

THE WORK OF THE COMMONWEALTH FUND

THE twenty-first annual report of the Commonwealth Fund, founded in October, 1918, by Mrs. Stephen V. Harkness "to do something for the welfare of mankind," has been issued.

Attention is called to the circumstance that "every one of the major objectives to which the fund has devoted its resources during these twenty-one years—the betterment of health and of medical service, the enhancement of mental hygiene, the maintenance of international contacts through education—is threatened by war, and the hope of achieving something real and lasting for the welfare of mankind grows dimmer, at least for the time being, with each step toward world-wide violence."

In describing accomplishments of the fund since its foundation, the report says:

The present objectives of the fund have been worked out gradually. Its first appropriation, made in 1918, was for war service and relief. In that and the two following years large sums were given to the American Relief Administration; nearly two and a half million dollars were appropriated between 1918 and 1925 in support of American efforts to patch up a shattered civilization by meeting the simplest of human necessities. Before these emergency gifts had wholly tapered off, the fund had begun to help in a planned program for the upbuilding of child health in Austria, to which nearly three quarters of a million dollars were devoted before the fund felt able to withdraw in 1929.

During these early years gifts for medical research and hospitals were made occasionally as part of a philanthropic program ranging broadly over education, medicine and social work. In 1921 and 1922 the fund turned a considerable part of its income into two major channels, one leading to the promotion of physical health, the other of mental health, among children. Interest in physical health assumed larger and larger proportions; in 1926 a hospital-building program was developed; in later years grants for medical research and formal medical education multiplied. Total expenditures in this range of activities now exceed thirteen and a half million dollars. For work in mental hygiene the fund has appropriated in all nearly seven million dollars. The fellowships which have brought British graduate students to American universities, first offered in 1925, have absorbed more than three and a quarter million dollars. These are the main streams of the fund's giving.

Appropriations for the year 1938-1939 amounted to \$1,919,908. This sum is smaller than that for the preceding year. The report states that the income was also reduced for this period, but that comparisons are misleading because of the considerable variation from year to year in the commitments against future income which are included in current appropriations. These commitments also lessen the significance of the com-

parisons which may be drawn between allocations to one field of work or another in successive years. About two thirds of the total appropriations made in 1938-1939 were for the promotion of health through medical education, medical research, public health and the rural hospital program.

In reference to the British fellowships it is stated that British authorities have indicated their desire to interfere as little as possible with the plan, though the fellowships for the coming year have been curtailed through force of circumstances.

AWARDS OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

THE American Society of Civil Engineers opened its eighty-seventh annual meeting in New York City on January 17.

Colonel John P. Hogan, until recently chief engineer of the World's Fair, was introduced as the president-elect of the society. The following newly elected vice-presidents were also introduced: George L. Lucas, New York City, and Joseph Jacobs, Seattle, Wash.

Honorary membership in the society was conferred on Professor Thomas Ulvan Taylor, dean emeritus of the College of Engineering of the University of Texas. The presentation was made by Henry S. Jacoby, emeritus professor of bridge engineering, of Cornell University. Dean Taylor was eighty-two years old on January 2. Professor Jacoby will be eighty-three years old on April 8. When Dean Taylor was graduated from Cornell in 1895 it was Professor Jacoby who conferred the degree upon him.

Honorary membership was also conferred on Colonel H. S. Crocker, past president of the American Society of Civil Engineers of Denver, and on J. M. R. Fairbairn, of Montreal. The honors were conferred by D. H. Sawyer, outgoing president of the society, and chief of the Real Estate Section, Public Buildings Administration, Washington.

The Norman Medal, awarded for the best paper on an engineering subject, was presented to Charles H. Lee, of San Francisco. The J. James R. Croes Medal, also given for an outstanding paper, was presented to Professor C. A. Mockmore, head of the department of civil engineering at the Oregon State College, Corvallis.

The James Laurie Prize, given for a paper in the field of construction, was presented to Stanley M. Dore, of the Water Supply Commission of Massachusetts, Boston. The Arthur M. Willington Prize, given for a paper in the field of transportation, was presented to Rufus W. Putnam, of Chicago.

The Collingwood Prize for juniors was presented to Benjamin K. Hough, Jr., of Ithaca, N. Y. The Rudolph Hering Medal, given for a paper in the field of sanitation, was presented to Albert J. Schafmayer,

Chicago. The Construction Engineering Prize was presented to Howard L. King, of Lackawack, N. Y.

