

which will be presented in 1942 and 1943 "for outstanding contributions to our knowledge of factors affecting the growth of animal cells with particular reference to human cancer," has been announced by Dr. William J. Robbins, chairman of the National Science Fund of the National Academy of Sciences. According to his statement, this is

a new type of prize for advancement of fundamental scientific research administered under a new type of philanthropic foundation. One prize of \$2,000 will be awarded for a contribution published in 1942 or submitted in manuscript to the National Science Fund, and a similar prize in 1943. The Charles L. Mayer Awards are a new type of award in that they will be given to further the scientific work of the recipient. They are not only rewards for past accomplishments, but are also designed to increase the opportunities of those with exceptional abilities to carry on further research.

One of the major purposes of the fund is to assist donors to increase scientific dividends from their gifts. To assist the National Science Fund in effective administration of the awards, a special advisory committee has been appointed consisting of Dr. R. R. Williams, chemical director of the Bell Telephone Laboratories; Dr. Alan Gregg, director for the medical sciences of the Rockefeller Foundation; Dr. George H. Whipple, dean of the School of Medicine and Dentistry of the University of Rochester; and Dr. Elihu Root, Jr., as the lay member. Dr. Robbins stated that the committee is interested primarily in fundamental studies on the factors influencing growth of animal cells rather than applications to any particular aspect of normal or abnormal growth.

Applications based on such studies may develop in the future, but at present more knowledge is needed of the essentials concerned. However, cancer cures and cancer preventive measures can be evaluated only after years of observation and experiment, and reports of empirical success in the treatment of human cancer will not be eligible for the awards. The Mayer awards apply to the whole field of animal cell growth and the Advisory Committee of the National Science Fund offices, 515 Madison Avenue, New York City, will welcome suggestions as to outstanding published contributions and manuscripts of 1942 on any phase of this subject.

THE NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR INFANTILE PARALYSIS

BASIL O'CONNOR, president of The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, has announced that President Roosevelt has authorized the celebration of his birthday in January, 1943, for the annual fund-raising drive in the fight against infantile paralysis.

Mr. O'Connor states that the demands of the Na-

tional Foundation, which now has chapters covering 2,900 counties of the United States, become greater each year and the amount which it spends for research constantly increases. For the fiscal year ended on September 30, the National Foundation made grants and appropriations amounting to \$1,152,191, which, except for the year 1942, exceeds the amount the National Foundation has received in any one year as a result of the nationwide celebrations. The increased need for funds is due to the fact that the existence of the National Foundation has stimulated additional research in important fields that otherwise could not have been explored. He believed that it would be a great mistake to permit a lapse in the work which the President had sponsored and which had been going on intensively for ten years.

In his reply authorizing the celebration of his birthday, the President said: "I feel as you do—that any interruption in this work would be extremely inadvisable unless absolutely necessary. Until it is definitely known how to prevent a disease from occurring or how to prevent it from spreading, the threat of that disease—if it is epidemic—is one of our greatest dangers, even though the actual number of cases at any given time may be relatively small. As long as there are some cases the danger exists."

The President, concluded, "I feel strongly, therefore, that the work of the National Foundation must be continued and I am happy to have it use my birthday in its 1943 fund-raising drive."

THE NUTRITION FOUNDATION

THE sum of \$1,100,000 to support a five-year program of basic research in the science of nutrition has been contributed by a group of food and closely related manufacturers, according to a statement made by George A. Sloan, president of the Nutrition Foundation, following the meeting on November 12 of the Board of Trustees held in Chicago.

Allocation of these funds for basic research in leading universities throughout the United States was discussed by the board. Additional grants-in-aid, amounting to \$46,000, were appropriated; in all fifty-four grants were made this year to thirty-three colleges, universities and medical centers. The institutions receiving grants were Northwestern University, the Universities of Illinois, Notre Dame, Wisconsin, Virginia, Arkansas, Stanford, Rochester, California, Southern California and Cornell, Harvard University Medical School, Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Mt. Sinai Hospital, N. Y. Post-Graduate Hospital and Memorial Hospital. Previous grants made this year to mid-western institutions included the University of Chicago, the University of Illinois, the University of Minnesota, Purdue University, Wayne