

blank forms for this purpose and they should be used. The latest date for the receipt of an application is December 1. Two supporting letters are needed, from persons acquainted with the applicant and with his project. It is suggested that those desiring to become applicants for grants for work in 1929 should secure blanks very soon, filling them out and returning them promptly and arranging for the supporting letters to reach Washington before December 1.

The applications for 1928 aggregated more than \$18,000. This necessitated, of course, the disappointment of a large proportion of those who had applied. On the other hand, the sum total of actual allotments for 1927 was somewhat less than the amount available. There is no reason for hesitation in sending in or in renewing an application.

Attention is directed to the rule whereby unsuccessful applications are not carried forward for reconsideration in a subsequent year. Any one is free to apply again but his application must be renewed in full.

Applications received at the permanent secretary's Washington office are referred to the Committee on Grants for Research, whose final action is to be taken at the New York meeting. Results will be announced in January, the funds becoming then immediately available. A grant may be disbursed in a single sum or in installments, according to the wishes of the grantee. Any money undisbursed by the end of the fiscal year (September 30) reverts to the treasury unless the grantee specifically requests that an undisbursed balance of his grant be carried forward to the next fiscal year. Requests of this nature are also referred to the Committee on Grants for approval.

Progress reports on work still uncompleted are expected and they should be in the hands of the permanent secretary before December 1 following the award of the grant. When a project is completed a final report should be sent in. Blanks for reports may be obtained from the permanent secretary's office.

The membership of the Committee on Grants for Research for 1928 is as follows. The number in parenthesis shows the calendar year at the end of which the member's term of office expires.

Walter S. Adams (1931) (for astronomy), Mt. Wilson Observatory, Pasadena, California; Karl F. Lelerman (1931) (for botany), Bureau of Plant Industry, Washington, D. C.; W. Lash Miller (1930) (for chemistry), 8 Hawthorne Ave., Toronto, Ont., Canada; Oswald Veblen (1930) (for mathematics), Princeton University, Princeton, N. J.; L. G. Hoxton (1929) *Chairman* (for physics), University of Virginia, University, Va.; Vernon Kellogg (1929) (for zoology), National Research Council, Washington,

D. C.; Joseph Erlanger (1928) (for physiology), Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Mo.; Nevin M. Fenneman (1928) (for geology), University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Applicants should feel free to make inquiries of any member of the committee and suggestions or recommendations from without its membership relative to applications that come before it are welcomed by the committee.

General and detailed information about these grants may be found in the last volume of the *Summarized Proceedings* of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and in two articles in *SCIENCE* for October 7, 1927 (pp. 319-320) and for November 18, 1927 (pp. 491-492). Applications for grants and requests for blanks on which applications are to be made should be addressed to Burton E. Livingston, permanent secretary, Smithsonian Institution Building, Washington, D. C.

L. G. HOXTON,

*Chairman of the Committee on Grants*  
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

### THE SECRETARIES' CONFERENCE

THE Secretaries' Conference is a special committee of the American Association, organized at the Nashville meeting. It aims to furnish facilities for the section and society secretaries to become better acquainted with one another and with the affairs of the association, and for exchange of thought on questions of mutual interest. Its membership consists of the secretaries of the affiliated societies, the secretaries of the association sections, the general officers of the association and the members of the executive committee of the council. The conference aims to bridge a gap between the section organizations and the affiliated societies, on the one hand, and the legislative and executive organization of the association, on the other hand. The secretary of the conference corresponds throughout the year with its members on topics of importance and mutual interest, summarizes the results of this correspondence and prepares a program for the annual session of the conference at the annual meeting of the association. He is chairman of that session, at the opening of which the next secretary is elected.

