

years to ensure inclusion of all stages in development from conception to parenthood. Preconceptional parents, expectant mothers, children at every age level are methodically studied from the point of view of constitutional fitness and developmental health. It is not a clinical examination but one of human biology in which, however, physician-in-charge as well as parents and educators join with the foundations, each participant supplying his special information to the common stock. Studies are made of progress, not of status, and cover the following themes: Growth increments and proportions, physical maturity progress, weight gain and analysis, dento-facial development, brain potentials and muscle action currents, mental expansion, psychomotor development, hand-eye coordination, motor development, skills, steadiness, dexterity, emotional stability, intellectual and social adjustment, interests and talents, personality ratings, vocational leanings and choices. It is obviously as nearly complete a study of the preparation of human

beings for entry into full citizenship as a practical scheme will permit. It is, moreover, facilitated by the essential services of instrument-making, chart-making, statistics, photography and motion picture studies, the resources of the Hamann Museum, of the experimental laboratory for constitutional chemistry and of the animal farm maintained by the Anatomical Department and its Associated Foundations.

Here, then, is the answer to the appeal made by my brilliant and vigorous colleague, Dr. E. A. Hooton, in the pages of *SCIENCE* for March 20, 1936; an answer originating indeed in the casual scratchings of medical leisure but now a truly cooperative effort covering the disciplines pertaining to body, mind and constitution; an answer in which medical science, far from myopic, works forward from the cradle, not backward from the morgue, except in so far as death is but the stepping-stone to a larger more abundant life; an answer for which we are indebted in its inception to the man who took the typhoid out of Cleveland water.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS

Nature reports that the annual general meeting of the Institute of Physics was held on May 19. After election of the officers and completion of the panel of the board, it was announced that the following would take office on October 1, 1936: *President*, Professor A. Fowler; *Vice-president*, F. Twyman; *Honorary Treasurer*, Major C. E. S. Phillips; *Honorary Secretary*, Professor J. A. Crowther; *New Members of the Board*, Colonel K. W. E. Edgecumbe and Professor R. Whiddington.

The annual report for the year 1935 which was adopted at the meeting shows that membership has continued to increase and that the high standard required for corporate membership has been maintained. The total membership at the end of the year was 822.

The first Industrial Physics Conference to be held in Great Britain took place in Manchester in March, 1935, and the attendance was nearly 550. The subject of the conference was "Vacuum Devices in Research and Industry" and an exhibition of instruments, apparatus and books cognate to the subject was arranged and was open to the public. Some 3,500 people visited the exhibition.

A Midland Local Section was inaugurated in November, the towns covered being Birmingham, Leicester, Nottingham and Rugby.

The report shows that the scheme for the training and certificating of laboratory assistants has developed satisfactorily and 21 certificates were issued during the year. The institute's services in placing employers in touch with physicists seeking permanent posts and

with consultants were in constant demand throughout the year. The circulation of the *Journal of Scientific Instruments* increased during the year, both on account of the commencement of its distribution to "associates" without extra payment and on account of sales to non-members.

THE BRITISH INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF ANIMAL BEHAVIOR

THE British Institute for the Study of Animal Behavior has been formed by a number of zoologists, naturalists, physiologists and psychologists with the object of promoting and encouraging research into animal behavior. The institute intends to act as a clearing-house for information regarding work that is being done upon animal behavior in all its aspects and to bring together for the discussion of their problems field and laboratory workers. It is hoped to issue to members a quarterly bulletin in which will be provided summaries of and references to the chief work being done in the various branches of the subject. Meetings for the transactions of scientific business will be held at intervals.

The institute hopes eventually to obtain the means of supporting research and, possibly, of maintaining its own research station.

Those whose work is concerned with animal behavior will materially assist the task of the institute if they will send offprints of their papers to the Honorable Secretary, R. C. Oldfield, The Psychological Laboratory, Cambridge.

Officers of the society have been elected as follows: