

THE TEACHING OF TROPICAL MEDICINE IN MEDICAL SCHOOLS

THE John and Mary R. Markle Foundation has appropriated \$25,000 to the Association of American Medical Colleges to finance a program for the improvement of teaching tropical medicine in the medical schools in the United States and Canada. The development of this plan has been placed in the hands of a committee on tropical medicine of the association consisting of Dr. Henry E. Meleney, New York University, *chairman*; Dr. Malcolm H. Soule, of the University of Michigan, and Dr. Hiram W. Kostmayer, of Tulane University. The plan consists of offering to each medical school an opportunity for two members of its teaching staff to attend a two-months' course in tropical medicine beginning on January 4.

The Surgeon General of the Army has given permission for one representative from each school to attend the course in tropical medicine being given to medical officers at the Army Medical School, Washington, D. C. This course consists of a broad survey of tropical medicine, and is intended for clinical instructors in medical schools.

The Department of Tropical Medicine of Tulane University has agreed to give a special course in tropical medicine in which particular emphasis will be placed upon the laboratory diagnosis, pathology, clinical aspects and prevention of tropical diseases. This course is intended particularly for physicians who will teach the laboratory aspects of tropical diseases.

Each of these courses can accommodate thirty instructors from medical schools. Travel and living expenses and, in the case of the Tulane course, a tuition fee, will be paid from the appropriation of the Markle Foundation. The deans of medical schools have been asked to nominate instructors to attend these courses, and the response indicates that each course will have a maximum attendance. Preference will be given to the schools whose instructors are now least well prepared to teach tropical medicine.

It is recognized that there is also great need for instructors in medical schools to obtain practical experience in tropical medicine. Preliminary inquiry indicates that such experience can probably be provided in the American tropics later during the coming year. Candidates for such practical experience would be selected from among those who had completed the course at the Army Medical School or at Tulane and other instructors who have had academic training but not field experience in tropical medicine.

The committee has also interested itself in the collection of teaching specimens and material for the teaching of parasitic and other tropical diseases in medical schools. The Army Medical School, with the cooperation of the National Institute of Health and

other institutions, is developing a distributing center for such material. Information concerning this center is being sent to the medical schools with instructions for the procurement of material either locally or from the center. It is expected that in addition to laboratory specimens of animal parasites, there may be available certain charts, lantern slides and motion pictures.

The office of the Surgeon General of the Army has offered to make available to medical schools information which has been collected on the distribution of tropical diseases throughout the world. Plans for editing this material are in progress, and it is expected that maps will also be prepared, and made available to medical schools, showing the world distribution of the important tropical diseases. The Markle Foundation has made an additional appropriation of \$3,000 to the National Research Council for the preparation of this material.

REPRINTS OF BEILSTEIN'S HANDBOOK AND OF CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS

THE Alien Property Custodian has seized the copyright rights to the fourth edition of "Beilstein's Handbuch der organischen Chemie," the bible of the organic chemist. This work was originally published by Julius Springer, who issued Volume I of the main series in 1919. Subsequently additional parts were released at irregular intervals until there are now 29 volumes of the "Hauptwerk," plus a subject and formula index. In addition there are 27 volumes of the first supplement and one of the second, or 59 volumes in 49 covers, since more than one volume of the first supplement has, in several instances, been put in one binding. The cost of this set to date has been about \$1,800.

Due to the importance of this reference work in the war effort and because many of the earlier volumes now need replacement, the Office of the Alien Property Custodian has made arrangements with Edwards Brothers, Inc., Lithoprinters, Ann Arbor, Michigan, to photographically copy and reprint a limited edition of the entire series by the offset process. The only noticeable difference between the new and the original printing will be in the paper and binding. The former will be heavier and more durable, the latter heavy-weight library buckram.

The printing schedule calls for about twelve volumes in December and completion of the work before next March.

Incomplete sets of *Chemical Abstracts* have been accumulated by many libraries. It appears in a majority of cases that the shortages are Volumes 1, 2 and 3. Consequently the American Chemical Society has made arrangements with Edwards Brothers, Inc., to reproduce these three volumes. Due to