

duty of leading the university to war. President Conant, whose clear-voiced challenge was one of the first heard in the United States in the present fight for freedom, now serves part-time in Washington as chairman of the National Defense Research Committee. Dean Landis of the Law School heads the Office of Civilian Defense. Dean Spaulding of the Graduate School of Education holds the rank of Lieutenant Colonel as special consultant to the War Department in Army educational problems. The dean of the Medical School, Dr. Burwell, serves as chairman of a sub-committee on the procurement of medical officers and research workers. Dean Drinker, of the School of Public Health, aids important research in the problems of flying at high altitudes.

Among the teaching members of the faculty, Professor William Y. Elliott of the department of government is director of the Raw Materials Division under William L. Batt, of the War Production Board. Many other professors of the departments of government, history and economics are employed full-time by the War Production Board, the Office of the Coordinator of Information and various important branches of the Government, lending their specialized skill to the intricate problems of war.

Even more might be said of the scientific departments of the university, could the story be told. A wide variety of confidential Government war projects are carried on in the strictest secrecy in the laboratories to the north of the Memorial Hall delta; in the workrooms of the Medical School or Business School. Much of this work is under contract with the Office of Scientific Research and Development.

Others on the faculty who can not contribute to scientific work or active Government research are devoting themselves to programs of public information. Some 1,300 members of the faculty belong to American Defense-Harvard Group, pioneer war organization of the university, many of whose services have become a permanent part of the university's program. In addition to a War Service Information Bureau (headed by Professor A. J. Casner, of the Law School) five other important official groups aid students in their search for information about war work or make available to the public significant background material concerned with the progress of the war. The committees are: Selective Service (headed by John M. Russell, assistant to the president, only last week called to active duty as a Captain in the Army Air Corps), furnishing to students official information about the Selective Service law and aiding them in their formal relations with local boards; Civilian Defense (headed by Donald Scott, '00, director of the Peabody Museum), organizing the defense precautions of the university and planning the security of its resources; Wartime Speakers (headed by Acting Dean Henry W. Holmes, '03, of the School of Education), furnishing men with specialized knowledge for speeches before civic groups; Wartime Public Opinion (headed by Robert Lasch of the *Omaha World Herald* and composed of Nie-man Fellows) assisting the university with reports on wartime public opinion; and Pan-American Relations (headed by Professor Clarence H. Haring, '07, Master of Dunster House) caring for Latin-American students

and arranging suitable programs for Latin-American visitors in the United States and American visitors in Latin America.

The entire faculty has by voluntary action placed itself on a year-round schedule without increase in pay, a step involving actual loss of income to many teachers obliged to surrender valuable summer jobs or consultative work. Their personal sacrifice is one answer to President Conant's pledge of "all resources of Harvard University" to insure a speedy and complete victory.

### THE ACCELERATED PROGRAM OF MEDICAL SCHOOLS

As a war measure, programs have been initiated to increase the supply of physicians for the Army, Navy and civilian population by the adoption of an accelerated program of medical education by the various medical schools of the country. The *Journal* of the American Medical Association reports that in connection with the adoption of such programs, the Council on Medical Education and Hospitals of the American Medical Association, the Association of American Medical Colleges and the Federation of State Medical Boards of the United States in February, 1942, adopted resolutions as follows:

*Council on Medical Education and Hospitals of the American Medical Association.*—The council is of the opinion that the adoption of a program for an accelerated curriculum for approved medical schools during this war period is a decision which should be determined by each medical school.

The decision of a medical school to initiate an accelerated curriculum should be made only after a comprehensive survey of the personnel, facilities and equipment of the school and its ability to give a medical education without deterioration of the quality of the medical instruction and in conformity with the statutes of the various states and the rulings of the state medical boards.

The council stands ready to make necessary inspections whenever in its judgment such inspections are required to maintain the present high standards of medical education.

The council believes that financial assistance for needy medical students during the accelerated program is best provided through scholarships or loans.

*Association of American Medical Colleges.*—The executive council requested approval of the recommendations sent to the deans of member colleges December 18 and December 23, 1941, urging member colleges, which can do so without any lowering of present standards of medical education, to go on an accelerated program of instruction on or about July 1, 1942.

Attention is called to the fact that the executive council recommended that only those medical colleges that can do so without lowering present standards of medical education should adopt the accelerated program. This applies not only to the utilization of the summer as a teaching period but also to the interval at which freshman classes are admitted; that is, whether annually or at approximately nine-month intervals.

