members of the Army, Navy and teaching profession participating, so that each group could learn the needs and difficulties of the other.

There was a record attendance at the annual luncheon of the society. The president, Dr. E. C. Faust, New Orleans, La., gave his presidential address on "Horizons of American Tropical Medicine." The society, for the first time in its history, honored individuals outside of the United States. The Walter Reed Medals of the society were given to two individuals from South and Central American countries. The first was presented to the Brazilian Government through its Minister of Education and Public Health, Dr. Gustavo Capanema, for outstanding work in eradicating *Anopheles gambiae* from Brazil. In the absence of Dr. Capanema, Dr. Mario Kroeff, director of National Council Research, received the award. The second medal was awarded to Dr. Carlos J. Finlay (posthumously) for pioneer work in yellow fever. Due to the illness of Dr. Finlay's son, Dr. Carlos E. Finlay, the medal was received for him by Dr. Domingo Ramos, director of the Finlay Institute, Havana, Cuba.

A round-table discussion entitled, "Malaria Therapy During the Present Emergency," closed the scientific session of the society. Dr. Herbert C. Clark, of Panama, presided, with Lieutenant Commander C. M. Wassell, Hollywood, California, and Dr. R. B. Watson, Memphis, Tennessee, participating. Dr. Clark discussed primarily the efficiency of totaquine as compared with quinine.

The American Academy of Tropical Medicine held its annual dinner, with Colonel R. P. Strong, of Washington, serving as toastmaster. Dr. W. C. Clark delivered his presidential address entitled "Some Impressions of Medical Practice in the Tropics."

The hospitality group met informally in the Jefferson Room of the Jefferson Hotel upon adjournment of the afternoon scientific sessions. In addition to the closer relationship between members and their guests, these meetings provided opportunities for brief discussions on currently vital topics. The first, by Dr. R. E. Dyer, was entitled "The Present Status of Typhus Vaccination." At the second gathering, Colonel George Lull, head of personnel in the Medical Division of the Army, discussed some of the problems associated with his office. These gatherings were again well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by the membership.

JOSEPH S. D'ANTONI,
Secretary-Treasurer

TENNESSEE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

THE fifty-first meeting of the Tennessee Academy of Science was held at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, on November 27 and 28. A general session of the academy was held on Friday morning, November 27, with sectional meetings in mathematics, chemistry, geology and botany during the afternoon. A special session, new to the academy meetings, was held on Saturday, November 28. This new session was composed of a symposium on the teaching of the sciences under the chairmanship of Dr. A. J. Sharp, Department of Botany, University of Tennessee, and a Junior Science meeting with exhibits and demonstrations from the schools of central Tennessee. The Junior Science session was directed by Dr. Frances R. Bottum, of George Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville. It has been proposed that a junior section of the academy be formed, extending interest in the sciences in the schools, and Edwin D. Schreiber, of the Tennessee Industrial School, was chosen as chairman of this section.

At the academy dinner on November 27, Dr. D. M. Brown, professor of biology, East Tennessee State Teachers College, presented an address as the retiring president. A word of welcome was extended to the academy by Dr. Philip G. Davidson, dean of the Graduate School, Vanderbilt University.

The new officers of the academy for 1943 are Dr. C. S. Shoup, associate professor of biology, Vanderbilt University, *President,* and Dr. Edward McCrady, Jr., professor of biology, University of the South, Sewanee, Tenn., *Vice-president.* Dr. Kendell E. Born, Tennessee Division of Geology, Nashville, was reelected *Secretary-Treasurer,* and Dr. J. M. Shaver, of George Peabody College, Nashville, was reelected as *Editor* of the *Journal of the Tennessee Academy of Science.*

C. S. SHOUP,
President

REPORTS

THE WAR STATUS OF AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE[1]

DURING the past twelve months the problems involved in the rapid expansion of Australian war industry have become more acute, but paralleling the growing unity and determination of the Australian people to defeat the fascists, a number of steps forward in the use of science, for which our association has long been pressing, have been taken. The conferences of Australian scientific workers called by the

[1] A report received by the American Association of Scientific Workers from the head of the Federal Council of the Australian Association of Scientific Workers.

