

eral Hospital Fund, similar to that possessed by the hospital in the last war. With these funds assistance has already been given in many ways to officers and to the nurses. The Boston Metropolitan Chapter of the American Red Cross donated sleeping bags to all nurses going with the unit.

At 5:00 P.M. on January 9, members of the former Base Hospital No. 5 who had formed themselves into Harvard Base "5" Club presented colors to their successor unit, the new Fifth General Hospital, which has now gone on active duty. The colors were presented by Dr. Lewis M. Hurxthal, of the former unit, to Lt. Col. Theodore L. Badger, chief of the Medical Service of the new unit. The ceremony was attended by the following members of Base Hospital No. 5 of 1917-1919 and many friends: Walter J. Irving, William F. Whitley, Montgomery C. Reed, Kenneth J. Crowell, Joseph J. Wilson, Dr. Lewis M. Hurxthal, Harold J. Davidson and Dr. Elliott C. Cutler.

Dr. Hurxthal's speech of presentation follows: "Twenty-five years ago, United States Army Base Hospital No. 5 of World War I was organized. The unit embarked in May, 1917, and took over active hospital work in June, 1917, in France. Under the direction of Colonel Robert U. Patterson and Colonel Harvey Cushing, Base Hospital No. 5 performed an outstanding service to the wounded and sick in France and contributed much to military medicine. Two of the outstanding contributions were in the field of brain surgery and in the introduction of blood-grouping to the British Army. Many lives were saved because of these contributions.

"The members of former Base Hospital No. 5, officers, nurses, and enlisted men, are proud of their war record of two years service in France. They are also proud that a new unit will carry on under the same name, and are confident that it will return with the same enviable record as its predecessor.

"Harvard Base '5' Club is an organization founded in 1929 by former members of the United States Base Hospital No. 5. In behalf of all the members of the unit, Harvard Base '5' Club wishes to contribute a connecting link between the old and the new. The two groups have many things in common: both were organized in Boston; both were composed of volunteers; and both were called to duty within a few weeks after the declaration of war. We have, therefore, chosen as a bond of continuity the American Flag. We hope this particular flag will serve as the official colors of the new organization as well as an inspiration for a meritorious performance of duty. We wish you success and bon voyage."

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The orders for the unit activated forty-seven officers, leaving eleven behind whose papers had not yet been completed to wait for subsequent orders to join the

unit. These orders came shortly, and one week later, on January 17, the second group left Boston to join the main body of the unit.

Forty-four nurses left with the unit representing the following hospitals: Arlington Training School, Beth Israel Hospital, Children's Hospital, Homeopathic Hospital of Rhode Island, Massachusetts General Hospital, McLean Hospital, New England Baptist Hospital, New England Deaconess Hospital, Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Robert Breck Brigham Hospital and Sturdy Memorial Hospital.

At the last minute the acting director was refused permission by the Surgeon General to leave with the unit because of the urgent request of the university that his duties were essential for the moment here.

We who remain behind must look with pride and gratitude on these men and women who have now accepted the call to serve their country. We know of their great abilities and feel sure that they will fulfill adequately the high traditions of their predecessors and will play a major role in the United States Army Medical Corps from now until they return to us. To their families we extend our congratulations and our devotion. The university will long cherish this effort on the part of its graduates.

ELLIOTT C. CUTLER, M.D.

### THE NEW NATIONAL ASTROPHYSICAL OBSERVATORY OF MEXICO

MANY astronomers, physicists and geologists, from both North and South America, will participate in the Inter-American Scientific Conference in Mexico, which meets from February 15 to 26, on the occasion of the dedication of the new National Astrophysical Observatory.

President Manuel Avila Camacho, of Mexico, in his invitation said: "The purpose of the Mexican Government is to contribute to the maintenance, in the American continent, of the progress of science and culture, and thus counteract as much as possible the paralyzation of scientific and cultural activities in the countries devastated by war."

On the provisional program for the conference are the names of many of the leading astronomers of the United States, including Dr. Walter S. Adams, director of Mt. Wilson Observatory; Dr. Henry Norris Russell, director of Princeton Observatory; Dr. Harlow Shapley, director of the Harvard College Observatory; Dr. V. M. Slipher, director of the Lowell Observatory; Dr. Joel Stebbins, president of the American Astronomical Society, and Dr. Otto Struve, director of the Yerkes and McDonald Observatories.

