

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

Laughlin Steel Corporation, which the visitors will view.

On May 18 the party will visit the laboratories of the Hercules Powder Company, at Wilmington, Del., where O. A. Pickett, director of the Experiment Station, will personally direct the tour of inspection.

The party will reach Washington on Thursday night, May 18, remaining there on Friday and Saturday, May 19 and 20. The two-day technical meeting of the institute will be held in the building of the National Academy of Sciences, where the members will be welcomed by Dr. Albert L. Barrows, executive secretary of the National Research Council.

The American Express Company is in charge of travel arrangements for the laboratories tour.

The membership of the institute is made up of executives in charge of research laboratories for small and large industries in the United States. It was formed a year ago "for cooperative study of the members' common problems of research management, for mutual criticism, exchange of ideas in an effort to bring about constant improvement of laboratory management."

#### AWARDS OF THE LALOR FOUNDATION

THE Board of Trustees of the Lalor Foundation has announced five awards for research in chemistry for the academic year 1939-40. These awards, which are for \$2,500 each, are designed to enable men of outstanding ability to carry on special investigations at research centers of international importance. The recipients of the awards were chosen from a group of fifty-one candidates representing applicants working in the major fields of chemistry and related sciences.

The applications received indicate a wide-spread interest in these awards, 40 per cent. having come from candidates from universities in the eastern United States, 30 per cent. from the Middle West, 5 per cent. from the South, 15 per cent. from the Far West and 10 per cent. from candidates outside the boundaries of the United States.

As respects institutions where applicants elected to carry on their research, 50 per cent. selected eastern universities, 10 per cent. middle western institutions, 7 per cent. the Far West, 25 per cent. chose English universities, none selected Germany and 8 per cent. selected other European continental institutions.

The recipients of the awards are:

DR. OTTO KARL BEHRENS, of the Rockefeller Institute of New York, to work with Dr. D. Keilin, of the Institute of Biochemistry, Cambridge, England, on the chemistry of peptide metabolism in tissue slices.

DR. ANDREW CALVIN BRATTON, instructor in pharmacology at the Johns Hopkins University Medical School, to continue work with Dr. E. K. Marshall on chemical

aspects of chemotherapy of compounds of the sulfanilamide type.

DR. ROBERT BYRON JACOBS, of the Research Laboratory of Physical Chemistry of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, to continue work with Dr. F. G. Keyes on the fundamental properties of materials at low temperatures.

DR. WILLIAM EARL ROSEVEARE, assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin, to work with Dr. Henry Eyring at Princeton University on the determination of intermolecular forces in binary gaseous mixtures.

DR. CHARLES E. WARING, assistant professor at the Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute, to work with Dr. C. N. Hinshelwood at the University of Oxford on the kinetics of decomposition of silicon alkyl compounds.

The selection committee acting for the foundation consisted of Dr. Roger Adams, director of the Department of Chemistry of the University of Illinois; Dr. Hans T. Clarke, professor of biochemistry, Columbia University; Dr. Charles A. Kraus, of Brown University, president of the American Chemical Society; Dr. Arthur B. Lamb, director of the Division of Chemistry of Harvard University, and C. L. Burdick, secretary of the Lalor Foundation.

#### CELEBRATION OF THE SIXTIETH BIRTHDAY OF ALBERT EINSTEIN

THE sixtieth birthday of Albert Einstein, which occurred on March 16, was marked by a special radio program from Oakland, Calif., in which Professor J. Robert Oppenheimer spoke as follows:

This program is in celebration of the sixtieth birthday of Albert Einstein. His name is perhaps more widely known than that of any other living scientist; and to many millions of people it has come to stand for science itself, and for all that we admire in the way of life and thought of the scientist.

Most of us who are concerned with research in one or another branch of scientific work, are proud to have in Einstein a popular symbol of what we are doing and trying to do. Few men have contributed so much to our understanding of the Physical World, to our ability to predict and follow and control its behavior. And we see in Einstein, especially those of us who have come to know him a little, all those personal qualities that are the counterpart of great work: selflessness, humor, and a deep kindness.

But if few scientific workers would quarrel with the fact that Einstein is in many ways a perfect symbol of their work, there are many who would feel that there is something a little false and fabulous in the way he is thought of. There was a fable at one time that there were only a dozen men who could understand what Einstein had done; there is certainly a general impression, supported in part by his eminence, that his work has been qualitatively different from that of his fellow workers; that it is abstruse, and remote, and useless. This