

to cover the costs of emergency or prolonged illness. Agencies set up to provide such insurance should comply with state statutes and regulations to insure their soundness and financial responsibility, and should have approval of county and state medical societies.

We are not willing to foster any system of compulsory health insurance. We are convinced that it is a complicated, bureaucratic system which has no place in a democratic state. It would undoubtedly set up a far-reaching tax system with great increase in the cost of government. That it would lend itself to political control and manipulation there is no doubt.

We recognize the soundness of the principles of workmen's compensation laws and recommend the expansion of such legislation to provide for meeting the costs of illness sustained as a result of employment in industry.

In urging full use of existing hospital facilities rather than building additional ones, the delegates reported that the stability and efficiency of many existing church and voluntary hospitals could be assured by payment to them of the costs of the necessary hospitalization of the medically indigent.

Concerning appropriation of funds for the indigent, the delegates said:

Since the indigent now constitute a large group in the population, we recognize that the necessity for state aid for medical care may arise in poorer communities and the Federal Government may need to provide funds when the state is unable to meet these emergencies.

In the face of the vanishing support of philanthropy, the medical profession will welcome the appropriation of funds to provide care for the needy, providing first, that the public welfare administrative procedures are simplified and coordinated, and second, that the provision of medical services is arranged by responsible local public officials in cooperation with the local medical profession and its allied groups.

We feel that in each state a system should be developed to meet the recommendation of the national health conference in conformity with its suggestion that: The rôle of the Federal Government should be principally that of giving financial and technical aid to the states in their development of sound programs through procedures largely of their own choice.

Seven physicians were appointed as a body to consult with Federal authorities on the national health program. They are: Dr. Irvin Abell, of Louisville, Ky., president of the association; Dr. Edward H. Cary, of Dallas, Texas; Dr. Walter E. Vest, of Huntington, W. Va.; Dr. Walter Donaldson, of Pittsburgh, Pa.; Dr. Fred Rankin, of Lexington, Ky.; Dr. Frederick Sondern, of New York City, and Dr. Henry A. Luce, of Detroit, Mich.

THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS

At its Cambridge meeting (July 17-24) the British Association for the Advancement of Science took

two actions which promise to have important effects upon its future activities and influence. The first relates to proposed reciprocal relationships between it and the American Association for the Advancement of Science; the second, to its obligations to society. It is doubtful whether decisions of equal importance have been taken previously by the British Association in the more than one hundred years since its organization.

For several years the question of possible closer cooperation between the British and American associations has been discussed informally without any definite conclusion having been reached. These discussions do not imply that there has been any lack of cordiality between the two associations. In fact, their organizations are similar and for 90 years since the founding of the American Association (British Association, founded in 1831; American Association, in 1848) the members of each association have been welcomed at the meetings of the other. British scientists have frequently attended meetings of the American Association, and American scientists in considerable numbers, especially in recent years, have attended meetings of the British Association. At the recent Cambridge meeting 62 scientists from the United States and 19 from Canada were registered, or a total of 91, out of a total registration just under 3,000.

Last June at the Ottawa meeting of the American Association a committee was appointed to confer with representatives of the British Association respecting possible closer relations between the two associations. The British representatives at the conferences, which were held just before the Cambridge meeting, were Lord Rayleigh, president for 1938; Professors F. T. Brooks and Allan Ferguson, general secretaries; Dr. O. J. R. Howarth, secretary, and Sir Richard Gregory, editor of *Nature*. The American representatives were George D. Birkhoff, president for 1937; Harold G. Moulton, vice-president and chairman of the Section on Social and Economic Sciences for 1936; Herbert E. Ives, vice-president and chairman of the Section on Physics for 1934, and F. R. Moulton, permanent secretary. The conferences of these committees led to the passing of two resolutions by the council and the general committee of the British Association. Upon the passing of similar resolutions by the American Association the proposed reciprocal arrangements between the two associations will go into effect.