THE WILKES EXPLORING EXPEDITION

THE centenary celebration by the American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, of the Wilkes Exploring Expedition of the United States Navy, 1838-1840, and a symposium on American Polar Exploration will be held on February 23 and 24 in the hall of the society, Independence Square.

The program follows:

Friday Morning, February 23

Roland S. Morris, president, in the chair

THE WILKES EXPEDITION

Edwin G. Conklin, vice-president and executive officer, American Philosophical Society, and James A. G. Rehn, corresponding secretary, Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. "Connection of the American Philosophical Society and the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia with Our First National Exploring Expedition."

Captain G. S. Bryan, Hydrographic Office, U. S. Navy. "The Purpose, Equipment and Personnel of the Wilkes Expedition."

William H. Hobbs, professor emeritus of geology, University of Michigan. "The Discovery of Wilkes Land, Antarctica."

F. W. Reichelderfer, chief, U. S. Weather Bureau. "The Contributions of Wilkes to Terrestrial Magnetism, Gravity and Meteorology."

Harley H. Bartlett, chairman, department of botany and director, Botanical Garden, University of Michigan. "The Expedition Reports and the Work of the Specialists in Science."

Mary E. Cooley, instructor in geology and geography, Mount Holyoke College. "The Exploring Expedition in the Pacific."

Luncheon for members and invited guests, 1 o'clock.

Friday Afternoon

Vilhjalmur Stefansson, Arctic explorer; past president of the Explorers Club, in the chair.

AMERICA IN THE ANTARCTIC

Colonel Lawrence Martin, chief, Division of Maps, Library of Congress. "The First Discovery of Antarctic Land by Captain Nathaniel Brown Palmer of Stonington, Connecticut."

John E. Hoffmeister, professor of geology, University of

Rochester. "James Dwight Dana's Studies of Volcanoes and of Coral Islands."

Henry W. Fowler, curator of fishes, Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. "The Fishes Obtained by the Wilkes Expedition."

Captain Harold E. Saunders, U. S. Navy. "The Flight of Admiral Byrd to the South Pole and the Exploration of Marie Byrd Land."

W. L. G. Joerg, chief, Division of Maps and Charts, The National Archives. "Demonstration of the Peninsular Nature of Palmer Land, Antarctica, through Ellsworth's Flight of 1935."

Earle B. Perkins, zoologist of the Second Byrd Antarctic Expedition; assistant professor of zoology, Rutgers University. "Animal Life of the Antarctic." (Moving pictures.)

Friday Evening Lecture, 8:15 o'clock

Laurence M. Gould, senior scientist and second-in-command, First Byrd Antarctic Expedition; professor of geology, Carleton College. "Glaciers of the Antarctic." The lecture will be followed by a reception.

Saturday Morning, February 24

Dr. Isaiah Bowman, president of the Johns Hopkins University, in the chair

AMERICA IN THE ARCTIC

W. Elmer Ekblaw, scientist of MacMillan's four-year Arctic Expedition; professor of geography, Clark University. "The Arctic Voyages and the Discoveries of DeHaven, Kane and Hall."

Commander Edward Ellsberg, U. S. Naval Reserve, author of the *Saga of the Jeannette*. "The Drift of the *Jeannette* in the Arctic Sea."

Brigadier General David L. Brainard, U. S. Army (ret.). "The Ill-fated Greely Expedition of 1882-83 and the Farthest North of Lockwood and Brainard."

Vilhjalmur Stefansson, Arctic explorer; past president of the Explorers Club. "New Lands and Seas Discovered by Stefansson's Arctic Expeditions."

Hugh J. Lee, Peary's companion on the crossing of Greenland, 1895. "Peary's Transactions of North Greenland, 1892-95."

Captain Robert A. Bartlett, Lieutenant Commander, U. S. Naval Reserve, commander of the Arctic ship *Roosevelt* and Peary's principal assistant. "Peary's Extended Exploration of Arctic Lands Culminating in the Attainment of the North Pole."

Luncheon for members and invited guests, 1 o'clock.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Gold Medal of the Royal Astronomical Society, London, has been awarded to Dr. Edwin P. Hubble, director of the Mount Wilson Observatory, "for outstanding work on distances, velocities, distribution and nature of extra-galactic nebulae."

THE Symons Gold Medal of the Royal Meteorological Society, London, has been awarded to Professor

Dr. J. Bjerknes, of the Geophysical Institute at Bergen.

DR. ALBRECHT PENCK, professor of geography at Berlin, has been elected an honorary member of the Norwegian Geographical Society.

THE National University of Ireland has conferred the honorary degree of doctor of science on Dr. F. G.