

this unit will be housed in the Rothamsted Experimental Station. Dr. Quastel and his staff will, in the first instance, be engaged mainly in the study of the influence on soil fertility of enzyme systems derived from soil bacteria, or from other microorganisms.

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC TRENDS OF THE INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

In a survey of "Science in Industry" in 1941, Dr. Maurice Holland announces that recently the Industrial Research Institute (affiliated with the National Research Council) representing more than forty companies in varied fields of industry, known as leaders in technology in their fields, have appointed a committee on "Economic, Political, and Social Trends Affecting Research Policies" to study the deep and significant national trends in these three categories as they are now affecting and may affect in the future research personnel, organization and appropriations.

The primary purpose of the committee is to devise ways and means to preserve research organizations intact after the war. It is looking toward the formulation of a plan which can be sponsored and backed by the only organized industrial company membership group in the United States for some form or method of accumulating a surplus or sinking fund for research in lean times, or some form of economic security such as irrevocable trust funds for research workers, or some form of group insurance especially designed to fit the needs of creative workers in industry.

The report points out that "with the appointment of Dr. Vannevar Bush as director of the Office of Scientific Research and Development, the entire science resources of the nation, including those of the armed services, are now under the direction of one man. For the first time in the nation's scientific history the resources of government, industry and university are integrated and coordinated for the primary purpose of national defense.

"Substitution of industrial materials come second on the list as a significant trend in the defense-dominated scene—with companies crossing industry boundaries. The search for substitute material in the case of at least one large automobile manufacturer has definitely indicated that the substitute material is functionally better adapted to the purpose, is cheaper and more decorative, with the result that they will probably not go back to the original material.

"The publication of 'Industrial Research. II. A National Resource' by the National Resources Board—a survey made by the National Research Council for that body—has had a marked effect in high places in industry and industrial-financial groups in stimulating interest in technical research as one form of 'in-

dustrial insurance.' This is particularly true in the management and executive strata of industry and financial organizations."

THE COOPERATIVE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE TEACHING

UNDER the sponsorship of five scientific societies representing biology, chemistry, mathematics, physics and research in science teaching a committee has been formed to work on educational problems of vital interest to all science teachers which no single organization can solve working alone. The committee is known as the Cooperative Committee on Science Teaching.

Two meetings have been held, one in April and one in November, 1941. Work is now in progress on four problems:

1. Licensing or certification of secondary-school science teachers. The committee hopes to work out a solution that will be practicable and that will be adopted by certification authorities.
2. The college training of prospective science teachers. It is desirable to prepare teachers for teaching certain combinations of subjects rather than to prepare intensively in one subject.
3. Exploratory studies of the secondary-school science curriculum. The committee hopes to stimulate a number of colleges and universities to organize workshops and conferences for bringing together secondary-school teachers to work on their educational problems.
4. Problems of state or local agencies needing the services of educational consultants on questions pertaining to science teaching. The committee offers its services as a consultant to state or local agencies working on problems pertaining to science teaching.

The committee consists of the following members:

- Representing the American Association of Physics Teachers: K. Lark-Horovitz, Purdue University; Glen W. Warner, Wilson Junior College, Chicago.
- Representing the American Chemical Society: B. S. Hopkins, University of Illinois; Martin V. McGill, Lorain High School, Lorain, Ohio.
- Representing the Mathematical Association of America: A. A. Bennett, Brown University; Raleigh Schorling, University of Michigan.
- Representing the National Association for Research in Science Teaching: G. P. Cahoon, the Ohio State University; Robert J. Havighurst, University of Chicago.
- Representing the Union of Biological Societies: Oscar Riddle, Carnegie Station for Experimental Evolution.

Robert J. Havighurst is chairman of the committee and Glen W. Warner is secretary.

THE AMERICAN FERN SOCIETY

DR. DOUGLAS HOUGHTON CAMPBELL, of Stanford University, has recently (December, 1941) been elected to honorary membership in the American Fern