Both by correspondence and by free discussion at the annual session, suggestions are considered for improvement in the relations between the affiliated societies and the association and recommendations may be made to the council from the conference. General aims as well as details of routine procedure may be taken up in a preliminary way by this special committee in a much more satisfactory manner than

is possible at the council sessions, which are necessarily short and very crowded with legislative business. The annual sessions of the secretaries have already proved to be very valuable in aiding the association officers to cooperate more satisfactorily with the affiliated societies. They were instituted at the Toronto meeting, in December, 1921, and have met with the approval of the affiliated society and section secretaries. They have become an important part of the annual meeting and it is hoped that the definite and continuous organization of the Secretaries' Conference will be of still further advantage to the association and all its affiliated societies.

The New York session of the conference is to be held on the evening of Sunday, December 30, probably at the Lincoln Hotel, Eighth Avenue at 44th Street. A complimentary dinner will be provided by the association, preceded by opportunity for general informal renewal of acquaintance and followed by the session. Those to be invited to this dinner and session are: (1) the secretaries of the affiliated societies that meet with the association at New York, (2) the secretaries of the association sections, (3) the executive committee members and other executive officers of the association and (4) a few special guests whose presence may contribute to the success of the session. Invitations are to be sent out from the permanent secretary's office about December 1. Those who receive invitations are asked to assemble at the room reserved for this purpose as soon as possible after the close of the symphony concert on Sunday afternoon. The dinner is planned for 6:30, but it is hoped that every one will come early.

The letters sent out during the year by the secretary of the Secretaries' Conference have met with such a generous response that a very interesting session is assured. The questions and topics proposed for discussion have been grouped and summarized and the results have been reported to the members. Some of these topics have been placed on a program or order of business for the session and leaders have been asked to open the discussion in each instance. In some cases they will present information and the results of special studies on the questions involved. There will be opportunity for free discussion in the session and it is hoped that all present will take part. Time will probably be available for brief discussion of other topics than those shown on the program.

The program will include the election of a secretary of the conference for 1929, a general introductory statement of the nature and aims of the conference and the discussion of the following topics.

(1) *Meeting and programs.* Relation of the association and the affiliated societies in the preparation and conduct of programs; procedure when affiliated

societies meet with section and when they meet elsewhere or at other times. Preparation of programs to avoid conflicts and to bring together scientists in different but related fields. Problem of adhering to schedule in scientific sessions, of encouraging free access from one session to another held at the same time. Messenger service for the biological group.

(2) *Membership.* The work of the secretaries of affiliated societies and of the association's Washington office in maintaining and increasing membership. Getting new members, billing members, handling of members in arrears, dropping from roll members not in good standing.

(3) *Standards of presentation.* Can the general standard of the presentation of papers at our meetings be raised; would it be desirable for the association to attempt to arrange for the preparation and publication of a pamphlet on the presentation of scientific material?

(4) *Exhibitions.* Value of the exhibition feature of the annual meeting and the problem of securing scientific exhibits. General exhibition and special exhibits of technical societies, their relation and availability to the public.

(5) *Is it desirable to consider the possible reorganization of the association, to have fewer sections, fewer officers, fewer vice-presidential addresses and a simpler organization?* Three sections have been suggested, with the societies or other groups acting as sub-sections. The three fields suggested are: the exact and physical sciences (present sections A, B, C, D, E, M); the biological sciences (present sections F, G, H, I, N, O), and the social sciences (present sections K, L, Q).

(6) *Additional topics if time permits.*

GEORGE T. HARGITT,  
*Secretary, Secretaries' Conference*

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### THE GEORGE HERBERT JONES CHEMICAL LABORATORY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

THE laying of the cornerstone of the George Herbert Jones Laboratory was accompanied by an informal ceremony participated in by the donor, Mr. George Herbert Jones, Acting President Frederic Woodward, Professor Julius Stieglitz, Trustee Harrison B. Barnard, Mr. David Evans and others. The secretary of the board read a list of the contents of the cornerstone box, which included copies of Mr. Jones's letters of gift; photographs of the donor, of the four presidents of the university, of the two presidents of the board of trustees and of Professors