

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

THE reorganization of the Australian National Research Council is announced in the *Australian Journal of Science*. The officers elected are: *Chairman*, Sir David Rivett; *Honorary Treasurer*, Professor O. U. Vonwiller; *Honorary Secretary*, Dr. A. B. Walkom.

The Executive Committee of the reorganized council consists of these three officers elected by the full council and two members from each state and from the Australian Capital Territory elected by the members of the council in that state or territory. The president, the honorary general treasurer and the honorary general secretary of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science, if resident in Australia, are also *ex-officio* members of the executive committee. Any member of the executive committee not resident at the headquarters of the association has the right to appoint a proxy from among the members of the Australian National Research Council resident there.

The representatives of the Australian Capital Territory and of all states, with the exception of Tasmania, have now been elected, and the list is as follows, including proxies where such have been chosen:

New South Wales: Professor W. J. Dakin, Professor R. D. Watt.

Victoria: Professor E. W. Skeats (proxy, Mr. C. A. Sussmleth), Mr. W. E. Wainwright (proxy, Mr. A. J. Gibson).

South Australia: Sir William Mitchell (proxy, Professor J. P. Madsen), Sir Douglas Mawson (proxy, Dr. C. Anderson).

Western Australia: Professor E. de C. Clarke (proxy, Professor L. A. Cotton), Dr. G. L. Sutton (proxy, Dr. W. L. Waterhouse).

Queensland: Dr. D. A. Herbert (proxy, Mr. E. Cheel), Professor H. C. Richards (proxy, Mr. E. C. Andrews).

Australian Capital Territory: Dr. B. T. Dickson (proxy, not yet appointed), Dr. W. G. Woolnough (proxy not yet appointed).

Provision has also been made for the appointment of a deputy chairman when the chairman does not happen to reside in the state where the executive meets, and Professor R. D. Watt has been elected to that office.

The objects of the new Australian National Research Council are stated as follows:

1. In general to promote and assist the advancement of research in Australia, and in particular to obtain financial support for research work of a national character.

2. To act as a body which can advise the Commonwealth and State Governments as to the direction in which research is necessary and financial assistance advisable.

3. To advise the Commonwealth and State Governments as to suitable persons to undertake inquiry, investigation or research in certain national problems.

4. To act as the collective voice of scientific thought in Australia when it is considered necessary and advisable to bring under the notice of Governments, public bodies and organizations, matters in which scientific direction can affect the well-being and culture of the community.

5. To organize scientific bodies and workers into an effective unit for use in national emergencies.

6. To safeguard the interests and status of scientific workers throughout Australia.

RETIREMENT FUND OF THE FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

DETAILS of a plan whereby retirement incomes will be provided for employees of Field Museum of Natural History have been made public. Because of the museum's status as an educational institution, its employees do not come under the provisions of social security legislation. The plan inaugurated independently by the museum management offers the employees benefits many times more generous than those provided under such laws.

Under the plan, which operates through a contract with the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, and is now in effect, men employees will retire at age sixty-five years, and women employees at age sixty. All employees under those ages at the time the plan was instituted are eligible, and since the plan was announced a few weeks ago, and participation invited on a purely voluntary basis, it has been unanimously accepted by all those eligible.

The plan is outlined by Dr. Clifford C. Gregg, director of the museum, in the October issue of *Field Museum News*, as follows:

For many years it has been the desire of the management of Field Museum to establish a pension plan which might insure a regular retirement income for faithful employees after their period of active service had been completed. As early as 1916, Mr. Stanley Field, president of the museum, established a Museum Employees' Pension Fund, the proceeds of which gave to the employees the benefit of insurance protection for their dependents. While this benefit was greatly prized at the museum, it was still felt by those responsible for the operation of the institution that the employee himself was entitled to protection and leisure in his declining years, as well as some security for his dependents.

Recently Mr. Marshall Field, a trustee of the museum who always has been deeply interested in the welfare of the employees, provided the means by which such a pension plan might be established. Under the plan each employee pays approximately 4 per cent. of his salary to the pension fund. The museum contributes a much larger sum, and with the combined contributions purchases annuities amounting to 1½ per cent. of the employee's salary for each year of his membership in the plan. Annuities for past service, amounting to 1 per cent. of the current salary for each year of service prior to the beginning of the plan, will be purchased by the museum without employee contribution. Normal retirement ages have been

set at 65 years for men and 60 years for women. Retirement will automatically occur at those ages unless the Board of Trustees requests that the employee continue longer in service, which invitation he may accept or decline.