Under the terms of the first resolution, each association will invite, on alternate years, a distinguished representative of the other association to deliver a principal address. The invited British scientist will deliver the principal address at the summer meeting of the American Association, and the invited American scientist will deliver an address second in rank only to the presidential address at the annual meeting of

the British Association. Evidently only scientists of very high standing and capable of delivering excellent addresses will be invited. There will be no limitations on the subjects that may be chosen or on the manner of their treatment, but it is expected that the addresses will be of the general quality of the presidential addresses of the two associations. It will, of course, be gratifying if from time to time the subjects treated are of international interest. Whether or not such subjects are chosen, the visiting scientists will add to the attractions of the meetings, and the publicity given their addresses by the daily press will promote cordial international relationships. It is hoped that the plan will prove so successful that it will be expanded to include corresponding arrangements with similar scientific organizations in other countries.

Under the terms of the second resolution, each association will elect as honorary members the principal administrative officers of the other association. The honorary members will receive the announcements and programs of the association to which they are elected. For example, the honorary members elected by the American Association will receive the general programs of the meetings, and also the four issues of *SCIENCE* each year which contain the preliminary announcements and the reports of the two meetings. The purpose of this reciprocal arrangement is to

familiarize the officers of each association with the work of the other. Although the British and American associations are generally similar, each has its special excellent points about which the other might well know. The American Association certainly has much to learn from the British about organizing excursions and social functions, and especially about making the delivery of presidential addresses dignified and impressive events.

The British Association took another step which may mark a turning point in its history. In order to facilitate investigations of the interrelations of science and society and to promote cordial international relations among scientists, the council and the general committee authorized the organization of a division of the British Association to consider these special fields. The work of the new division will be directed by a committee to be nominated by the council of the association and elected by its general committee. The division is given very broad powers, including that of holding meetings at any times and places. In this more formal way the British Association will undertake to do even more than the American Association is attempting to do through its "Science and Society Conferences" organized by the Section on the Social and Economic Sciences.

F. R. MOULTON,
Permanent Secretary, A.A.A.S.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. ALBERT CHARLES CHIBNALL, professor of biochemistry at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, University of London, will give the Hepsa Ely Silliman Memorial Lectures for the year 1938 at Yale University. The title of his lectures is "Protein Metabolism in the Plant." The lectures will be seven in number; on October 12, 14 and 17, they will deal with protein metabolism in seedlings; the fourth lecture on October 19 will deal with the synthesis of amino acids and amides in the plant. The concluding lectures on October 21, 24 and 28 will deal with the general subject of protein metabolism in leaves.

DR. RICHARD E. SCAMMON, distinguished service professor in the Graduate School of the University of Minnesota, will give on September 23 a lecture before the New York University Chapter of Sigma Xi on "The universalist tendency in seventeenth century science and medicine as exemplified by the activities of the versatile Dr. Petty."

PROFESSOR C. O. E. BERGSTRAND, professor of astronomy in the University of Uppsala, has been elected correspondent for the Section of Astronomy of the Paris Academy of Sciences, in succession to the late Professor L. Picart, professor of astronomy in the University of Bordeaux.

THE Bene Merenti silver medal of the Bavarian Academy of Sciences has been awarded to Professor C. F. van Oyen, of Utrecht.

At the recent meeting of the British Medical Association the Sir Charles Hastings clinical prize was presented to Dr. J. W. McFeeters; the Stewart prize to Sir Patrick Laidlaw and, as already reported in *SCIENCE*, the Dawson Williams Memorial prize to Professor Leonard Parsons. The Katherine Bishop Harman prize for 1938 was awarded to Dr. B. S. Platt.

THE Dr. Jessie MacGregor prize in medical science of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh has been awarded to Dr. Susanne Paterson for her work on the therapeutic uses of progesterone.

DR. TRUMAN L. KELLEY, of Harvard University, was elected president of the Psychometric Society at the annual meeting held at the Ohio State University on September 7 and 8. He succeeded Dr. J. P. Guilford, of the University of Nebraska, who gave the presidential address, which was entitled "A Study in Psychodynamics."

DR. HAROLD F. BLUM, who recently resigned as associate professor of physiology at the University of California Medical School to join the staff of the