3. Dr. Raymond J. Seeger, of George Washington University, Washington, D. C., was elected secretary of the Section on Historical and Philological Sciences to succeed Dr. C. A. Browne, resigned, for the term which will expire at the close of the annual meeting in December–January, 1944–45.

4. It was voted to accept the invitation from the University of Michigan to hold a meeting in Ann Arbor, June 22–26, 1942.

5. It was voted to meet in Atlantic City in December, 1944, and in St. Louis in December, 1945, provided satisfactory arrangements for the meetings can be made.

6. The executive committee considered with favor the suggestion that, provided satisfactory arrangements can be made, summer meetings be held as follows: New Haven, 1943; Madison, 1944; Chapel Hill-Durham, 1945; Toronto, 1946.

ORIGIN AND IDEALS OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FUND[1]

By Dr. ALBERT F. BLAKESLEE

CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON, DEPARTMENT OF GENETICS, COLD SPRING HARBOR, N. Y.

I HAVE been asked to say a few words about how the idea of a national science fund got started and what the committee has done which was appointed to study the desirability of establishing such a fund. It should be emphasized at the start that no one person originates an idea entirely alone; there are always others who contribute. Although I happened to be the one who suggested a national fund for science along the lines of our present organization I was merely expressing what seemed a logical need from a background of the experience of many. Perhaps the most important contributing event was the two-day symposium organized by the American Philosophical Society on February 19 and 20, 1937, on "Administering Funds in Aid of Research" in which I was privileged to take part as a delegate of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. The late Dr. E. M. East, who also attended the symposium, visited us on his way back to Harvard. We naturally talked over the problems which had been raised in the meeting and he told of his experience as chairman of a committee of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences on their "Permanent Science Fund." The name fascinated me and later I began to wonder if there could not be established a fund which would be more national in character and which might perform a service not adequately cared for by any organization. In our discussions with East we had lamented the fact that those who make donations in support of science so frequently fail to investigate the likelihood of scientific dividends from their donations, although they might exercise great care when financial dividends were involved. An example of unwise generosity was presented at about this time when a local estate was offered as a clinic for a particular method of cancer treatment which later was found unable to stand up under critical tests of the medical profession.

The fund I had in mind might be of service, I felt, to possible philanthropists in preventing such an example as that just given and serve as a clearing-house of information on philanthropic investments in science. I tried the idea out on a number of people, including a friend in the Central Hanover Bank and Trust Company, who turned me over to their department of philanthropy. They seemed to think the idea had possibilities of service and showed me two booklets they had just gotten out giving the opportunities for philanthropy in the fine arts and in public health. They believed there was an opportunity for similar service in pointing out the opportunities for philanthropy in science. When told of the various scientific organizations in the country, both state and national, that might organize such a fund, they felt that the National Academy of Sciences would be the best because of its national character and its select membership. The pamphlets from the Central Hanover Bank and Trust Company, together with other information and suggestions which I had assembled regarding a possible national science fund, were turned over to Dr. Lillie, as president of the National Academy of Sciences, at the spring meeting of the academy in 1937. Later in the year I woke up to find myself a member of a committee of the academy to investigate the feasibility of a national science fund.

It soon became evident that our committee was not

[1] Remarks at first meeting of Board of Directors of National Science Fund at University Club, New York City, May 21, 1941. The newly appointed Directors of the Fund are: R. Adams, W. W. Aldrich, *Vice Chairman,* J. R. Angell, J. F. Bell, A. F. Blakeslee, I. Bowman, A. H. Compton, J. B. Conant, E. G. Conklin, J. W. Davis, L. P. Eisenhart, H. L. Ferguson, H. S. Gasser, W. S. Gifford, C. J. H. Hayes, H. Hoover, E. O. Lawrence, F. R. Lillie, R. A. Millikan, A. MacLeish, H. S. Mudd, A. N. Richards, W. J. Robbins, *Chairman,* E. Root, Jr., H. Shapley, T. K. Smith, L. L. Strauss, H. H. Swift, G. H. Whipple. *Ex officio:* The President, National Academy of Sciences, F. B. Jewett; The Treasurer, National Academy of Sciences, J. C. Hunsaker, *treasurer;* The Charman, National Research Council, R. G. Harrison; The President, American Association for the Advancement of Science, I. Langmuir; H. H. Sargeant, *Executive Secretary.*