It is impossible under any circumstances for an employee or his estate to receive from the plan less than he has put into it. Upon leaving the museum prior to retirement, the employee is entitled to the return of his money with interest compounded annually at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. In the event of the death of an employee either prior to or subsequent to retirement, his estate is entitled to his entire contribution with interest compounded annually.

Another provision protecting the interest of the employee who leaves the institution after more than ten years of membership in the Pension Plan is the so-called "vested interest" provision. This provides that an employee after ten years of membership is entitled to receive at retirement age the full benefits of the pension thus far purchased for him by both his own and the museum's contributions.

The wide-spread approval of the employees is indicated by unanimous acceptance on the part of those eligible. Both the management and the employees rejoice in the assurance that a lifetime of faithful service at the museum may be followed by leisure and freedom from financial worries in the later years of life.

A BIOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

A BIOLOGICAL survey of the State of New Hampshire will be undertaken by the newly established Biological Institute of the University of New Hampshire, of which Dr. C. Floyd Jackson, professor of zoology and entomology and dean of the College of Liberal Arts, is director.

The survey, which is described by Professor Jackson as something which has long been needed, will be carried on by the staff members of the institute working in their respective fields. Mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles, fish, insects, ornamental plants and shrubs, fungi and algae, trees and woods and rocks and minerals all will be included in the survey.

In connection with the work, a committee on taxonomy has been set up to assist teachers, nature study counselors and others interested in the biological sciences, in the identification of plant and animal specimens. Dr. Jackson states that the committee will receive any specimens sent in and will identify them. The plan works reciprocally, teachers and nature students will have identified for them plants and animals with which they are not familiar, and at the same time information will be obtained which can be used in the state survey.

A survey of the salt water regions of the state will be undertaken in the near future. Designed as a supplement to the water shed survey made some time ago by the state, the work will be conducted with the co-

operation of the Fish and Game Commission. The Great Bay region and the coast from Portsmouth to Seabrook will be included in a compilation of biological specimens, their habits and their effects on the waters.

LIBRARY FOR THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE AT YALE UNIVERSITY

THERE has been established in the Yale University School of Medicine a library devoted to the history of medicine. In making the announcement Dr. Charles Seymour, president of the university, said that it would constitute

a treasure house of the utmost importance to the medical profession and to scholars in the whole field of the history of science.

Well-known collections which will be brought together as the basis of this library are notably those formed by Dr. Harvey Cushing and Dr. John F. Fulton, of the Yale faculty. And word has been received from Dr. Arnold C. Klebs, of Les Terrasses, Nyon, Switzerland, that he is devising to Yale his magnificent library on the history of science and of medicine, including his unique apparatus for the study of early texts. The combined collections of these friends and collaborators happily supplement one another and by this assembly of materials a library of great strength has come into being.

These gifts to Yale are announced for the first time and there is promise that they will be joined by others when the library wing of the Medical School is extended to house them, for Dr. Cushing's decision to give his magnificent library to Yale has been the incentive for others to make similar gifts. Medicine may be regarded as the mother of the sciences and collections such as these will arouse the interest of the student in the scholarly aspects of his scientific profession, medical or otherwise.

To house the collections the library wing of the Sterling Hall of Medicine will be extended by funds set aside by the Yale Corporation from the estate of John W. Sterling. The extension, with room for 400,000 volumes, will take the form of a "Y" shaped building. In one prong of the "Y" will be the historical collections, in the other a working library for the school. Grosvenor Atterbury, of New York, is the architect; the Dwight Building Company of New Haven is the general contractor. Construction is expected to begin in the near future.

THE RESEARCH COUNCIL ON PROBLEMS OF ALCOHOL

A PROGRAM for attacking the disease of alcoholism and the alcoholic psychoses based on research, approved by the newly elected executive committee of the Research Council on Problems of Alcohol, an associated society of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, has been announced by the