

arbitrarily exclude from its proposed unit numerous other employees whom it had been unable to interest in its scheme because their inclusion in any voting unit undoubtedly would mean the loss of an election.

The board disposed of the union's contention by ordering two elections and designating two units for the purpose of the elections. The one unit is composed of all the skilled and unskilled employees in the plant. The other unit is composed of all the professional workers in the plant. Department heads and supervisory employees were excluded from the vote. In thus resolving the issue as it did the board afforded the professional employees an opportunity to express themselves in a group composed entirely of professional employees on the question of union representation for collective bargaining.

### THE REMOVAL OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE FROM WASHINGTON

By order of the Federal Budget Director issued on December 19, the National Park Service and two other bureaus of the Department of the Interior were directed to move their Washington offices to Chicago. The transfer of these and other federal agencies to make room for rapidly increasing defense workers has been opposed on various grounds.

Many of the agencies themselves have reported to the Congress that it would seriously disrupt their operations to move their main offices to distant locations. Appearing by request before a joint session of the Senate and House District Committees on January 9, Director Newton B. Drury testified that the National Park Service is already highly decentralized, with 5,263 employees in the field and (besides 533 with National Capital Parks) only 304 in Washington. He said that the service has many close relationships with other federal bureaus at the seat of government which are necessary for the efficient conduct of its affairs. He pointed out that the service has not only made many direct contributions to the defense program, but has suggested numerous alternatives to the War and Navy Departments for saving distinctive areas from uses that would cause irreparable damage. Fifty per cent. of the Washington office employees have indicated that they can not move to Chicago.

Congressional opponents of further decentralization gave up their fight to hold federal bureaus in Washington on January 14, when the Senate by a vote of 33 to 26 defeated a resolution calling for a report to the Congress on the government's removal plans. President Roosevelt has asserted that the transfer orders will not be revoked, but the Bureau of the Budget has already made some modifications of its original plans. Current studies are being made by the National Park Service to determine the possibility of further decentralizing its activities, so that the complete transfer of its Washington office to Chicago would be unnecessary.

If the National Park Service is moved away from Washington "for the duration," leaving only a small liaison unit to handle contacts with the Congress and other agencies, friends of the National Parks hope that under no circumstances will this move be made permanent, because the public interest would be ill-served by such an eventuality. During the absence of the service it will be more important than ever to have such a disinterested organization as the National Parks Association on the job in Washington, where it can remain alert to the recurring dangers of encroachment on the National Parks and related areas.

### THE MEDICAL ADMINISTRATION CORPS OF THE ARMY

ACCORDING to the *New York Times*, Colonel Leonard G. Roundtree, medical director of the Selective Service Board, in an address in Chicago at the annual meeting of the National Conference on Medical Service reported that "the Surgeon General of the Army has ruled that not only will the Army commission third- and fourth-year medical students as second lieutenants, but also first- and second-year medical students and pre-medical students of acceptable standing. They will be assigned to the Medical Administration Corps of the Army."

He explained that the students so commissioned would be in the Army Reserve and would not be called into active service until they had finished their education.

Dr. Morris Fishbein, editor of the *Journal* of the American Medical Association, said that a similar program has been adopted in the Navy.

As reserve officers the students will be draft-proof. Heretofore, only the third- and fourth-year students and internes were accepted for commissions.

The ruling by Major General James Magee, Surgeon General of the Army, according to the *Times*, was in answer to warnings from members of the medical profession that a shortage of physicians would arise unless some uniform method of providing deferment for medical students was found.

About 12,000 pre-medical students apply for medical school entry each year, according to Dr. Fishbein, and about 6,500 are chosen. Dr. Fishbein said that the Army's ruling would apply only to those chosen and emphasized that at the first sign of a student's inability to handle the work he could be made eligible for the draft. He pointed out that this not only insures the Army and Navy of a plentiful supply of physicians, but will insure that civilian needs will not suffer.

### APPOINTMENTS OF THE OFFICE OF CIVILIAN DEFENSE

THE following appointments in the Office of Civilian Defense have been announced:

*Dr. John S. Coulter*, associate professor of physical therapy, Northwestern University Medical School, has been appointed Regional Medical Officer of the Sixth Civilian Defense Region, with headquarters in Chicago.

