

value of services and facilities contributed by the institute—\$2,200.

A study of the role of alcohol in liver cirrhosis—by the College of Medicine of New York University, with two grants, \$2,100 and \$1,500, from The Dazian Foundation for Medical Research. Minimum value of services and facilities contributed by the university—\$7,200.

A study of reactions resulting from the ingestion of alcohol, for the ultimate purpose of discovering how a craving for alcohol is established—by the Phipps Psychiatric Clinic of Johns Hopkins University, with a grant of \$1,800 from the council's research fund. Minimum value of services and facilities provided by the clinic—\$3,750.

What happens to patients discharged as "cured" from institutions for alcoholics—by Columbia University, with a grant of \$7,500 (for the first year) from the council's research fund.

The effects of maternal alcohol ingestions on the fetal cortex—by the University of Virginia Medical School, with a grant of \$1,315 from the council's research fund. Minimum value of services and facilities provided by the Medical School—\$500.

An informal survey of a town of 4,000 people to reveal the extent of alcoholism and the adequacy of measures now in use for its treatment—by E. M. Jellinek of the Laboratory of Applied Physiology of Yale University. This study is being carried on to provide for the experimental use of techniques being considered for a more extensive study.

GRANTS-IN-AID OF THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

THE Committee on Scientific Research of the American Medical Association has made grants-in-aid as follows:

- T. T. Chen, University of California, illustrations of malarial parasites.
- W. W. Cahill, Wayne University, Detroit, self-selection of food in relation to tumor growth.
- Timothy Leary, Boston, Massachusetts, cost of extra illustrations in article on atherosclerosis.
- Reginald Fitz, Boston, Massachusetts, the clinical beginning of hyperthyroidism.
- I. M. Tarlov, Jewish Hospital, Brooklyn, plasma clot as nerve suture.
- F. J. Braceland, Loyola University School of Medicine, Chicago, carbohydrate disturbances in schizophrenia.
- A. M. Lassek, Medical College of the State of South Carolina, retrograde degeneration in pyramidal tract.
- Charles W. Turner, University of Missouri, mechanism of lactation.
- Robert P. Ball, Columbia University, roentgen pelvimetry.
- A. McGhee Harvey, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Nashville, secretion of thymus gland.
- John R. Paine, University of Minnesota, oxygen poisoning.
- Hans Popper, Cook County Graduate School of Medicine, Chicago, vitamin A in tissue.

Wesley W. Spink, University of Minnesota, nutrition and immunology of staphylococci.

Oliver P. Jones, University of Buffalo, effect of anti-anemic principle on embryonic blood cells.

Enid Rodaniche, University of Chicago, chemotherapeutic agents on intestinal flora in infectious conditions.

Ben Vidgoff, University of Oregon, morphology of endocrine and secondary sex organs in male white rat.

Daniel J. Glomset, Des Moines, Iowa, cardiac conduction.

L. R. Cerecedo, Fordham University, New York, vitamin-B deficiency in rats and mice.

Catharine Macfarlane, Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, periodic pelvic and breast examination.

Peter P. H. de Bruyn, University of Chicago, osteogenic substances in laying birds.

THE FIRST WESTERN MEETING OF BIOMETRICIANS

ON the initiative of Dr. C. I. Bliss, chairman of the Committee of the Biometric Section of the American Statistical Association, a committee of biologists and statisticians was appointed recently to organize a meeting of western biometricians. Such a meeting was held on the Berkeley campus of the University of California on December 29 and 31, 1941. The theme of the meeting was: "The Potential and Actual Contributions of Statistics to the Solution of Biological Problems." Sessions were held concurrently with those of the two national entomological societies whose members have shown considerable interest in applications of mathematical statistics. A joint session was held with these two groups in San Francisco on the afternoon of December 30.

The committee that arranged this first western meeting of biometricians interpreted the word biometry in a very broad sense and encouraged the attendance of biologists and mathematicians from as many fields as possible. Six separate sessions were held, each devoted to a general field. These included: (1) botany—population studies, plant breeding and genetics; (2) general biology—bacteriology, irradiation by x-rays and by neutrons; (3) mathematics—statistical techniques; (4) entomology—population studies and sampling problems; (5) forestry—growth, genetics and sampling problems.

