, and the Veterans' Bureau, each with a director-general at its head. It is to be expected, of course, that the secretary, and possibly the officer next in rank, the assistant secretary, will, because of their rank and their relation to the determination of the policies of the government, change with each administration. The several director-generals, however, are to be the technical heads of the bureaus, and as more or less permanent officers to preserve continuity of policy and administration. The plan calls for no enlargement or reduction in the activities of the sev-

eral branches of the federal government now engaged in work in the lines of activities to be incorporated in the new department. It is proposed that the various agencies of the federal government (except those within the army and navy) relating to health, education, social service and the rehabilitation of veterans be transferred to the new executive department, each to carry with it its present powers, appropriations and personnel, intact. It was suggested that the prospect was never better than now for the establishment of medicine as a fixed unit, associated with other departments of the government, providing in a most satisfactory and effective way for carrying out the highest ideals of modern medicine. An executive committee to carry forward the work of the conference was appointed by the chairman, consisting of Drs. Fitzpatrick, Olin and Woodward.

THE FEDERATION OF AMERICAN SOCIETIES FOR EXPERIMENTAL BIOLOGY

THE Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology held its tenth annual meeting in Toronto, Canada, December 27, 28 and 29, under the auspices of the University of Toronto. This meeting was one of the most successful ever held, due largely to the carefully laid plans of the local committee. The local committee was composed of Professors Andrew Hunter, *chairman*; V. E. Henderson, *secretary*; V. J. Harding and H. B. Speakman. The total registered attendance was 244, made up of 134 members of the federation and 110 non-members.

In the absence in China of Dr. Donald D. Van Slyke, president of the American Society of Biological Chemists, the vice-president, Professor Philip A. Shaffer, Washington University Medical School, served as chairman of the federation. The biochemical secretary, Professor Victor C. Myers, New York Post-Graduate Medical School, was the executive secretary.

A joint session dealing with topics of general interest was held on Wednesday morning, December 27. The dinner on the same evening was in honor of the birth of Louis Pasteur. Following the address of welcome by Sir Robert Falconer, president of the University of Toronto, Professor Graham Lusk spoke on

Pasteur, the man, Professor F. G. Novy considered Pasteur's contributions to bacteriology, while Professor A. P. Mathews gave a brief account of Pasteur's contributions to chemistry. Thursday afternoon was given over to a long series of interesting and important demonstrations, two of which were given by Professor R. Barany, of the University of Upsala. The papers on the joint program of the final afternoon all dealt with the pancreatic hormone, insulin, chiefly with its nature and action. This session attracted a great deal of interest and was a fitting climax to the meetings, especially since this work was first inaugurated at the University of Toronto.

The individual meetings of the four constituent societies were held on Wednesday afternoon and Thursday and Friday mornings. A meeting of the Annual Conference of Biological Chemists was held on Thursday evening.

The officers of the four societies elected for 1923 are as follows:

American Physiological Society: *President*, A. J. Carlson; *secretary*, C. W. Greene; *treasurer*, Joseph Erlanger; *new members of the council*, Arno B. Luckhardt, John R. Murlin.

American Society of Biological Chemists, Inc.: *President*, Philip A. Shaffer; *vice-president*, Henry C. Sherman; *secretary*, Victor C. Myers; *treasurer*, Walter R. Bloor; *additional members of the council*, Andrew Hunter, Harold C. Bradley, Albert P. Mathews; *nominating committee*, C. L. Alsberg, S. R. Benedict, Otto Folin, Walter Jones, E. C. Kendall, P. A. Levene, J. R. Murlin, F. P. Underhill, D. W. Wilson.

American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics: *President*, C. W. Edmunds; *secretary*, E. D. Brown; *treasurer*, Hugh McGuigan; *additional members of the council*, P. J. Hanzlik, H. G. Barbour; *membership committee*, T. Sollmann, Carl Voegtlin, R. A. Hatcher.

American Society for Experimental Pathology: *President*, Eugene L. Opie; *vice-president*, A. S. Warthin; *secretary-treasurer*, Wade H. Brown; *councilors*, G. H. Whipple, H. Gideon Wells.

The executive committee of the federation is composed of the presidents and secretaries of the four societies. For 1923 the chairmanship and executive-secretaryship falls to the Pharmacological Society, Professor C. W. Edmunds, University of Michigan, being chairman, and Professor E. D. Brown, University of Minnesota, executive secretary.

The executive committee voted to hold the 1923 meeting in St. Louis.

THE JAPANESE MEDICAL COMMISSION

A RECENT cable dispatch from Tokyo announces the appointment of Baron Yoshihiro Takagi, chief surgeon and professor of surgery in the Tokyo Charity Hospital and Medical College, as a member of a commission of six Japanese doctors who will arrive in the United States early in March as guests of the Rockefeller Foundation for the purpose of studying American and Canadian medical institutions and methods.

The commission was appointed by the Japanese minister of education, Dr. Eikichi Kamada, to whom the foundation's invitation was extended by President Vincent through Baron Shidehara, the Japanese ambassador at Washington. Nominations for membership in the commission were made by the Japanese Committee for Graduate Medical Education in the United States, headed by Baron Sakatani, under whose auspices a number of Japanese physicians have pursued post-graduate studies in the United States. The six members of the commission are:

Dr. Kinnosuke Miura, professor of medicine, Tokyo Imperial University, the leading internist and diagnostician in Japan, and a specialist in neurology; he is physician in ordinary to the emperor, and accompanied the Japanese delegation to Versailles.

Dr. Sahachiro Hata, professor of medicine, Keio University, and director of the Kitasato Institute; collaborator with Ehrlich in the discovery of salvarsan, and a distinguished biological chemist.

Dr. Keinosuke Miyairi, dean of the medical college, Imperial University of Kyushu, a parasitologist.

Dr. Mataro Nagayo, professor of pathology and pathological anatomy, Tokyo Imperial University.

Dr. Akira Fujinami, professor of pathology and pathological anatomy, Kyoto Imperial University.

Baron Yoshihiro Takagi, chief surgeon and professor of surgery in the Tokyo Charity Hospital and Medical College.

The commission as a whole, or individual members, will visit the leading hospital and research centers in the United States and Canada, including New York, Philadelphia,