*Dr. Dudley A. Reekie*, assistant director of health and chief medical officer of the Tennessee Valley Authority, has been appointed Regional Medical Officer of the First Civilian Defense Region, with headquarters in Boston. He succeeds Dr. Allan M. Butler, Boston, who resigned to become head of the department of pediatrics at the Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston. Dr. Reekie entered on active duty on January 31.

*Dr. Leonard A. Scheele*, passed assistant surgeon, U. S. Public Health Service, Bethesda, Md., was recently assigned to the Washington staff of the Medical Division, Office of Civilian Defense. Dr. Scheele graduated from Wayne University College of Medicine, Detroit, 1933, and was commissioned in the public health service following the completion of his internship. Dr. Scheele was assigned in 1938 to the National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, as consultant on cancer control. There he conducted studies of the epidemiology of cancer, efficacy of cancer therapy, radiation protection and cost of cancer therapy.

*Dr. Harold Marks*, passed assistant surgeon (Reserve), U. S. Public Health Service, recently on the staff of the National Institute of Health, Bethesda, joined the Medical Division staff in January. Before being assigned to the Office of Civilian Defense, he was stationed at the National Institute of Health and was engaged in making surveys of medical care in defense communities.

*William H. Carey, Jr.*, recently associated with the Norman Boosey Manufacturing Company, Detroit, has been appointed Regional Sanitary Engineer for the Sixth and Seventh Civilian Defense Regions, plus Indiana and Kentucky, with headquarters in Chicago, effective February 4. He has been commissioned Sanitary Engineer (Reserve) in the U. S. Public Health Service.

#### APPOINTMENT OF CAPTAIN N. H. HECK

REAR ADMIRAL L. O. COLBERT, director of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, announces that Captain N. H. Heck, formerly chief of the Division of Geo-

magnetism and Seismology of the Survey, has been appointed assistant to the director on scientific and technical matters. Captain Heck is well known in scientific circles as one of the world's leading authorities on earthquakes and the earth's magnetic forces.

Captain Heck entered the survey in 1904. He served at sea for a number of years and at various times commanded the survey ships *Hydrographer*, *Matchless* and *Explorer*. He had a large share in the development of the wire drag, which has been responsible for the discovery and charting, or ultimate elimination, of countless menaces to navigation. He also contributed materially to the early development of the Radio Acoustic Ranging method of hydrographic surveying.

His interest turning to research in magnetism he became, in 1921, chief of the Division of Terrestrial Magnetism. When the study of earthquakes was transferred from the Weather Bureau to the Coast and Geodetic Survey in 1926, his title was changed to chief of the Division of Terrestrial Magnetism and Seismology, in which capacity he served until he assumed his new work.

He is author of numerous books and articles on scientific and technical subjects. Among his works are: "Earthquakes," published in 1936; "Compensation of the Magnetic Compass," 1923; "Velocity of Sound in Sea Water," 1924; and "Earthquake History of the United States," 1928 and 1938. He has been the recipient of several honorary degrees and is a member of a number of scientific and engineering societies. From 1935 to 1938 he was chairman of the American Geophysical Union, and from 1936 to 1939 president of the Seismological Association of the International Geodetic and Geophysical Union. He is a past president of the Philosophical Society of Washington and of the District of Columbia Chapter of Sigma Xi.

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE William H. Nichols Medal of the New York Section of the American Chemical Society was presented to Dr. Duncan A. MacInnes, of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, for "distinguished contributions to electrochemistry" at a dinner of the section in New York City on the evening of February 27. The presentation was made by Professor William C. MacTavish, head of the department of chemistry of New York University and chairman of the jury of award, which cited Dr. MacInnes for "outstanding investigations on electrolytes and the development of techniques which have immeasurably enriched both the theory and practice of modern electrochemistry." In his acceptance speech, Dr. MacInnes discussed "Gal-

vanic Cells as Instruments of Research." Professor Herbert S. Harned, of Yale University, spoke on "The Work of the Medalist," and Professor George Seatchard, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, on "Dr. MacInnes—The Man." Professor Ralph H. Müller, of New York University, chairman of the section, presided.

THE 1941 Lamme Medal of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers has been awarded to Forrest E. Ricketts, vice-president of the Consolidated Gas, Electric Light and Power Company, Baltimore, "for his contribution to the high reliability of power-supply systems, especially in the design of apparatus for selective relaying and circuit reclosure." The medal