statistics (admission, mortality rate) do not reveal significant national malnutrition in the United States, except for pellagra in the South. Of course, the mortality statistics reveal only terminal malnutrition, and admission statistics tell us only of malnutrition recognizable by present tests. Chronic malnutrition shortens the life span, but last year the average length of life of our citizens reached an all-time high or 63.42 years. There is some statistical evidence that our children are growing faster and taller than in the past, that college freshmen are taller than a decade or more ago. Children and youths do not grow faster or taller on inadequate diets. But we admit freely that these statistics do not cover our entire population. They are, however, indices. Malnutrition on a national scale does not lead to obesity, quite the reverse. This is certainly true of the experimental animal. And that was my observation in the war-devastated countries in Europe at the conclusion of World War I. Recent studies by the Life Extension Examiners show that 10 per cent. or more overweight is nearly three times more prevalent (28 per cent.) in the United States than 10 per cent. or more underweight (12.8 per cent.). It is a curious coincidence that the percentage of obesity in our people should come so close to Dr. Parran's estimate of the people having a good diet (25 per cent.). The obese may enjoy a good diet, but they do not use it wisely. Apart from pellagra, perhaps obesity is the most serious aspect of malnutrition in our country.

If 100,000,000 Americans, in times of peace and food plethora, had poor diets, that should have been revealed on medical examination of our millions of young men for our Army and Navy. All these data are not yet assembled and analyzed, but according to Dr. Rowntree, the first 800,000 men, age 21 to 35, examined in the 1941 U. S. Army draft had an average height of 67.5 inches, or exactly the same average height as our drafted men in World War I. But the 1941 men were on the average eight pounds heavier than the Army men of 1917–1918. We do not know whether these eight pounds represent muscle, bone or fat. These data on the 1941 draftees do not point towards an overwhelming malnutrition in our country. This should give us some assurance and some happiness. But we should not be content, we should not rest on the oar until we have discovered more adequate tests of incipient malnutrition; until we have cleared our land of myopic food practices; until we see dawn of understanding dispelling our fog of ignorance as to the nature of health and the nature and role of foods; until we have reached first base, at least, in driving pellagra from our homes. We have sufficient knowledge both as to causes, prevention and the cure of pellagra. We have the food to do it. And yet we have made scarcely a dent on this national disgrace. No, my fellow citizens, the day of rest and contentment for the students of human health is out of sight in war, and will not be in sight with peace. For this road is long, tortuous and difficult.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY THE HOSPITAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS AND SUPPLIES

THE resolutions given below were passed at the annual meeting of the Hospital Bureau of Standards and Supplies held in New York City on February 25, at the conclusion of the address on "Hospitals and the War Program," by Maury Maverick, chief of the Bureau of Governmental Requirements of the War Production Board, Washington, D. C.

RESOLUTION I

WHEREAS, all resources of the nation should be used to the best advantage toward a successful and efficient prosecution of the war, and

WHEREAS, this nation must be prepared to provide full and complete hospital care and rehabilitation of the wounded of the services as well as for civilians, and

WHEREAS, the fullest possible utilization of existing government and civilian hospitals is desirable for the purpose of conserving manpower and critical materials,

Be it Resolved, therefore, by this organization that the President of the United States be requested to appoint a commission to study the problem of the most efficient use of the country's hospitals in connection with the war, this commission to consist of representatives active in the management of voluntary, public and governmental hospitals and national health agencies, with authority to secure adequate professional assistance to advise the commission in regard to technical matters arising in connection with the study, and

Be it Further Resolved, that this commission be authorized to make a comprehensive report with such recommendations as may appear to it to be wise, and

Be it Resolved, that this commission be also authorized to investigate other problems affecting hospitals in connection with the war, such as construction, personnel shortages, food rationing and shortages of materials and equipment, to the end that the people of the nation, both in military service and in civilian life, may be afforded adequate hospitalization facilities and services to protect the health of the nation.

This resolution was endorsed at the meeting of the Greater New York Hospital Conference on February 26. It is now being referred to James A. Hamilton, president of the American Hospital Association, for

such action as his organization deems proper to take in connection with it.

