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 hospitals 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

awarded to Sir Thomas Lewis at the anniversary meeting of the society held on December 1. In presenting the medal Sir Henry Dale said:

Lewis's life work, still in vigorous progress but for interruption by war duties and war conditions, has been the application of precise and controlled methods of experimental research to problems of clinical medicine. This has enabled him to achieve a detailed analysis of abnormalities of function produced by disease, injury or hereditary defect; and so far his attention has been centered upon the circulation of the blood and its disorders. Being attracted through the work of the late Sir James Mackenzie to the study of abnormal rhythms of the human heart-beat, Lewis recognized, about 1908, the great opportunity for a closer investigation of them offered by the then recent introduction of the string galvanometer by Einthoven. With its aid Lewis had soon made a number of clinical and laboratory studies, such as those in which he finally identified auricular fibrillation as the cause of a particular kind of complete irregularity. He was thus led to undertake, and to extend, with a succession of collaborators from many countries, the remarkable series of investigations, carried through in logical sequence between 1910 and 1923, in which he passed from the laboratory to the clinic and back again as the occasion demanded. It is fitting that special mention should here be made of the series of experimental studies published in our own *Philosophical Transactions* from 1914 to 1916, and presented in brilliant summary by Lewis in his Croonian Lecture to the society in 1917. In these were traced, with an astonishing precision of measurement and timing, the point of origin and exact course of the rhythmical waves of excitation and contraction in the normally beating heart of the dog, and, finally, for comparison, in the hearts of other classes of vertebrate animals. Considered by itself, this work ranks as one of the outstanding achievements of experimental physiology in our times, and it has given to physiology a large part of its present detailed knowledge of the nature of the heart-beat. For Lewis, however, its greater importance lay in giving to clinical medicine the background for an accurate picture of disturbances of the normal mechanism, therewith a new security of diagnosis and prognosis in dealing with disordered actions of the heart, and ultimately a rational basis for their treatment. A new phase of cardiological thought and practice spread rapidly from Lewis's clinic round the world.

Meanwhile he had begun in 1917, and was to maintain with a series of collaborators for more than another decade, a separate series of investigations, dealing by direct experiment with the blood vessels of the human skin. Thus were elucidated the means by which the resistance of these vessels to the flow of blood is maintained and varied, including their complex reactions to chemical substances akin to histamine, which he proved to be released from the cells of the epidermis by injurious or irritant stimuli. These methods of investigation were later developed and extended to vascular disorders of the limbs, and the experiments of still more recent series have dealt with pain and functional defects in muscles and nerves, due to interruption of the blood supply. Apart from the separate accounts of items and stages of these lines of research, as completed, in papers which have issued from his department in steady sequence, Lewis has assembled and discussed the results, in their appropriate connections, in a succession of comprehensive monographs. He has been the inspiring leader of a group of younger workers in clinical research as an experimental science, has founded a society for such studies and has devoted to their use a journal which he had founded with a more limited scope.

The work of Thomas Lewis, which we honor to-day with the highest recognition in the gift of the Royal Society, is renewing and carrying forward, with a special directness, the great tradition which William Harvey created, before this society was founded.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

EUGENE GIFFORD GRACE, president of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation, has been awarded the Bessemer Gold Medal for 1942 by the British Iron and Steel Institute.

MAJOR HARRY G. ARMSTRONG, in charge of research at the U. S. Army School of Aviation Medicine at Randolph Field, Texas, has been given the John Jeffries award of the Institute of the Aeronautical Sciences in recognition of his researches in the physiological and psychological effects of flying at high altitude and in high-speed maneuvers.

IT is reported in *Nature* that the Symons Gold Medal for 1942 of the Royal Meteorological Society has been awarded to Dr. J. S. Owens, whose death occurred on December 6. This medal is awarded biennially for distinguished work in connection with meteorological science. The presentation was made at the annual general meeting of the society on January 21.

DR. JULIAN C. MILLER, professor and head of the department of horticulture at the Louisiana State University, has been elected president of the American Horticultural Society.

ARTHUR F. VAN DYCK, manager of the industry service section of the RCA Laboratories, was inducted at the recent New York meeting on January 12 as president of the Institute of Radio Engineers. He succeeds Dr. Frederick Emmons Terman, professor of electrical engineering and head of the department at Stanford University.

ERNEST BATEMAN BLACK, consulting engineer of Kansas City, has been elected president of the Amer-