Twenty-four papers were presented in all and many of them created lively discussions. The meeting was well attended by both biologists and mathematicians, the former predominating. This testified to the widespread interest of biologists in the application of statistical methods in their research. The growing usefulness of statistics in biology was clearly evident in the tone of the meeting. It was felt that similar western meetings called at regular intervals, perhaps conjointly with the meetings of the Pacific Coast Section

of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, would be useful both to the biologists and to biologically-minded mathematicians and physicists.

At a business meeting called during the second day it was resolved to set up a permanent organization, to be known as the Western Society of Biometricians, which may become affiliated with the American Association for the Advancement of Science, with the American Statistical Association and perhaps with other organizations. A committee was elected to draw up the form of the permanent society. The members of the committee were selected to represent all fields of biology and mathematics. The following officers have been elected:

Chairman: J. Neyman (Mathematical Statistics); *Vice-chairmen:* E. B. Babcock (Genetics); R. T. Birge (Physics); E. C. Tolman (Psychology), all of the University of California, Berkeley; *Secretaries:* E. R. Dempster (Genetical Effects of Irradiation), also of the University of California at Berkeley, and A. Hormay (Range Manage-

ment), California Range and Forest Experiment Station at Berkeley.

The organization of a second meeting, where the form of the new society could be discussed and voted upon, was left to this committee. In addition, the committee was directed to consider the possibilities of establishing a journal for the publishing of biological papers involving the application of mathematics to biological problems. Such a journal is needed in order to fill the gap between mathematical publications and the journals of biology. No such journal has been published in this country up to the present time. The idea of the new journal originated with the Committee of the Biometric Section of the American Statistical Association, and was heartily approved by those in attendance at the first western meeting in Berkeley. Any one interested in the new society is invited to communicate with members of the organizing committee.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE annual general meeting of the American Philosophical Society will be held in Philadelphia on April 23, 24 and 25. The sessions on Thursday, April 23, will be devoted to a symposium on recent advances in American archeology in which fifteen leaders in that field will take part. The Franklin Medal Lecture will be given on that evening by Dr. Sylvanus G. Morley on the work of the Carnegie Institution in Central America and Mexico. Dr. James Rowland Angell will deliver the Penrose Memorial Lecture on Friday evening, April 24, on the general subject of education in a world at war.

A SPECIAL cable from London to *The New York Times*, dated February 21, reports that the Faraday Medal of the Council of the British Institution of Electrical Engineers has been awarded to Dr. Peter Kapitza in recognition of his contributions to science in the generation and utilization of intense magnetic fields. Dr. Kapitza is director of the Institute of Physical Problems at the Moscow Academy of Sciences. Formerly he was assistant director of magnetic research at the University of Cambridge.

PRESENTATION of the gold medal of the Radiological Society of North America was made at the recent San Francisco meeting to Edith H. Quimby, "in recognition of her work on dosage and filtration." Since 1932 Mrs. Quimby has been physicist at the Memorial Hospital for the Treatment of Cancer and Allied Diseases, New York.

A. B. HOEN, president of the firm of A. Hoen and Company, lithographers, Baltimore, has been elected

an honorary member of the American Geographical Society of New York. The honor was conferred on Mr. Hoen in recognition of the contributions that his firm and he personally have made to the development of the science and art of fine map reproduction in the United States.

HAROLD S. OSBORNE, plant engineer in the operation and engineering department of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, New York, has been nominated for the presidency of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers.

FRANCIS W. PENNELL, curator of plants of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, has been elected president of the American Society of Plant Taxonomists.

DR. FRANCIS S. SMYTH, professor of pediatrics at the Medical School of the University of California, has been appointed dean. The post has been vacant since the retirement in December, 1939, of Dr. Langley Porter.

PROFESSOR DAVID L. ARM, of the Iowa State College, has been appointed head of the department of mechanical engineering. He succeeds Mark P. Clegorn, who will continue his work as professor.

G. M. RIDENOUR, formerly associate professor of sanitary engineering at Pennsylvania State College, has been appointed associate resident lecturer on public health engineering at the School of Public Health of the University of Michigan.

THE staff of the department of psychology of the