

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

chairman of the committee, Dr. Karl M. Bowman, director of psychiatry at Bellevue Hospital, New York City.

Three grants of financial aid to the council have been made. The Carnegie Corporation has appropriated \$25,000 for a critical survey of all work done to date on the effects of alcohol upon the individual, a project sponsored by the Department of Psychiatry of the College of Medicine, New York University. It is under the supervision of Dr. Norman Jolliffe, associate professor of medicine, who recently directed a survey of alcoholic psychoses in Europe. The American Philosophical Society is financing a study of the toxic factors in alcoholism, conducted at the New York Psychiatric Institute under the direction of Dr. George A. Jervis, and the Dazian Foundation for Medical Research has granted funds for research on the role of alcohol in liver cirrhosis, a project being initiated by the College of Medicine at New York University. Some 200 patients with liver cirrhosis will be subjected to clinical, chemical and pathological study in an effort to reach a clearer understanding of the relation of alcohol to this disease.

The council proposes to concentrate upon alcoholism until the end of 1941. Three major measures will be employed: the evaluation and coordination of existing research; the development of a research program along lines inadequately investigated or not yet explored and the dissemination of the results of such research.

A statement issued by Dr. Bowman points out that

the objective of the council is to discover the causes of alcoholism and better methods for its prevention and treatment. Prejudice, fear, secrecy and ignorance are among the obstacles to its control. The majority are disposed to think of alcoholism as a criminal or moral offense, instead of as a disease for which the patient is often not responsible. Alcoholism and the alcoholic psychoses constitute one of the great public health problems of modern times, perhaps the greatest not being systematically attacked. The council plans to deal with alcoholism in the same general fashion as other public health agencies combat tuberculosis, cancer, syphilis, heart disease and other major threats to human health.

The members of the executive committee are: Dr. Forest R. Moulton, permanent secretary of the American Association for the Advancement of Science; Dr. Winfred Overholser, superintendent of St. Elizabeths Hospital, Washington; Dr. Lawrence Kolb, chief of the Division of Mental Hygiene, U. S. Public Health Service; Dr. Hans T. Clarke, professor of biochemistry, Columbia University; Dr. Luther Gulick, director of the Institute of Public Administration; Leonard Harrison, director of the Committee on Youth and Justice; Dr. Nolan D. C. Lewis, professor of psychiatry, Columbia University; Austin H. MacCormick, commissioner of correction, New York City; Dr. A. T. Poffenberger, professor of psychology, Columbia University; Dr. Robert W. Searle, general secretary of the Greater New York Federation of Churches, and Albert W. Whitney, consulting director of the National Conservation Bureau. Dr. Bowman is chairman.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. THEOPHILUS S. PAINTER, research professor of zoology at the University of Texas, has been appointed one of the four distinguished professors of the university. According to the official announcement, the title aims "to give nationally recognized professors an honor and an increase of \$1,000 in yearly salary." Those in the sciences who hold the title are Dr. R. L. Moore, professor of mathematics, and Dr. J. T. Patterson, professor of zoology.

At the Philadelphia meeting of the American College of Surgeons the Medical Records Prize was awarded to Dr. Don Wilbur McLean, of Detroit, Mich. Honorary fellowships were conferred on Dr. James Carre Magee, Surgeon-General of the United States Army; Dr. Ross T. McIntire, Surgeon-General of the United States Navy and physician to the White House; Dr. Thomas Parran, Jr., Surgeon-General of the U. S. Public Health Service, and Dr. Eugene P. Olya, of Budapest, Hungary.

ALEXANDER G. CHRISTIE, professor of mechanical engineering at the Johns Hopkins University and

president of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and Henry Ford have been elected to honorary life membership in the British Institution of Mechanical Engineers. The certificates were to have been presented, together with the James Watt International Medal to Henry Ford, in New York on September 8, during the British American Engineering Congress, which was canceled a week before its opening because of the inability of the British engineers to come to the United States. The American Society of Mechanical Engineers expects to award the certificate and gold medal to Mr. Ford at its sixtieth annual meeting, to be held in Philadelphia from December 4 to 8.

THE presentation of the George Robert White Medal of Honor of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society has been made to Dr. George T. Moore, since 1912 director of the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, in recognition of "his work in developing the garden into one of the outstanding botanical centers in the world and for his success in the breeding of orchids."