

STUDY OF GERMICIDES AND BACTERI- CIDES AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

AN intensive investigation of germicides and bactericides, including anti-malarials, has been undertaken by the Research Foundation of the Ohio State University, of which Dr. A. R. Olpin is director. This has been made possible through a grant of \$23,000 by the William S. Merrell Company, pharmaceutical manufacturers of Cincinnati.

The grant takes the form of the establishment of three annual post-doctorate and three annual graduate fellowships in bacteriology and chemistry. Members of the regular university staff who will also contribute to these studies are Dr. J. M. Birkeland, Dr. G. L. Stahly and Professor A. R. Winter, all of the department of bacteriology, and Dr. W. R. Brode and Dr. W. G. France, of the department of chemistry.

Investigations of anti-malarials to be conducted at the university will be correlated with the work going on in many other laboratories throughout the nation. An investigation of penicillin, the new and very potent germicide or bactericide derived from mold, is planned. This work is part of a larger program of research coordinated by the Committee on Medical Research in Washington. The new projects are the outgrowth of a number of years of friendly cooperative relations between the foundation and the Merrell Company.

Many valuable and practical discoveries have been made through these researches, including a promising new method of synthesizing menthol. This is especially important at the present time as the supply of menthol from the Far East has been virtually cut off by the war.

WORK OF THE NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR INFANTILE PARALYSIS

BASIL O'CONNOR, president of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, announces that three records in the 1943 infantile paralysis fund-raising appeal—in the amount raised, in the number of contributors and in conducting the appeal at a lower expense than any previous campaign—exceed all previous results by more than 30 per cent.

Net collections amounted to \$5,527,590. This is \$1,500,000 higher than any previous year. Expenses were \$147,871, or only 2.6 per cent. of collections. Mr. O'Connor estimated that there were more than 35,000,000 contributors.

The Motion Picture Theaters Drive, headed by Nicholas M. Schenk, president of Loew's, Inc., and Harry Brandt, president of the Brandt Theaters,

raised \$2,086,596. The National March of Dimes to the White House amounted to \$570,000.

Half the funds collected go to the National Foundation for the broad front attack on the disease, including research work, education and epidemic aid, while the other 50 per cent. remains with local chapters of the foundation covering practically all the nation's 3,070 counties where it is used for local relief for victims of infantile paralysis, regardless of age, race, creed or color.

Mr. O'Connor stated that this country may face a severe test this year in coping with infantile paralysis due to a marked increase in the number of cases during the first six months. He said that "as of to-day, more cases have occurred in 1943 than for a comparable period during the past nine years, the number being double that of last year at this time. So far the epidemic has appeared in California, Texas and Oklahoma. First, southern California was involved. Then the epidemic spread to the San Francisco Bay area. Now there is some increase in Washington. In a similar way the epidemic has spread northward, with the advancing season, from Texas into Oklahoma. At this time Kansas shows an increase." Dr. John L. Lavan, assistant medical director of the National Foundation, with equipment and a staff of workers, has been sent to the areas affected.

THE LIBRARY OF SIR ISAAC NEWTON

ACCORDING to *The Times*, London, the Pilgrim Trust has bought from Messrs. Henry Sotheran, Limited, a collection of 858 books which once belonged to Sir Isaac Newton. The trustees also bought from the same firm Newton's copy of the Old Testament in Greek and his copy of Isaac Barrow's edition of Euclid's Elements. They have decided to offer all the books they have acquired to Trinity College, Cambridge, and the master has expressed the readiness of the college most gratefully to accept the gift.

Charles II made Barrow Master of Trinity and during his short tenure of the post he founded the magnificent college library. Before this dignity had been conferred on him, Barrow, the divine, had declared that he could not make a bible out of his Euclid, or a pulpit out of his mathematical chair, and in 1669 he resigned the Lucasian professorship of mathematics in favor of his still more distinguished pupil, Isaac Newton. Eighty-three of the books show actual marks of Newton's handwriting, of which twenty have his autograph signature. Four of these are of special interest, as they bear the date of 1661, the year in which Newton entered Trinity College. Newton represented the university as a Whig in the Convention Parliament of 1691.