North and South Polar regions within the next two years for the inclusion of physicists in the parties to make further cosmic ray measurements.

CONFERRING OF THE CHANCELLOR'S MEDAL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BUFFALO ON DR. FRANK A. HARTMAN

AT commencement exercises on February 22, the University of Buffalo awarded the chancellor's medal, its highest honorary badge, to Dr. Frank A. Hartman, professor of physiology in the School of Medicine, for his work in extracting the vital hormone of the adrenal cortex. Dr. Hartman is the first member of the faculty to receive the medal, since it is reserved for the few who by some outstanding act or achievement bring greater dignity and honor to Buffalo in the eyes of the outside world. An excerpt from Chancellor Capen's remarks in making the award follows:

The dominant function of the university is now no longer the preservation of the past; it is the creation of the future. How does the university create the future? By research, by experiment, by reducing the area of the unknown, by making new knowledge and reinterpreting old knowledge in the light of the new, and so furnishing society with new instruments to make life safer, more generous and more lovely. The terms "university" and "research" have come to be indissolubly associated.

But the situation contains a paradox. The university, especially in America, now has many obligations. Its historic obligation to transmit the past bulks large and is very costly. It has acquired still other obligations that are contemporary with the moment, that consume much energy and attract perhaps undue attention. In consequence, research, which experience has shown to be the university's most important activity, shares always disadvantageously in the apportionment of funds and facilities. Research is still far too often in the American university a work of supererogation. It is a surplus good work performed at the sacrifice of ease and profit, out of devotion to a wholly idealistic cause. It is performed by a minority of the members of the university. But from these works of supererogation, from this treasury of grace, if one may continue the theological figure, have come not all, to be sure, but a large proportion of those facts and points of view which within the last two generations have ameliorated and enlarged social living.

In the field of medical investigation the university has long had a practical monopoly. To university research in Europe and America the world owes most of the great discoveries that have controlled or vanquished one after another of the seemingly hopeless maladies to which humanity is subject.

Those who see only the occasionally spectacular results of research in the medical sciences have little idea of what lies behind them. In hundreds of laboratories all over the world the process is going forward, quietly, without public notice, almost as a matter of daily routine. It is not attended by sudden revelations. The advance toward the goal which the investigator seeks is inch by inch. Unexpected blockades and dashed hopes are frequent, and retreats to a point whence a fresh start can be made. There enter into the process imagination, bold and hazardous conjecture, the patient distrustful following of leads, the endless repetition of checks and tests to make sure that nothing has been overlooked and that the same procedures will bring every time the same results. For most workers this is all, this and the recognition by fellow workers of foundations solidly laid for the future advance of science.

Once in a while there comes to the rarely resourceful investigator brilliant success, then the applause of his professional associates, perhaps fame. Surely the man whose imagination and learning and technical skill have brought him to an important scientific discovery needs and wants no other reward. His cup is full.

But whether he wants it or not is beside the point. These institutions that are dedicated to research may properly seize the occasion to say: "This is what we mean. This is the business to which we are committed. This servant of the common good is our man, an exemplar of our craft."

For some months the University of Buffalo has been in a position to speak thus of one of its members. The discovery and preparation of cortin were in the best tradition of medical research. Years of baffling and painstaking experiment preceded the modest announcement of our colleague's success. Then, quite unheralded, followed the multiplying demonstrations of the effectiveness of the discovery; then renewed study and experiment, and at length national recognition modestly, almost reluctantly, accepted.

The university to which he has brought honor now delights to honor him. Fortunately it is able to present him with a tangible token of its approval. The medal established by former Chancellor Charles P. Norton was intended to signalize publicly just such distinguished achievement.

Frank Alexander Hartman, teacher, scholar, persevering and dauntless experimenter, discoverer of cortin, the council of the University of Buffalo awards the Chancellor's Medal to you, because through your investigations you have won rank among the leaders in the science of endocrinology and in so doing have "dignified Buffalo in the eyes of the world."

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

AT a recent meeting of the senate of the University of Dublin it was decided to confer the degree of Sc.D. on Dr. Ross G. Harrison, professor of comparative anatomy at Yale University.

ON the occasion of the dedication of the Graduate Education Building of the University of Chicago, the honorary degree of doctor of science was conferred on Dr. Edward Lee Thorndike, professor of educa-