

## QUOTATIONS

### ANIMAL EXPERIMENTATION

IN an address at the eighty-sixth anniversary of the New York Academy of Medicine Dr. Walter B. Cannon, of Harvard, renewed the plea of physicians and surgeons for unhampered animal experimentation "as a means of solving the riddles of such diseases as infantile paralysis, cancer and the degenerative diseases." That it should be necessary to present again the benefits that have accrued from studies made on animals from the time of Harvey down is evidence enough that the spirit of science is not yet abroad so far as medicine is concerned. It is a pity that Dr. Cannon should find it necessary, in view of the bills annually introduced in Legislatures by well-meaning sentimentalists, to review once more the achievements of experimenters who have made it possible to stamp out epidemics.

Historians and sociologists are not sure that we are happier than the ancient Greeks, who knew nothing of automobiles, electric lamps and airplanes; but they are sure that science, by the aid of animal experimentation, has made it possible for us to live in crowded communities without peril to ourselves through contagious diseases. When Dr. Cannon reminds us that

bubonic plague caused the death of over sixty millions in the fourteenth century, and that certain cities—Trapani is an example—were completely depopulated, we have reason to bless the names of Pasteur, Koch and their disciples who experimented on animals to test theories and preventives. The fight against disease is not even half won. Medicine is baffled by the filterable viruses—collections of organisms which are so small that they cannot be seen in a microscope, but which are responsible for maladies that are as baffling to-day as they were centuries ago. To combat these, as we have successfully combated typhoid, diphtheria, tuberculosis and others, the research scientists must have a free hand.

Dr. Cannon appeals to the public "to sustain medical investigators in their endeavors" and not to leave the struggle with legislators to physicians alone. He sets himself apart from others who have struggled under the handicaps imposed by pleading for freedom of research in the name not of science but of humanity. It has become a social duty to report contagious disease. Those in whom the spirit of progress lies will agree with Dr. Cannon that it is also a social duty not to interfere with legitimate animal experimentation.—*The New York Times*.

## REPORTS

### WORK OF THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

THE annual report of the Rockefeller Foundation has been issued and the information service has issued an abstract of the contents.

During the year 1931, the foundation appropriated a total of \$18,737,967.90. This sum was distributed among the five fields in which the Rockefeller Foundation's interests lie—the humanities, public health, medical, social and natural sciences. The increasing world-wide interest in social and economic problems was reflected in the appropriations voted for the social sciences. These totaled \$5,805,275—a larger sum than was appropriated in any other field of foundation activity during the year. In the field of public health, the report announces the final working out and limited application of an immunizing vaccine for yellow fever, which now insures, for the first time, greater safety for those scientists who, in field and laboratory, are engaged in the dangerous task of fighting that disease.

Except to a limited extent in the field of public health, the Rockefeller Foundation is not an operating or research agency. It gives assistance, both directly and through training of personnel, to universities and other agencies, chiefly national in scope, which carry on research of a fundamental character. In addition,

in the field of public health, it cooperates with governments in the development of general public health activities and in the study and control of certain diseases.

The Rockefeller Foundation's program is directed primarily toward the advancement of knowledge. In the field of the social sciences it has attempted, through grants to universities and other organizations, to assist those men who are engaged in research on the more fundamental aspects of social and economic phenomena.

The foundation regards the development of institutional centers of research and training as the most important single element in its program in the social sciences. During 1931, a total of \$2,165,000 was divided approximately equally between the United States and other countries, for the further development of such centers. Among the institutions aided were the University of Chicago, Fisk University, the Brookings Institution, the London School of Economics and Political Science, the American University of Beirut and Nankai University.

The foundation also continued its support of the varied activities of the Social Science Research Council, through appropriations amounting to \$798,750 during 1931. The council is an organization of American scholars, representing all the social sciences,