

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

chemistry, and will also house the Crocker Institute for Cancer Research.

Dr. Willard C. Rappleye, dean of the School of Medicine, has made the following statement:

Besides permitting an increase in the enrolment of candidates for the highest medical degree, doctor of medical science, the new laboratories will provide opportunities for a considerable number of others who, in the course of their medical training, wish to work on special problems requiring such laboratory facilities.

The new building, which will serve as a nucleus of the graduate program of the school, will accommodate residents in hospitals affiliated with the university as well as those who are working in the hospitals of the Medical Center. In view of the changes which are taking place in the requirements for specialization, it is increasingly important for specialty services to provide time during the residency period for training such as this school will shortly be prepared to offer.

During the past few years there has been a noteworthy increase in the number of graduating students who plan to spend longer periods than heretofore in hospital work before entering medical practice. The undergraduate student of to-day is looking further ahead and seeking opportunities for a more extensive and complete training in graduate fields. This is particularly true of those who plan to enter some special field in medicine but applies also to those who expect to become general practitioners.

Within our own organization certain changes have been made in the internship and residency programs in order to keep pace with this growing trend. These changes include lengthening of the term of hospital residencies in certain instances, the introduction of more conferences and seminars for the benefit of the hospital house staff, and provision for greater freedom on the part of the resident to pursue studies in some special field of laboratory and investigative work.

#### THE SAVANNAH MEETING OF THE ELECTROCHEMICAL SOCIETY

THE spring meeting of the Electrochemical Society will be held at the Hotel De Soto, Savannah, Ga., from April 27 to 30.

There will be two main sessions: Thursday morning will be devoted to a symposium on "Physical Chemistry in the Pulp and Paper Industry," which will be presided over by Charles Carpenter, of the Industrial Committee of Savannah, Inc. The topics which will be treated in this session are: "The Chemistry of Pulp-  
ing of Wood," "The Physical Chemistry of Sizing and Filling of Paper," "The Chemistry of Woodpulp-Bleaching," "The Mechanism of Cellulose Reactions," "The Chemistry of Chlorine and Hypochlorites," etc.

A second symposium on "Industrial Electro-Osmosis" will be held on Saturday morning, when Professor H. Jermain Creighton, of Swarthmore College, will preside. The Friday morning session will be de-

voted to papers on electrodeposition and miscellaneous subjects.

Dr. Charles H. Herty, who has been conducting experiments in his Pulp and Paper Laboratory at Savannah for the past five years, will deliver the fifth Joseph W. Richards memorial address on Thursday evening. The discussion at the luncheons will be under the direction of the divisions of the society. The luncheon on Thursday will be devoted to "Electrothermics"; on Friday to "Electrodeposition," and on Saturday to "Electronics."

Arrangements have been made for members of the society to visit Dr. Herty's laboratory and the industrial plants in the Savannah district, including the Southern Cotton Oil Company, the Union Bag and Paper Corporation, the Reliance Fertilizer Company and the Savannah Sugar Refining Corporation.

#### RETIREMENT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE NEW YORK STATE EXPERIMENT STATION AT GENEVA

THE fifty-sixth annual report on the work of the State Experiment Station at Geneva has been issued. This is the last report to be prepared by Dr. U. P. Hedrick, who will retire on January 15, having reached the age of sixty-eight years. He has been a member of the staff for more than thirty years, becoming director of the station in 1928.

Dr. Hedrick is succeeded by Professor Percival J. Parrott, entomologist, since 1929 vice-director of the station. Dr. Parrott will be the seventh director of the experiment station since its opening fifty-five years ago.

The report covers the activities of the experiment station for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1937, and in addition to the sections dealing with the scientific work of the eight research divisions, contains a financial statement and a list of all publications prepared by members of the staff during the period covered by the report.

In view of this being his final report as director, Dr. Hedrick takes occasion to review particularly developments which have marked the nine years of his administration. Among the items discussed are the reorganization of the research program, including the establishment of new divisions of vegetable crops, plant pathology and seed investigations; the erection of a new laboratory building and new greenhouses; celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the station; and increases in the staff appropriations, fellowships and cooperative arrangements for experimental work.

Under the administration of Dr. Hedrick improvement in the appearance of the grounds was made possible very largely by labor supplied through various relief agencies and by donations of plants, trees and