perform a task according to his own judgment. He might then have his work graded and criticized on the basis of whether he had done a good or a bad piece of work or whether his ideals of scientific procedure were right or wrong. It appears that a student who used the present manual would get a high grade if he did "what teacher said."

A. S. PEARSE

# REPORTS

## AWARDS OF THE ELLA SACHS PLOTZ FOUNDATION

DURING the twelfth year of the Ella Sachs Plotz Foundation for the Advancement of Scientific Investigation, seventy applications for grants were received by the trustees, thirty-four of which came from the United States, the other thirty-six from fifteen different countries in Europe, Asia and South and North America. The total number of grants made during this year was twenty-five, one of these being a continued annual grant. Twelve of the new grants were made to scientific men outside of the United States.

In the twelve years of its existence, the foundation has made two hundred and fifty-two grants, which have been distributed to investigators working in Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, China, Czechoslovakia, Esthonia, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, Jugoslavia, Latvia, Netherlands, Palestine, Poland, Portugal, Roumania, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Venezuela and the United States.

The list of investigators and the purpose of their researches aided in the current year is as follows:

Professor E. Aubel, Paris, the synthetic reactions of the liver and their rôle in specific dynamic action.

Professor Dr. G. Barkan, Tartu-Dorpat, Esthonia, the biology of iron and iron metabolism.

Professor Marston Taylor Bogert, Columbia University, New York, New York, synthesis from *p*-xylene.

Dr. S. J. Crowe, the Johns Hopkins Hospital, physiology of the ear.

Dr. William Dameshek, Boston, blood pigment metabolism in lead poisoning.

Professor Dr. Philipp Ellinger, London, the kidney and vitamin B deficiency.

Professor Erdheim, Vienna, a special joint disease of dogs.

Professor E. Gelhorn, University of Illinois College of Medicine, Chicago, the influence of hormones and vitamins on phagocytosis.

Dr. W. Gohs, Vienna, the etiology of blood diseases and osteodystrophy fibrosa.

Dr. Arthur Grollman, the Johns Hopkins University, the adrenals; crystallization of the hormone.

Dr. F. Gudernatsch, New York University, growth.

Dr. I. F. Huddleson, Michigan State College, Brucella infection.

Dr. H. A. Krebs, Cambridge, England, the mechanism of ketogenesis and anti-ketogenesis.

Dr. Jean LaBarre, Brussels, extraction of incretine from duodenal extract.

Dr. Hans Lampl, Vienna, mechanical heat regulation in animals.

Professor O. Loewi, Graz, anterior lobe of pituitary and carbohydrate metabolism.

Dr. Charles C. Lund, Boston, the hormone intermedin.

Dr. Michel Magat, Paris, France, the hydration of ions.

Dr. John R. Murlin, University of Rochester, New York, the mechanism of secretion.

Dr. Yellapragada SubbaRow, Harvard Medical School, Boston, isolation of materials.

Thorndike Memorial Laboratory, Boston City Hospital, (Professor George R. Minot, director), continued since 1927 in recognition of Dr. Francis W. Peabody's services to the foundation.

Professor Dr. Ernst Wertheimer, Jerusalem, the relationship between free and bound glycogen in normal and pathological conditions.

Dr. Carl J. Wiggers, Western Reserve University, the dynamics of the coronary circulation.

Dr. William F. Windle, Northwestern University Medical School, the development of behavior in the embryo.

Professor Dr. Fritz Verzar, Basel, physiological research by Dr. Laszt.

The maximum size of the grants will usually be less than $500. Applications for grants to be held during the year 1936–1937 must be in the hands of the executive committee before May 1, 1936. They should be sent to Dr. Joseph C. Aub, Collis P. Huntington Memorial Hospital, 695 Huntington Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts, U. S. A.

# SPECIAL ARTICLES

## THE ABILITY OF RATS TO DISCRIMINATE BETWEEN DIETS OF VARYING DEGREES OF TOXICITY[1]

IT is a rather common belief that animals possess the ability to select foods most beneficial to them when a choice is offered. In an area where the forage possesses varying degrees of toxicity this ability would have tremendous significance. In certain districts in the great plains area, seleniferous vegetation probably occurs as an interspersion of vegetation of varying

[1] Published with the permission of the director of the South Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station as communication No. 21 from the Department of Experiment Station Chemistry, and is Part XIII of "A New Toxicant Occurring Naturally in Certain Samples of Plant Foodstuffs."