Argentina will be represented at the conference by the director of the National Observatory at Cordoba, Dr. Enrique Gaviola, who will preside at one of the

sessions, while from Canada will come Dr. Joseph A. Pearce, director of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory, Victoria, British Columbia. Leading Mexicans participating in the conference are: Professor Luis Enrique Erro, director, and Dr. Carlos Graef, assistant director, of the new National Observatory; Dr. Monges-Lopez, dean of the faculty of sciences of the National University of Mexico; Professor Manuel S. Vallarta, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Dr. Joaquín Gallo, director of the National Observatory at Tacubaya, and Dr. Alfredo Banos, Jr., head of the department of physics of the National University.

Nearly the entire field of modern astronomy and geophysics will be covered by the papers to be presented at the various conference sessions, the subjects of which are: The interstellar medium, the classification of stellar spectra, problems of the galaxy, variable stars, time and change, cosmic radiation and geophysical problems. In addition, there will be special evening lectures on related topics, as follows:

The Surfaces of the Major Planets: Dr. Slipher.

The Cosmogonical Significance of Stellar Rotation: Dr. Struve.

The Present State of the Theory of Stellar Evolution: Dr. Russell.

Time and Change in the Metagalaxy: Dr. Shapley.

Most of the sessions and lectures will be held at Puebla, including the dedicatory exercises on the morning of February 17. Dedicatory addresses will be given by President Camacho and the Governor of Puebla. For special academic ceremonies an excursion will be made to Morelia on February 23 and 24, with the final sessions being held in Mexico City.

The new National Astrophysical Observatory is situated on land provided by the government of the State of Puebla, near a small town of Aztec origin called Tonanzintla, about eighty miles east of Mexico City. Under the direction of Sr. Erro, observations of the southern Milky Way will be made with a 24-30-inch Schmidt camera, the most powerful telescope in the tropics. This instrument is similar to the Jewett telescope at Harvard Observatory, and was mounted in the Harvard shops. Its location in latitude  $19^{\circ}$  is strategic for studies of the southern parts of the sky, inaccessible to instruments farther north. The climate is excellent for observations, especially during the winter, and the program of the observatory also calls for variable-star studies and observations of meteors and the sun.

#### THE SUMMER SESSION OF NEW YORK MEDICAL SCHOOLS

In response to the present need for the training of a large number of men in medicine to take the places

of those called into service, an accelerated program for the course has been announced by the five medical colleges in New York City.

At the Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons, the Cornell University Medical College, the Long Island College of Medicine, the New York Medical College and the New York University College of Medicine, plans have been formulated to conduct regular work for all classes during the coming summer and to open the next regular session early in July. The new schedules adopted in these institutions will make it possible for the student to cover the full medical course within the space of thirty-six months instead of, as at present, distributed over forty-eight months.

Under the accelerated plan as announced, however, there is to be no reduction in the amount of time the student devotes to his medical training and, likewise, there will be no relaxation in the standards of teaching in the medical course. Instead of the summer vacation of approximately three months, the students under the new plan carry on regular work in the classrooms, laboratories and hospital wards, thereby shortening the time of the medical course by one year. Although the course is practically continuous, throughout the year, short vacations will be given between each of the four terms.

The five New York City medical colleges would normally graduate under the present plan approximately 1,350 physicians in a three-year period. Under the accelerated schedule it would be possible, if continued, for these schools to graduate 1,800 in the same period, or approximately 450 additional doctors to enter internships in the hospitals. Since the Army and Navy are calling many young physicians from the hospital staffs, this increase in the number of medical graduates may mean much in the care of the sick and in supplying the needs of the military services.

#### AWARDS FOR ACHIEVEMENT IN AERONAUTICS

THE tenth annual meeting of the Institute of Aeronautical Sciences was held in New York City during the week of January 26. *The New York Times* reports that the annual dinner presentation was made of six awards for achievements in aeronautics.

Juan Terry Trippe, president of Pan American Airways, received the Daniel Guggenheim Medal, awarded annually since 1926, for his achievement in the development and operation of oceanic air transport. The presentation was made by Brigadier General Donald H. Connolly, national director of civil aviation of the Army Air Force.

The Sylvanus Albert Reed Award went to Theodor von Kármán, director since 1930 of the Daniel Guggenheim Graduate School of Aeronautics at the California Institute of Technology, for "the development of a satisfac-