

Dr. Howe was a student at Harvard in 1872 and 1873. He has been for nearly fifty years in charge of the Buffalo Eye, Ear and Throat Infirmary. For almost thirty years he has been professor of ophthalmology in the University of Buffalo.

#### RESEARCH BY FOREIGN SCHOLARS AT YALE UNIVERSITY

Six foreign scholars will take up residence at Yale University next year to conduct research under the direction of the faculty of the Yale Graduate School. These include five research fellows of the International Education Board, Dr. Pasquale Pasquini, of the University of Rome, Italy; Dr. Stanislaw Hiller, of Cracow, Poland; Dr. Ernest Wolf, of the University of Heidelberg, Germany; Dr. B. M. Bergerson, of the University of Oslo, Norway, and Dr. Fritz E. Lehmann, of the University of Freiburg, Germany, who have been appointed to carry on research under the direction of Dr. Ross G. Harrison, of the department of zoology, and Dr. D. L. Watson, of Edinburgh, Scotland, who will work in physics.

In addition to these five foreign research fellows, ten other fellows have been appointed by the National Research Council and the National Tuberculosis Association to study specific problems under the direction of the graduate faculty. Nine of these assignments are made by the National Research Council as follows: Franklin Hollander, Ph.D., Columbia University, 1923, of Brooklyn, N. Y.; Olive M. McCay, Ph.D., University of California, 1925, of Berkeley, Calif.; Leopold R. Cerecedo, Ph.D., University of Freiburg, 1921, of San Juan, Porto Rico, and Howard J. Shaughnessy, B.S., Massachusetts Agricultural College, 1922, of New Haven, Conn., have been granted fellowships by the medical board of the council to continue work with Professor Lafayette B. Mendel, of the department of physiological chemistry. Dr. A. J. Gee, of the University of Toronto, who is a National Research Council fellow, will take up his work under the direction of the department of bacteriology. On similar appointments Ernest O. Lawrence, Ph.D., Yale University, 1925, of Springfield, South Dakota, and Dr. J. W. Beams, of the University of Virginia, will conduct their research under the direction of the department of physics. In addition the child development committee of the National Research Council has appointed as fellows Miss Edith Fisher Symmes, chief psychologist of the Boston Psychopathic Hospital, and Miss Viola May Jones, assistant superintendent of the child-placing department of the State Charities Aid Association of New York City to work under the direction of Professor Arnold Gesell, of the Yale psycho-clinic.

As a fellow of the National Tuberculosis Association, Robert DeWolf Coghill, Ph.D., Yale University,

1924, will continue his research on the tubercle bacilli under the direction of Professor Treat B. Johnson, of the department of chemistry.

It is expected that the facilities of the university will be used by a number of visiting members of the faculties of other institutions. Professor C. C. Chen, of Shanghai College, will undertake special research in bacteriology, and Professor Arthur T. Jones, of Smith College, and Professor Mildred Allen, of Mount Holyoke College, in physics.

#### BIOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS

IN his review of the activities of the Rockefeller Foundation for the last year, President George E. Vincent says concerning biology:

One special form of aid to the progress of biology calls for separate notice. The enormous number of scientific papers and volumes published annually through the world in every field of research creates the need for some kind of systematic organization of this material in a readily accessible form. A great library undertakes at least a part of this task. Such an institution has been likened to a social memory or brain.

But each library after all is only a section of a national and of a world memory or brain. The books and periodicals on its shelves come from all lands where new truth is discovered and then described in print. Thus in the field of biology alone it is estimated that each year 40,000 articles of at least some value appear in 5,000 journals, transactions of scientific societies, proceedings of congresses and the like. To be sure, these papers vary enormously in their importance. Probably in a given year only a small percentage is highly significant in fundamental ways. The bulk of them perhaps deal with useful details. A good many are likely to be trivial if not negligible. Yet if a scientific worker is to avoid duplicating the research of others, if he is to compare his methods with theirs, if he is to have his mind steadily fertilized by relevant ideas and suggestions, if he is to increase the chance of getting a happy illuminating flash upon his problems, he must have constant access to the world memory.

To meet this need abstract journals which give the gist of articles and papers have appeared in different countries. Elaborate indexes make reference easy and accurate. Some of the journals have attained international standing. Biology as a whole, however, has lacked satisfactory service of a world-wide sort. Recently eighteen American biological societies joined in a plan to publish a journal of biological abstracts on an international basis. The cooperation of individuals and organizations in foreign countries is being sought and in most cases secured. The National Research Councils of Japan and of Australia have responded warmly. The Royal Society of London and the French Federation of Natural Science Societies have expressed an interest. Arrangements for exchange of material with abstract journals in Europe are being worked out.

The details of the new plan have been carefully studied.