interested in any intensive drive for money in support of research but rather in the establishment of a fund on such a basis that through the years it would be of service both to philanthropists who wished to make investments in promotion of scientific discoveries and to those capable of carrying on research. Through grants from the Carnegie Corporation it has been possible to secure the services of an executive officer, Mr. H. H. Sargeant, who has made a thorough study of the whole field of endowments in this country and the place that might be filled by a national science fund. It comes out very clearly that since the depression began the financial support of fundamental research has been decreasing, especially in the universities. With the war abroad and the defense program in this country fundamental research has suffered still more. A successful national science fund which could preserve and advance fundamental research would seem especially needed therefore at the present time.

Little need be said about the activities of the committee on organization since our recommendations are incorporated in the constitution of the new National Science Fund. I should like, however, to say a few words regarding what I believe should be the ideals of the National Science Fund.

The original idea of the fund was not a scheme to raise money for a particular group, *i.e.,* the scientists, but rather to offer service that was not adequately cared for. I believe this ideal of service should be at the basis of all the fund's activities. This service can be considered in three main aspects: (1) service to donors; (2) service to scientists; and (3) service to humanity.

(1) *Service to Donors:* In stressing the service which it may render to donors, the fund may become rather a unique organization. Gifts to science, as any other philanthropies for the promotion of human welfare, should be considered as investments. The National Science Fund may become a clearing-house for advice on the probable scientific dividends which may be expected from investments in science. For such advice the National Science Fund has available the members of the National Academy of Sciences and can call upon the membership of the two closely associated organizations, the National Research Council and the American Association for the Advancement of Science each of which is represented *ex officio* on our board of directors. For donors who wish to have this done, the National Science Fund is in position to receive donations and administer funds in support of science. The character especially of the lay members of the fund should assure the financial integrity of such funds and the character especially of the scientific members should assure a scientifically profitable use of such funds. Donations to the National Science Fund should become named funds with some such title as the "John Doe Science Investment" and should be enduring memorials with continuing service. This opportunity should be open to those donors who have only small amounts to give to science as well as to the benefactors of larger means who wish to put their benefactions where their administration will continue to have the best scientific advice humanly procurable.

(2) *Service to Scientists:* While the first service may be to the donor in guiding him in his efforts to promote the welfare of mankind through the advancement of science, the National Science Fund can be of direct service to scientists. Grants committees and endowments for the promotion of science depend too largely upon applications for grants in their allotments in support of science. This is the easiest way. I believe the National Science Fund can be most successful in increasing the yield of scientific dividends from the funds at its disposal if it seeks out the skilled investigator rather than making grants solely to those who apply. Such a scheme would tend toward the more just award of real merit. Men differ greatly in their capacities for research. A great problem in the advancement of science is how to devise a scheme for discovering the exceptional abilities at an early age and giving men with such abilities exceptional opportunities for the expression of their talents. The National Science Fund can act as a clearing-house for exceptional ability among scientists as well as for advice to donors.

(3) *Service to humanity:* The interest of philanthropists is probably not in science as an end in itself but rather in the promotion of human welfare through the advancement of science. Much could be said of the material benefits brought about by science in the way of human comforts, alleviation of suffering and the rise in the standard of living from the applications of scientific discoveries. Modern civilization is truly the product of science. Though it has brought us material comforts, its greatest gift is an unshackling of the human mind from the bondage of ignorance and superstition. It is the increased knowledge of the world in which we live and the spiritual values of science that should be emphasized. Like art, music and literature, science nourishes the spirit. A wholly new world would be born if the ideals of science should become universal. The National Science Fund may help to spread the methods of science more widely and to help society reach judgments on the basis of ascertained fact rather than through emotional appeal and personal profit. There is a service which science has to offer to society and it is in relation to this service

in large measure that the lay members of our board have been chosen. They are in better position to judge regarding the incidence of science upon human welfare than the scientific members of the board, who are perhaps too closely involved in scientific activities.