The executive council recommends that the accelerated program consist of four full academic sessions of not less than thirty-two weeks each and that graduation shall not follow sooner than thirty-five months after first matriculation as a freshman.

The executive council recommends that as many colleges as can do so start instruction of the next freshman class on or about July 1, 1942, and subsequent freshman classes at approximately nine-month intervals until July 1, 1945.

The executive council recommends that, in admitting students for the accelerated program, eligibility requirements for admission be not lowered from the present minimum standards set by the Association of American Medical Colleges.

The Association of American Medical Colleges requests that the Federation of State Medical Boards recommend to its members that they arrange to make whatever changes are necessary in state licensing laws and/or board regulations to legalize licensure of students graduating under the accelerated program adopted by medical schools to meet the needs of the national emergency.

*Federation of State Medical Boards of the United States.*—WHEREAS, As a war emergency measure several approved medical schools of the United States are contemplating accelerating the courses of medical education so as to comprise four full academic sessions of at least thirty-two weeks each and that at least thirty-six months shall elapse between the beginning of medical instruction and graduation; and

WHEREAS, The medical schools initiating such an accelerated curriculum will be able to maintain the personnel, facilities and equipment necessary to give a medical education without deterioration of the quality of the medical instruction and in conformity with the statutes and licensure regulations of their respective states and territories of the United States and the District of Columbia; and

WHEREAS, The proposed accelerated course of medical education as a war emergency measure is expected not to extend beyond the present period of war emergency; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Federation of State Medical Boards of the United States in annual session assembled in Chicago, February 17, 1942, hereby endorse the proposed accelerated course of medical education and recommend it in principle as a war emergency measure for favorable consideration by the licensing authorities of the several states and territories of the United States and the District of Columbia.

In adopting these resolutions, all three agencies emphasized the importance of the maintenance of high standards of medical education in connection with any program adopted.

#### THE SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE TORREY BOTANICAL CLUB

THE seventy-fifth anniversary celebration of the Torrey Botanical Club will be held from June 22 to 27 at Columbia University, the New York Botanical Garden, the Brooklyn Botanical Garden and the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research, Yonkers. The history of the institutions at which the meeting is held will be given at the opening session of each as follows:

The History of Botany at Columbia University, by Dr. John S. Karling, professor of botany.

The History of the New York Botanical Garden, by Dr. William J. Robbins, director.

The History and Organization of the Boyce Thompson Institute, by Dr. William J. Crocker, director.

The History of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, by Dr. C. Stuart Gager, director.

During the week symposia are planned as follows:

*June 22 Symposium on Morphology:* Speakers: Dr. F. T. Lewis, Dr. C. E. Allen, Dr. R. H. Wetmore and Dr. E. W. Sinnott.

*June 23 Symposium on Taxonomy:* Speakers: Dr. H. A. Gleason, Dr. H. K. Swenson, Dr. E. D. Merrill and Dr. F. D. Kern.

*June 24 Symposium on Growth:* Speakers: Dr. L. O. Kunkel, Princeton, N. J., Dr. P. W. Zimmerman and Dr. Oscar Riddle.

*June 25 Symposium on Genetics:* Speakers: Dr. George H. Shull, Dr. Stanley Cain, Dr. George M. Reed and Dr. A. F. Blakeslee.

Dr. Robbins will give a public lecture at the American Museum of Natural History on the afternoon of June 24. It will be entitled "Plants Need Vitamins Too."

The anniversary banquet will be held on the evening of June 22. There will be luncheons, inspection tours of the gardens and laboratories and a two-day field trip under the direction of Dr. John H. Small, of the New Jersey College for Women.

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

ACCORDING to a United Press dispatch, the Russian Academy of Sciences has elected to honorary membership three Americans and two Englishmen, the first foreigners to be so honored since the Russian revolution. The Americans are Dr. Walter Bradford Cannon, George Higginson professor of physiology at Harvard University; Dr. Gilbert Newton Lewis, professor of chemistry, and Dr. Ernest Orlando Lawrence,

professor of physics, both of the University of California. The Englishmen are Sir Henry Hallett Dale, president of the Royal Society and director of the National Institute for Medical Research, and Dr. John B. S. Haldane, professor of biometry, University College, London.

At its fifty-seventh annual meeting in Atlantic City,