

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

America to urge upon Congress and upon the Federal Government the importance of safeguarding the continued prosecution of fundamental research by those institutions which are now supported by federal funds; and

Be it resolved, further, that the secretary of the society be instructed to transmit this resolution to the Secretary of Agriculture, to the Secretary of the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities, and to such other persons as may seem advisable.

THE WESTERN SOCIETY OF NATURALISTS

THE fourteenth annual winter meeting of the Western Society of Naturalists was held at Stanford University on December 29, 30 and 31. The sessions were attended by between seventy-five and a hundred members and guests. Three symposia were presented, as follows: "Determination, Differentiation, and Regulation in Animal Morphogenesis," *chairman*, Professor R. M. Eakin, University of California at Berkeley; "Some Western Highways of Learning," *chairman*, Dr. D. L. Fox, Scripps Institution of Oceanography of the University of California, La Jolla; "The Genetic Basis of Evolution," *chairman*, Professor H. L. Mason, University of California at Berkeley. Fifteen voluntary papers were presented.

On the evening of the first day at an informal reception and smoker, Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, president of Stanford University, gave a short address of welcome to members. President Wilbur's message was followed by a short skit by Professor Francis B. Sumner entitled "The Philosophical Basis of Pediatrics." Professor Arthur W. Meyer then presented some little-known chapters in the development of embryology at the time of von Baer, under the title, "A Notable Trilogy."

After the annual dinner on the following evening, the secretary read a short response in verse to Professor Sumner's notable address of the previous evening. Professor Gordon H. Ball, retiring president of the society, then delivered the address of the evening entitled "Parasitism and Evolution."

At the business meeting, the members voted to seek means of utilizing some of the funds in the treasury of the society for the purchase of U. S. Defense Bonds.

Officers elected for the year 1942 are as follows:

President: C. H. Danforth (Anatomy), Stanford University.

Vice-president: I. L. Wiggins (Botany), Stanford University.

Members-at-large: R. M. Eakin (Zoology), University of California at Berkeley; Carl Epling (Botany), University of California at Los Angeles.

THE PERIOD OF INTERNSHIPS IN NEW YORK CITY

DR. WILLARD C. RAPPLEYE, commissioner of hos-

pitals of New York City, announces that in view of the urgent needs of the Army and Navy, the municipal hospitals of New York will modify their internships to a one-year period of training, in order to assist in the recruitment of medical officers for the armed services. The general plan contemplates that the basic internship shall be one year. Those who complete that service and are not eligible for a commission, because of physical defect or other reasons, may remain as residents either in the general services or on a special service. He stated that a certain number of residents will probably be permitted to continue their advanced training in special fields of medicine in order to insure a sufficient supply of specialists for the armed services and for civilian needs in the future.

The Department of Hospitals and its Advisory Council, comprising representatives of the medical boards of all the municipal institutions, are advising that all interns and residents eligible for military duty be urged to apply for a commission in the Medical Corps of the Army or the Naval Medical Corps Reserve. Under the existing rules of the Selective Service system, the local boards ordinarily will not defer interns beyond twelve months of hospital training. Residents and interns who do not apply for commissions will automatically come under the provisions of the Selective Service system and their cases will be disposed of in the usual manner by local boards.

Under the new program of the Procurement and Assignment Service, which is under the office of the Defense Health and Welfare Services in Washington, advisory committees to this Procurement and Assignment Service will be set up in each corps area of the United States. The function of these advisory committees is to assist in the recruitment of the medical personnel of the various Government services, and also to select these residents and others for advanced training in special fields or to help protect essential hospital services in the local communities. On these advisory committees to the corps area services are representatives of the hospitals, medical schools, the medical profession, dentists and veterinarians.

The department is asking that staff members of municipal hospitals be prepared to give more time and attention to their hospital work in order to insure adequate and proper care of the patients and to offset the growing shortage of interns and residents. It is expected that attending staff members who have recently been retired because of age, but who are still available for active duty, may be called upon to assist in this program.

AWARD OF THE COPLEY MEDAL OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY

THE Copley Medal of the Royal Society was