

the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

To complete the personnel of the committee invitations have been extended to twelve distinguished members of the medical profession, each of whom has specialized knowledge in a particular field and all have a broad general training and comprehensive knowledge of Canada's requirements in medical research.

Those who have been invited to serve on this committee are: Dr. G. H. Ettinger, department of physiology and embryology, Faculty of Medicine, Queen's University, Kingston, Ont.; Dr. A. Grant Fleming, dean of the Faculty of Medicine and professor of public health, McGill University; Dr. J. E. Gondreau, director, Radium Institute, University of Montreal; Dr. Duncan Graham, head of the department of medicine, Banting Institute, University of Toronto; Professor V. E. Henderson, secretary-treasurer, The Banting Research Foundation, Toronto, Ont.; Dr. Donald Mainland, professor of anatomy, Dalhousie University; Dr. C. L. Pierre Masson, professor of pathological anatomy, University of Montreal; Dr. J. C. Paterson, director of the pathological department, Regina General Hospital, Regina, Sask.; Dr. W. G. Penfield, professor of neurology and neurosurgery, McGill University; Dr. P. H. T. Thorlakson, professor of surgery, Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba; Dr. Arthur Vallée, professor of pathological anatomy and secretary of the Faculty of Medicine, Université Laval, Quebec.

In order to provide continuity and adaptability members will be appointed for terms of two, three or four years and will be eligible for reappointment for a further term.

Dr. T. H. Leggett will be succeeded in the office of president of the Canadian Medical Association in June, 1938, but in view of his intimate knowledge of the steps leading to the formation of the associate committee on medical research the council decided to request him to serve as an additional special member so that the committee might have the benefit of his wide experience.

It has been suggested by many members of the medical profession that the formation of this committee on medical research under the National Research Council might well be a first step towards the formation of a medical research council for Canada similar to that which exists in Great Britain. Commenting on this suggestion Major-General McNaughton, president of the National Research Council, speaking at the conference, said that "the National Research Council was approaching the problem of organization of medical research at present as a preliminary measure only. When a purely medical research council became necessary, there would be no opposition whatever from the

National Research Council. In fact the National Research Council would give every assistance possible in order to help a movement that, in the opinion of the council, is very important for the welfare of the people of Canada."

The immediate purpose of the committee is defined in the terms of reference which are: (i) To receive suggestions for requirements in respect of medical research and in matters related thereto; (ii) To consider by whom the investigations required can best be carried out and to make proposals accordingly; (iii) To correlate the information when secured and to make it available to those concerned; (iv) To do such other things as the committee may deem advisable to promote medical research in Canada.

The conference agreed that the scope of the new committee's activities should not be limited to particular subjects but that it should be empowered to investigate the whole field of medical research in Canada. One of the first steps to be taken by the committee will be to make a survey of the work in progress at various centers to determine how the activities of the various institutions concerned may be developed to the best possible advantage.

A remarkable record of individual research achievements was revealed in the prepared statements presented at the conference, but the need of bringing the available information together through a central body which could then make it more readily accessible to all concerned, was stressed by nearly every speaker. The new committee undertakes its task with the full support and under the direct leadership of the medical profession as a whole in Canada. Results of far-reaching importance are expected in the planning and co-ordination of medical research that will be possible through this new committee. Better dissemination of information regarding the multitude of projects that are being carried on by skilled workers in the hospitals and laboratories of the Dominion will greatly enhance the opportunities of the research workers to make their efforts count.

CORRESPONDENT

#### **CAMPAIGN FOR AN ADDITIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE NEW YORK HOSPITAL AND THE CORNELL UNIVERSITY MEDICAL SCHOOL**

AN endowment of \$17,000,000 to give the public the full benefit of all service possible in its present buildings and to enlarge its present program of research and teaching to utilize existing facilities to the utmost, is sought by the Society of The New York Hospital jointly with the Cornell University Medical College.

