

tors (a new consideration). The medical staffs of fourteen municipal emergency stations were also increased for the same purpose as well as for emergency house visit duty, especially at night. Meanwhile it has been decreed that the foregoing measures shall be discontinued on November 16.

When the question of obligatory practice in villages was taken up, the diet decided to take other measures to satisfy the demands for medical service and to raise the number of physicians. There are five universities with faculties of medicine, and the government proposed to establish a medical school in Lodz, a city of more than 500,000 inhabitants, which has had no university. The project was welcomed by the inhabitants of Lodz, and a committee was organized to supply financial aid for the founding of the school. The anti-Semitic organizations of students of medicine in other cities, however, passed a resolution protesting against the establishing of the school, claiming that it would increase the percentage of Jews in the medical profession, since there are many Jews in Lodz and the committee is supported financially by Jewish philanthropists. This action of the anti-Semitic students is held by democratic groups to be a handicap in the supplying of sufficient medical aid to the country. In spite of it the building of the new medical school will begin shortly.

THE COUNCIL FOR PEDIATRIC RESEARCH

THE Council for Pediatric Research is essentially a committee of the American Academy of Pediatrics, which has been in operation now for somewhat more than a year, supported for a trial period by a grant from the Carnegie Corporation. Its members are: Kenneth D. Blackfan, *chairman*; Thomas B. Cooley, *executive secretary*; Alexis F. Hartmann, Irvine McQuarrie, Oscar M. Schloss and Fritz B. Talbot. Offices are at 660 Frederick Street, Detroit.

The prime reason for the formation of the council lay in the notoriously unsatisfactory system of direct subsidization by manufacturers of investigation of their products by clinics and laboratories. Such investigations are usually prompted by a real desire to ascertain the value and uses of such products; sometimes merely for use in advertising. Studies primarily intended for advertising may, however, by proper handling give opportunity for really worth-while research. Some manufacturers are experienced enough to select competent investigators, others have wasted large amounts of money on ill-conceived, superficial, often obviously biased studies. At the best, direct subsidization is not very dignified and is open to suspicion of bias. It was believed that an impartial and authoritative committee might perform a real service by acting as intermediary between manufacturer and investigator, selecting qualified persons to carry out

particular studies, suggesting or criticizing plans and finally, on publication, giving the study the stamp of its approval. It was planned that the council should charge a fee for such services, which eventually, in addition to covering its overhead, might build up a "free fund" to assist and stimulate needed research. Foundations and private philanthropists also might well dispense funds through the medium of the council.

Progress at first was slow. It was necessary to locate and gain the confidence of probable sources of grants for research, and at the same time to accumulate information as to capacities and interests of investigating clinics and laboratories. This groundwork has largely been done, and recently has shown results in the way of a number of projects which have been brought to the council for allocation to responsible clinics, and in several cases for assistance in planning a proper type of study. Another type of activity which it has recently undertaken is participation in a rather elaborate scheme for an intensive, long-term study of the various physical and mental phenomena of adolescence.

The council believes that as it becomes better known requests for its assistance will be multiplied, and its prime purpose of encouraging worth-while research furthered. It will welcome inquiries by any one interested.

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

PROGRESS, especially in the design and construction of delicate instruments for astronomical and biological studies, and large additions to the scientific and historical collections were reported by Charles G. Abbot, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, to the annual meeting of the Board of Regents.

The year was marked by progress in the building of the new National Gallery of Art presented to the nation by the late Andrew W. Mellon, and by the designation of a site and an appropriation for preliminary plans for a Smithsonian Gallery of Art.

Among the new instruments designed was an improvement of the galvanometer associated with the newest type of thermocouple. Dr. Abbot is confident that when the 200-inch telescope of the Carnegie Institution of Washington is available it will be possible with this instrument to get continuous spectrum energy curves of all types of stars.

A new observatory for solar radiation has been installed on Burro Mountain near Tyrone, N. M., to cooperate with the existing Smithsonian observatories in California and Chile to study solar variation and weather. Among plans for the future is one dealing with the measurement of variations of the sun's ultra-violet radiation in the upper atmosphere which can be determined by the amount of ionization of atmospheric