

effort, and would retard rather than expedite effective service by its students. This decision was arrived at after wide discussion with Army, Navy and industrial officers who are thoroughly aware of the urgent need for well-trained engineers and scientists.

In discussing this decision President Karl T. Compton pointed out that the principal objection to the "speed-up" plan which contemplates continuous concentrated college study, summer and winter after secondary school graduation, is that the additional yield would consist at the most of only about twelve thousand engineering graduates in the entire country, no difference for how many years the "speed-up" program is continued, and this gain would be offset by their inferior training and by necessary curtailment of the special emergency training courses through which the engineering colleges are now turning out technical specialists in much larger numbers than they are graduating regular students.

The need for well-trained engineers and scientists is recognized by the Selective Service Administration, which recommends that students in these fields, who give evidence of professional promise, be permitted to complete their academic programs. Similarly Britain has been forced, through the technical requirements of the war, to place scientists and engineers in special categories—even to the extent of forbidding their engagement in the war effort outside the field of their professional competence.

Though not favoring the extreme "speed-up" plan, the faculty of the institute voted to accelerate the program for this year's senior class to permit graduation on April 27, and has authorized substitution of special study and training in subjects important for the war effort in place of certain professional and non-professional requirements of the normal curriculum.

THE FINLAY INSTITUTE OF THE AMERICAS

ACCORDING to the *Journal* of the American Medical Association, at a meeting on January 6 at the Medical School of the University of Havana, it was decided to establish "The Finlay Institute of the Americas to encourage research and education in the field of tropical disease and to provide for an increased interchange of medical students and teachers among scientific medical institutions in all the American nations." Officers were elected as follows: Basil O'Connor, president of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, president of the executive council; Dr. James E. Paullin, president-elect of the American College of Surgeons, chairman of the Scientific Advisory Committee for the United States. Members of the executive council include: Dr. Thomas Mackie, president of the American Society of Tropical Disease; Dr. Morris Fishbein, editor of the *Journal* of the American Medical Association; Dr. Edgar Mayer,

associate professor of medicine at Cornell University and the University of Havana; Dr. Enrique Saladrigas, director of the Finlay Institute of the University of Havana; Dr. Rafael Menocal, professor of surgery at the University of Havana, and Dr. Felix Hurtado, assistant minister of public health of Cuba. During the course of the negotiations for the establishment of the institute Mr. O'Connor presented to President Batista of Cuba and to the minister of public health, Dr. Marruz, messages from President Roosevelt and Vice-President Henry Wallace, indicating their approval of the project to foster more intense cooperation between scientific institutions of the Latin American countries. Donald Nelson, who accompanied the party to Cuba, also conferred with President Batista.

The *Journal* reports that during the course of the negotiations, the University of Havana and the medical school of the university provided receptions by their faculties, and addresses were made by the American visitors and also by leading Cuban officials. Representatives of the Cuban Federation of Medicine also presented to the American delegation an offer of complete cooperation in the campaign for medical service in the war. The order of Carlos Finlay was conferred on the American visitors by President Batista.

A constitution and by-laws are being prepared for the conduct of the institute. Executive offices will be established both in Havana and in New York. The Cuban Government has agreed to provide \$20,000 annually for maintenance of the organization. Substantial contributions were made by several American industrialists and philanthropists.

THE GENETICS SOCIETY OF AMERICA

THE Genetics Society of America, at its annual business meeting held in Dallas, Texas, on December 30, announced the election of Professor E. W. Lindstrom as president for 1942 and Professor Marcus M. Rhoades as vice-president.

The members assembled at this meeting also adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS, It is recognized that the growing burden of national defense makes it desirable and necessary for the Federal Government to practice utmost economy with regard to all non-essential expenditures; and

WHEREAS, The continuity of fundamental research, which now has been destroyed by war in almost all parts of the world, is probably the most important investment that can at present be made for the benefit of the post-war period; and

WHEREAS, It is to be hoped that the strength of the American form of government will be demonstrated by preserving the continuity of research work in this country;

Therefore, Be it resolved by the Genetics Society of