Henry G. Barbey, president of the Society of the New York Hospital and chairman of the Joint Ad-

ministrative Board of the two institutions, has made a statement to the alumni of the hospital and of the Cornell University Medical College in which he said that:

No part of the \$17,000,000 is to be used for additional plant. It will be spent so that our magnificent buildings, modern equipment and skilful, kindly staff may be utilized to prevent and relieve more of the city's suffering. We estimate that service can be given to a materially increased number of patients with a relatively small increase in capital investment.

The hospital is now being conducted at a minimum of expense and to the maximum of the facilities which its present funds have permitted it to open, but it feels an obligation to make available additional beds and specialized services for patients, at the same time enlarging its program of research and teaching which is conducted jointly with the Cornell University Medical College. A portion of the income from the \$8,000,000 which it is proposed to allot to the hospital will be used to cover the present annual operating loss of approximately \$1,000,000 occasioned by the free and partly free care of patients. It is planned that the income from the \$9,000,000 sought for the Cornell University Medical College will be used to strengthen the pre-clinical departments engaged in teaching and research.

The present New York Hospital was built to "endure not less than 100 years." Its specifications provided for floors and services which were beyond what could be put into operation at the outset. There remain to be put into use two entire floors of the children's hospital, a floor of the psychiatry building, and additional medical pavilions for the "sick poor"; and there is also need for expansion and development of present service in the fields of neurology, diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat and in the field of orthopedics.

The Board of Governors comprises the new Endowment Committee, with Mr. Barbey serving as chairman. Among its other officers are: Barklie Henry, *vice-president*; Augustine J. Smith, *secretary*; Bronson Winthrop, *treasurer*; Cornelius N. Bliss, John Hay Whitney, Vincent Astor, and others. The plan, which has the endorsement of the United Hospital Fund, of which The New York Hospital is a member, is to stabilize and make less dependent on current donations each year the hospital's three great channels of service to the public. These are the medical care of the sick, the teaching schools of medicine and nursing and research.

It is planned to endow four graduate fellowships with \$80,000 each to be used as scholarships for graduate doctors whose work shows brilliant promise, but who lack funds to continue.

### THE BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN

THE twenty-seventh Annual Report of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, for the year 1937, reports an addition to the endowment funds of \$250,000. A portion of the income from this fund is specified to be used for research in plant pathology. The garden also received a bequest of \$10,000 to be expended for gates, seats or other structures on the grounds.

The report notes the municipal, national and international aspects of the activities of the garden. The exchange of plants, seeds and publications and the trade services and bureau of information include about 160 botanic gardens, municipal and national governments and commercial concerns in more than 50 countries. The inter-library loans from the garden include 24 states of the Union, the District of Columbia, Canada and India. Herbarium loans have included ten states, the District of Columbia and one foreign country.

Service to schools includes all five boroughs of Greater New York. More than 3,700 teachers in 214 elementary and high schools were supplied with plant material for the instruction of more than 177,000 pupils; 350 potted plants were placed in classrooms, and 36,000 plants raised by members of Botanic Garden classes of adults and children were taken home. The year's attendance at classes exceeded 100,000.

Nearly forty radio broadcasts on plant life and on the garden are now given annually over WNYC and in cooperation with the Radio Garden Club over WOR. The fan mail from these talks includes thirty-nine states, from Maine to California and south to Texas as well as from Canada. California supplies the third largest number of correspondents, *viz.*, about a hundred and twenty-five.

One section of the report is devoted to research in progress, including disease resistance in plants; breeding a chestnut tree of timber-producing character and immune or resistant to the chestnut blight; the culture, nomenclature and pathology of Iris with special reference to varieties of Japanese Iris; and problems in systematic botany. The publications of technical and popular papers by members of the staff during the year include nearly 100 titles.

The report stresses the falling off of income during the past ten years, and the urgent need of not less than a million dollars additional endowment.

### SCHENECTADY MEETING OF THE NEW YORK STATE SECTION OF THE AMERICAN PHYSICAL SOCIETY

PHYSICISTS from forty-nine communities in New York State, and some from contiguous sections outside the state, formally organized the New York State Sec-