

H. Critchett, general manager, Union Carbide and Carbon Research Laboratories, Inc.; William M. Grosvenor, consulting chemist and factory engineer; Frank B. Jewett, president, Bell Telephone Laboratories; Warner Seely, secretary, Warner and Swasey Company, and Kenneth H. Condit, executive assistant to the president, National Industrial Conference Board. Close cooperation with other organizations concerned with this problem is assured through representation on their patent committees by members of the board's staff.

Every phase of the patent problem will be studied by the experts of the Conference Board and Engineering Council. Five main headings are included in the outline of the inquiry. Under the general topic "Invention," there will be a study of the origins of inventions and a review of independent and organized invention. Such matters as costs, types of invention, work on inventions, use of patents and foreign experience will also be covered.

Perhaps the most important subject of the five concerns the social and economic effects of invention. Under this heading the effects on consumers, labor, capital and management will be studied in detail.

A third heading covers an examination of the patent system itself and the functioning of the Patent Office. Consequences of the patent system as shown by stimulation of invention and discovery are covered in another section. The final heading includes a critical review of the functioning of the patent system and of current criticisms and proposed reform.

This cooperative undertaking makes possible the fulfillment of recommendations made for such a fact-finding study earlier presented by the Patents Committee of the American Engineering Council to the Annual Assembly in 1937 and 1938, and approved by that body. The Patents Committee, at a meeting held in New York on December 9, approved of a detailed plan of procedure, and one division of the work has already been started. It is hoped that the complete undertaking will be finished within twelve months and that factual sections of the inquiry can be released before that time.

#### THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF ENDOCRINOLOGY

THE British Medical Research Council has issued a statement calling attention to the fact that the large and rapidly increasing amount of published work on endocrinology by British investigators has, for some time past, made it desirable to bring together and to make available in a single British journal papers which are at present scattered among many different publications. It is pointed out that, though there may be doubts as to the desirability of any step which might seem to accentuate the division of the field of the medical and biological sciences into specialized departments and groups, the lack of a British journal specifically devoted to endocrinology leads to the overloading of journals having other and more general

interests, and is producing a position of increasing difficulty for those who have work on endocrinology to publish, as well as for those who need ready access to the published work in this field. The editorial boards of a large number of British journals have been asked for their views on the matter and are, without exception, favorable to the foundation of such a journal.

A committee has therefore been formed for the promotion of a new journal to be called the *Journal of Endocrinology*, in the first instance to be published quarterly. The members of this promoting committee, who will act as a committee of management, are: Dr. P. M. F. Bishop, Professor F. A. E. Crew, Sir Henry Dale, Professor E. C. Dodds, Professor C. R. Harington, Professor G. F. Marrian, Dr. F. H. A. Marshall, Dr. A. S. Parkes, Dr. F. G. Young and Dr. S. Zuckerman. They have appointed Professor E. C. Dodds as editor, to be assisted by an editorial board consisting of Dr. P. M. F. Bishop, Professor C. R. Harington, Dr. A. S. Parkes, Dr. F. G. Young and Dr. S. Zuckerman. Dr. R. L. Noble has been appointed assistant editor.

The scope of the *Journal of Endocrinology* is defined as the publication of communications which advance knowledge concerning the internally secreting glands, the mode of their actions, the nature of their secretions and the disorders of their functions.

#### TOUR OF THE INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

A TOUR of industrial research laboratories for members and guests of the Industrial Research Institute will precede a two-day convocation in the building of the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, has been announced by Maurice Holland, executive officer for the institute.

The institute, an affiliate of the National Research Council, will begin its visit to industrial laboratories on Tuesday, May 16, and will conclude the trip with a luncheon at the Hotel Mayflower in Washington on Saturday, May 20.

The group will assemble on Tuesday, May 16, at Canton, Ohio, where the first visit of the four-day trip will be at the laboratories of the Hoover Company. H. Earl Hoover, vice-president of the Hoover Company, is vice-chairman of the institute. From Canton the party will proceed to Pittsburgh, where they will make an all-day inspection of the laboratories and plant of the Jones and Laughlin Steel Corporation. The host there will be H. W. Graham, chairman of the executive committee of the institute, and chief metallurgist for the Jones and Laughlin Steel Corporation. The value of research in the steel industry is being determined by practical results in the pilot plant research and development laboratories at the Jones and