

of observations of the electric condition of the atmosphere will not prove useless.

We are aware that our regular meteorological observations are received with great interest by scientific institutions on the mainland. We note weather changes every two hours and send the results four times a day to the south.

We watch the Polar Ocean attentively. We have gathered substantial scientific material and many scientists will now obtain reliable data on the entire area of our drift from the North Pole to the final point.

Describing the taking of soundings, Papanin reports that members of the expedition use a rope to connect the small sounding tent to their camp so as not to lose time looking for it in the Polar night. He says: "Along this rope we travel safely in any weather. Without this it would be rather difficult to find one's bearings in a snowstorm. Once Krenkel and I lost our way and while being within a few steps of our tent, we could not find it for quite a long time."

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMONWEALTH FUND

THE report of the Commonwealth Fund which has just been issued announces that during the year two gifts had been made by Edward S. Harkness, president of the fund. These gifts bring the total endowment of the fund to the sum of \$50,000,000. The first gift of \$3,000,000 is to be used initially in support of the rural hospital program, thus releasing income from the original endowment for other philanthropic purposes of the fund. The provision for this special program may be said to mark the definite continuance by the fund, after extended experimentation, of the organization of community hospital service in small towns and surrounding rural areas as an important aid to health. The second gift, of \$5,000,000, is intended for the present to provide increased income for grants to medical research and to certain phases of medical education.

In addition to grants previously made that are being continued, the following new grants have been made during the past year:

- To Irvington House, Irvington-on-Hudson, New York, for the bacteriological and clinical study of rheumatic fever in children, with special reference to the possible rôle of the hemolytic streptococci.
- To Harvard University Medical School for the production and shipment, under the direction of Dr. Hans Zinsser, of an immune serum against typhus fever to be tested in epidemic areas in the Balkans and North Africa.
- To the Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, for the comparative study of certain virus infections as a further step toward better knowledge of the virus of trachoma, and for testing methods of treatment suggested by the work already done on this virus.

To the New York University College of Medicine for the study of such functional disturbances as pre-eclamptic toxemia, eclampsia, and the pernicious vomiting of pregnancy, and of communicable infections associated with childbirth and abortion.

To the Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health for a longitudinal study of the incidence of certain chronic diseases in a limited community.

To the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine for a study of the nature and mechanism of virus infection of the central nervous system in poliomyelitis.

To Harvard University Medical School for a group of studies on clinical and immunological phases of poliomyelitis.

The Commonwealth Fund Fellowships for British students this year include for the first time three fellows appointed from the Home Civil Service of the British Government. Only men of mature years already well established in the government service are eligible for appointment. They will come to America, as do the service fellows from outlying parts of the British Empire, for technical study directly connected with their field of work, but will spend the year traveling wherever their inquiries may lead them and will not be attached to any university.

THE COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

A GIFT of \$180,000 has been made by the Martha M. Hall Foundation to the Columbia University School of Medicine, to be applied to new laboratories for graduate medical education, the construction of which has just been completed. Three additional gifts amounting to \$47,250 have been announced.

The Martha M. Hall Foundation, of which James Jay Morgan is president, was founded by the will of Miss Martha M. Hall in memory of her father, William Henry Hall, "for the benefit and advancement of public and private charitable and scientific objects and purposes."

The appropriation supplements grants of \$290,000 from the Commonwealth Fund toward the building program, and \$50,000 from the Josiah Macy, Jr., Foundation toward the research and teaching program. "Better, rather than more, physicians" is the aim of the program, which provides for continued education of physicians in practice and adequate training of specialists, and affiliates many hospitals of the metropolitan area.

The new addition, comprising ten stories on the former six-story extension of the west wing of the building of the School of Medicine at 168th Street and Fort Washington Avenue, will be occupied within the next few weeks by research laboratories for graduate students working in the basic medical sciences of anatomy, physiology, pathology, bacteriology and