

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