Australian Association of Scientific Workers in the various states of the Commonwealth during the early part of 1942 did, we feel, play an important part in hastening some of these necessary and often long overdue steps. The initiative of scientific workers themselves has greatly assisted in improving the situation.

At the beginning of 1942 the Commonwealth Government appointed a commission of two energetic and capable scientific men (Professor E. Ashby and Dr. J. Vernon) to survey and report on the use being made of Australia's scientific resources in meeting and anticipating war-time problems. Their report revealed serious gaps between the needs of industry and the full use of available scientific knowledge, personnel and equipment.

One of their recommendations which has recently been acted upon is the setting up of an independent, compact and flexible Scientific Liaison Bureau which is charged with the wide responsibility of bridging the gaps between technical problems in the Services, government departments and war industries, and scientific men who can tackle the problems. The bureau is to direct scientific problems to the appropriate laboratory and should be able to advise scientific men as to the most useful contribution they could make to Australia's war needs.

Since early in 1942 there has been a central scientific manpower authority which attempts to allocate the available people to the positions needing them, with proper regard to the priority of important work. It appears likely that the most effective placement of available personnel has been reasonably well attained among physicists, but the same can hardly be said yet of chemists and biologists, though the position is far less chaotic than it was a year ago.

The government has recently introduced an entirely new policy in the training of students in "reserved" faculties in the universities. Students were admitted on a merit basis at the beginning of 1942, but, owing to the financial difficulties facing the majority of promising school pupils, the supply of good students was far short of the needs of the country. As from the beginning of 1943 the government will provide a reasonably adequate living allowance, plus remission of fees, to all students needing such assistance. With admission to the universities established on a merit basis, and with the universities actually inviting promising school pupils to come up, it seems certain that an important step has been taken towards getting the large numbers of graduates of high quality so urgently needed.

There is an acute shortage of physicists in Australia at the present time and means are being explored of ensuring that greater numbers of suitable students are trained. Some use has been made by the services in technical work (*e.g.*, radio) of graduates from other fields of science (*e.g.*, biology), but this use has not been as extensive as in England.

The conferences on "Science in the War Effort" which were convened by our association have led to the setting up, on the initiative of the laboratory personnel concerned, of panels in some sections of industry (*e.g.*, the paint industry). The object of these panels is the pooling and sharing, on a rational basis, of technical knowledge and investigatory work. Such panels are composed solely of technical men in industry and they give promise of being able, in some instances to reduce the hampering effects of trade secrets and of rivalry between firms.

The recent setting up of a food council to plan and direct the country's food production, at a time when the situation was becoming serious, owes something to representations arising from our conferences. At first the food council had insufficient scientific personnel and has not, even yet, sufficiently wide powers.

The association has always recognized that the inadequate salaries and unsatisfactory conditions of work sometimes found among the scientific staffs of smaller firms, particularly among chemists, is not only unwelcome to those immediately concerned and to the scientific profession, but has a bad effect on the application of science to the needs of society and to the war effort. In Australia, one way of remedying such conditions is through the arbitration courts or their conciliation officers. The Australian Association of Scientific Workers is, therefore, considering the question of taking a decision among its members as to the desirability of registering the association with the arbitration court. It appears that many members favor such a step. During the early years of its growth, since its inception in 1939, the association has not done a great deal directly to safeguard and improve the status of its members and it is thought that registration would enable more to be done in that direction.

The Australian Association of Scientific Workers is most anxious to maintain close touch with the Associations of Scientific Workers in Great Britain, the United States and New Zealand, and with the scientific bodies in the Soviet Union. It is felt that facilities should be provided for the free interchange between Allied countries of scientific information needed in war work. To this end, representations have recently been made to the Commonwealth Government asking that scientific liaison services between Australia and both the United States and the Soviet Union should be extended and improved.

For the Federal Council, Australian Association of Scientific Workers,

F. W. WOOD, *Honorary Secretary*