

be taken that progress is not delayed. Where one organization is outstandingly qualified to conduct a particular piece of research, the problem is turned over to that organization even though it may have other defense research work under way. On the other hand, as between two or more organizations approximately equally well qualified to engage in a particular piece of research, preference is given to that organization which does not have other defense research activities under way.

Thus far, the National Defense Research Committee has authorized 126 separate contracts with a total of 51 different academic and industrial establishments. Of this total, 80 contracts are with 32 different academic institutions and 46 with 19 different industrial concerns.

The order establishing the National Defense Research Committee states that its purpose shall be to correlate and support scientific research on mechanisms and devices of warfare except those relating to problems of flight included in the field of activities of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics. It may conduct research for the creation and improvement of instrumentalities, methods and materials of warfare. The committee has recently adopted the following resolution as a general indication of the limits of its activity:

The National Defense Research Committee, by reason of the order of the Council of National Defense which established it, is concerned with scientific research on and development of new instrumentalities or materials of war, or of new materials or methods to be used primarily in the manufacture of instruments of war; and of the improvement of existing instrumentalities or materials of war, or of existing material or methods to be used primarily in the manufacture of instruments of war. Where a material or method is widely used or useful in industry, in addition to its use in the manufacture of instruments of war, as for example in the case of substitute materials of wide utility, the research and development involved do not lie within the province of the National Defense Research Committee, but rather within the province of many existing industrial and scientific research agencies, and in particular, when appropriate requests for investigation or research in such fields are made by government agencies, within the province of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Research Council.

COMMITTEE ON FOOD AND NUTRITION OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

At the request of Miss Harriet Elliott, head of the consumer division of the Advisory Commission to the Council of National Defense, the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences has organized a committee to promote the development and application of nutritional science. A national program for improving nutrition is in the planning stage under the immediate direction of Director M. L. Wilson, of the Extension Service of the Department of Agriculture, and in this program the Committee on Food and Nutrition of the National Research Council is expected to play an important part. The membership of the committee includes physicians, biochemists and representatives of home economics, dietetics, agriculture and industry. A group of consultants and representatives from governmental services with nutritional responsibilities are associated. It is anticipated that the work of the committee will have a bearing upon the national welfare not only for the time of the present emergency, but in later years as a continuing agency. The committee is organized under the Division of Biology and Agriculture, the Division of Medical Sciences and the Division of Anthropology and Psychology.

The membership of the committee is as follows:

Executive Committee: Russell M. Wilder, *Chairman*; Helen S. Mitchell, *Secretary*; George R. Cowgill; Icie Macy Hoobler.

Members: John N. Black, Henry Borsook, F. G. Boudreau, Joseph S. Davis, C. A. Elvehjem, Philip C. Jeans, Norman Jolliffe, C. G. King, James McLester, S. C. Prescott, Lydia J. Roberts, W. C. Rose, Cullen Thomas, R. R. Williams, John B. Youmans.

Government Representatives: Grace Bulman, William DeKleine, Martha M. Eliot, J. K. Fuller, Colonel Paul E. Howe, E. M. Nelson, W. H. Sebrell, Louise Stanley, Commander Charles S. Stevenson.

Consultants: E. V. McCollum, John R. Murlin, Mary Swartz Rose, H. G. Sherman.

Ex Officio: Robert F. Griggs, *Chairman*, Division of Biology and Agriculture; Lewis H. Weed, *Chairman*, Division of Medical Sciences; Carl E. Guthe, *Chairman*, Division of Anthropology and Psychology; M. L. Wilson, National Defense Nutrition Program.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. HARRY N. HOLMES, head of the department of chemistry at Oberlin College, Ohio, has been elected president of the American Chemical Society for 1942. Dr. Holmes will take office as president-elect on January 1 at which time Professor William Lloyd Evans, head of the department of chemistry at the Ohio State

University, becomes president of the society, succeeding Dean Samuel Colville Lind, of the University of Minnesota.

At a meeting in New York on December 20 of the fellows of the American Geographical Society, the