RESOLUTION II

WHEREAS, there is now a wide diversification in sizes, styles and qualities of many categories of hospital supplies and equipment,

WHEREAS, this diversification results in less efficient production methods, more man hours per unit and wastage in the utilization of materials in the manufacture of the product,

WHEREAS, the purchase and use of supplies and equipment in a wide variety of styles, sizes and qualities results in inefficient utilization in institutions and a loss in effective purchasing methods,

WHEREAS, such reduction in efficiency in the production and consumption of this material should not be tolerated during the war period,

Be it Resolved, therefore, that the Hospital Bureau of Standards and Supplies promote in every way possible and assist all government agencies working on the problem of the simplification and standardization of hospital goods to the end that wastage of materials and man hours be reduced as far as possible.

THE MERCK INSTITUTE FOR THERAPEUTIC RESEARCH

ACCORDING to information received from Merck and Co., Inc., the tenth anniversary of the opening of the Merck Institute for Therapeutic Research was celebrated with appropriate ceremonies on April 26. Following the exercises a dinner was held at the Essex House in Newark. George W. Merck, president of Merck and Co., Inc., presided and introduced the speakers.

Among these were Dr. William H. Sebrell, chief of the division of chemotherapy of the National Institute of Health and assistant director of nutrition for the Defense, Health and Welfare Services in Washington; Dr. Francis G. Blake, dean of the Yale Medical School and chairman of the Subcommittee on Infectious Diseases of the National Research Council; and Dr. Russell M. Wilder, professor of medicine, the Mayo Clinic.

Messages of congratulation were received from Sir Henry Dale, president of the Royal Society, London, and Dr. Alfred N. Richards, vice-president in charge of medical affairs of the University of Pennsylvania Medical School and chairman of the Committee on Medical Research of the Office of Scientific Research and Development, Washington.

The Merck Institute for Therapeutic Research, a non-profit corporation under the laws of the State of New Jersey, was founded in 1933 for the purpose of conducting investigations into the causes, nature and mode of prevention and cure of diseases in men and animals. The determination of the therapeutic value and safety of new drugs is one of its principal duties.

During the afternoon ceremonies in the institute building, the tenth annual report was presented by the director, Dr. Hans Molitor. Dr. Molitor pointed out that, since 1933, the size of the Merck Institute has increased almost six times, and its personnel eighteen times. The new three-story laboratory building, which is completely air-conditioned and equipped with up-to-date facilities, was occupied two years ago. Vitamins and chemotherapy are the principal fields of research. Since the outbreak of the war, only problems of immediate importance to the war effort have been permitted to remain on the research program. Notable among these are penicillin and new antimalarial products.

THE COPERNICAN QUADRICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

DR. STEPHEN P. MIZWA, director of the Kosciuszko Foundation and secretary of the Copernican Quadricentennial National Committee, is arranging for a national scientific tribute to Nicholas Copernicus. This will take place in Carnegie Hall, New York, on Monday evening, May 24. Reservations for boxes and tickets are now available at the headquarters of the Kosciuszko Foundation, 149 East 67th Street, New York.

Dr. Harlow Shapley, professor of astronomy and director of the Harvard College Observatory, chairman of the Copernican Quadricentennial National Committee, will preside. He will be introduced by Dr. Henry Noble MacCracken, president of Vassar College, and also president of the Kosciuszko Foundation since its organization in 1925 for the promotion of intellectual and cultural relations between the people of Poland and the United States.

In announcing the program of events for the Carnegie Hall meeting Dr. Mizwa said: "Nicholas Copernicus, the famous Polish astronomer of the sixteenth century, is internationally recognized as one of the world's great intellectual pioneers. His revelation of the heliocentric, or Copernican, system of astronomy in his epoch-making treatise, 'De Revolutionibus Orbium Coelestium,' published in 1543, revolutionized man's outlook upon the universe and introduced the era of modern science."

An international broadcast from London is planned with greetings from Sir Henry Hallett Dale, president of the Royal Society. His Excellency Jan Ciechanowski, ambassador of Poland at Washington, will present a message from the president of the Republic of Poland. Brief scientific addresses will be delivered by Dr. Joel Stebbins, president of the American Astronomical Society, professor of astronomy at the University of Wisconsin and director of Washburn Observatory; the Reverend Father Michael J. Ahern, S.J., senior professor of science at Weston College,