(*k*) Inaugurate traveling lectureships, awards recognizing achievements, bulletins and other miscellaneous services as may be found desirable.

(*l*) Represent the profession of physics in informing and assisting legislators, and government executives considering laws and regulations affecting education, research and other activities of concern to physicists.

In making its appeal for funds the committee points out that it is an essential part of the proposal that there be acquired a permanent home for organized physics. The joint publishing and general cooperative operating department—the American Institute of Physics—has shown in its twelve years a consistent record of usefulness, reliability and increasing financial strength. It has always occupied rented office space. By virtue of the fact that it is a tax-free organization it could—if it had its own building—occupy and fully maintain much better and larger quarters at no increase in annual cost over the present rent.

It happens that at the present moment an extremely well-constructed and suitably arranged building has been offered for sale to the institute. It is conveniently situated on 55th Street between Madison and Park Avenues, New York, a neighborhood of excellent and improving value. If advantage is to be taken of this offer the sum of $75,000 must be guaranteed as soon as possible.

The appeal is signed by the War Policy Committee, the members of which are P. E. Klopsteg, *chairman,* O. E. Buckley, K. T. Compton, H. L. Dodge and R. C. Gibbs.

THE OFFICE OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

THE *Harvard Alumni Bulletin* gives the following particulars in regard to the Office of Scientific Research and Development:

Once a year, a subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives meets in Washington to consider requests for the following year for funds for the continuation of the National War Agencies. This is almost the only occasion when information of the work of the Office of Scientific Research and Development, which employs and uses so many Harvard scientists and laboratories and to which President Conant devotes so large a part of his time, enters the public record.

In the hearing on the 1944 bill, held on May 29, Vannevar Bush, doctor of engineering, 1916, director of the office, and President Conant were two of the key witnesses. In support of an appropriation of $125,000,000 for the National Defense Research Committee, the two men revealed that approximately $2,000,000,000 worth of equipment had either been secured or was on order by the armed services through the work carried on by the office as the result of previous expenditures. More than 200 devices, Dr. Bush said, had been officially adopted out of the research of the office, and many of these had already seen service at the battlefronts.

The scope of the work is indicated by the fact that from June, 1940, through April 17, 1943, a total of 1,731 contracts had been let among 124 different academic institutions and 205 different industrial organizations. The largest volume of work falls under the supervision of the National Defense Research Committee, of which President Conant is chairman.

Appropriations requested for the Medical Research Committee, of which Dr. A. N. Richards, of the University of Pennsylvania, is chairman, and Professor A. Baird Hastings, Hamilton Kuhn professor of biological chemistry at the Harvard Medical School, is a member, amounted to somewhat less than $10,000,000. Concerning the work of that committee, Dr. Richards was enabled to reveal some remarkable developments made under its auspices in the use of penicillin, the new bacteria-destroying product made from green mold, which is expected to rival the miraculous sulfa drugs. He reported use of the drug in badly wounded cases in the Pacific area, which had been under treatment without success for as long as fourteen months. Persistent infections showed remarkable improvement within a week. Many units of the drug are now under manufacture, and have been sent to British and American forces in the field. Concerning details of the work of Mr. Conant's committee on instrumentalities of the war, no corner of the veil of military secrecy was lifted.

Letters were read into the record by General Marshall, chief of staff of the Army, and by Admiral King, of the Navy, endorsing in wholehearted terms the services in the war effort of these civilian scientific groups working in cooperation with the Army and Navy.

MANPOWER PROBLEMS IN THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY

A SYMPOSIUM on "Manpower Problems in the Chemical Industry" will be held in connection with the one hundred and sixth meeting of the American Chemical Society, which will take place at Pittsburgh from September 6 to 10. Dr. A. L. Elder, chief chemical adviser of the War Production Board, will preside.

Dr. Francis J. Curtis, development director of the Monsanto Chemical Company, will deliver an address on "How Industry is Solving its Manpower Problems"; James W. Raynolds, deputy director of the chemicals division of the War Production Board, will discuss "Production Requirements of the Chemical Industry"; Dr. Herman T. Briscoe, vice-president of Indiana University, will speak on "Training Programs for Chemists." Other speakers and their topics are: Dr. Warren L. McCabe, of the Carnegie Institute of Technology, "Training Programs for Chemical Engineers"; Dr. James Coull, of the University of Pittsburgh, "Training and Utilization of Women in the Chemical Industry"; Dr. Frank C. Whitmore, of the Pennsylvania State College, "Occupational Defer-