I have all confidence that in the years to come the National Science Fund will fulfil a needed service both to those of philanthropic intent and to the scientists, and through these two groups to the welfare of mankind.

OBITUARY

CHARLES BRANCH WILSON

October 20, 1861–August 18, 1941

THE unexpected, yet quiet passing of Dr. Charles Branch Wilson, of Westfield, Massachusetts, in the early hours of the eighteenth of August was a profound shock to all of us who knew him personally and a grievous loss to the science of marine biology that we shall probably not see made good in our lifetime, and perhaps not in several lifetimes to come.

In his comprehensive knowledge of the free-swimming marine and parasitic copepods, which comprised his more specialized field of study, Dr. Wilson was without a peer. He was one of the last of that outstanding, more or less contemporary group of the great monographers of the marine copepods which included such famous men as George Stewart Brady, James Dwight Dana, Wilhelm Giesbrecht, George Ossian Sars and Thomas and Andrew Scott (father and son, respectively).

From 1896 to 1932 Dr. Wilson was head of the science department of the State Teachers College at Westfield, where he carried on many of his researches. It is to the everlasting credit of the college and those connected with its administration that he was permitted to continue in his laboratory there from the time of his retirement in 1932 until his death. Without those congenial and studious surroundings of which he was so intimate a part perhaps the three great works of his later, retired years, still in manuscript form, but complete and now awaiting publication at the U. S. National Museum and the Carnegie Institution of Washington, might never have been accomplished.

The first of these manuscripts, and perhaps the most important in Dr. Wilson's own opinion, deals with the copepods of the marine plankton taken on the last cruise of the ill-fated non-magnetic yacht, *Carnegie*. This report, which was submitted for publication several years ago, for the first time in the history of oceanography gives the directly comparable results of simultaneous three-level tows made in all oceans with identical gear, accompanied by full station data, including temperature, salinity, density, phosphates and hydrogen ion concentration. In his painstaking tabulation of the species of copepods in every haul and their abundance at each of the three levels investigated, involving the microscopic inspection of many thousands of individual copepods, Dr. Wilson has made available a biologic record of a group of organisms of highest importance in the economy of the seas such as has never been achieved by any marine expedition.

The second of these manuscripts completes the study of the last remaining unidentified parasitic copepods in the national collections, describing 6 new genera and 15 new species. Through the almost unaided efforts of Dr. Wilson, the National Museum now possesses the most comprehensive collection of parasitic copepods in the world.

The third and last of these manuscripts sets forth the results of his study of the copepods of the plankton and dredged material amassed during the greater part of the useful life of the former U. S. Fisheries Steamer *Albatross*. In time this covers nearly a quarter of a century, from 1887, when the *Albatross* made her memorable passage from the Atlantic to the Pacific by way of the Straits of Magellan, to 1910, which marked the close of the three-year *Albatross* Philippine Expedition. This monumental report makes important additions to the records of distribution of 469 species of copepods, describes 32 new species, and describes the hitherto unknown opposite sex of twenty-eight.

Dr. Wilson was active to the very eve of his death. Scarcely twenty-four hours before his passing I had the great pleasure of visiting him. At that time he went over with me some of the work that he was engaged in at the moment, pointing out some of the high lights in these manuscripts and showing me his very complete notes and records of the known species of copepods and the incomparable library of copepod literature that he had built up in the course of a busy lifetime.

Just five days later it became my sad duty to represent the Smithsonian Institution at his funeral. Had I not gone to Westfield for that ceremony I might never have learned how universally well known and beloved Dr. Wilson was by all the townspeople and by all those who ever attended his classes at the college, how varied his interests, how full his life and how much he furthered, and I may say fathered, the educational and social life of the community in which he spent the greater part of his life. His service as a member of the school committee was the longest in the town's annals. He was a devoted churchman,