

are being met by the generosity of the National Institute for the Blind. *The Times*, London, reports that

The facilities available for such work are considered wholly inadequate, and the university is appealing for funds towards the establishment of research premises in connection with the Oxford Eye Hospital, the rebuilding of which will be begun at the end of the war; the provision of salaries for full-time and part-time research workers, teachers and technicians engaged in the new department; and the defraying of the working costs of researches which would have for their aim the prevention of blindness, the improved treatment of eye disease and the promotion of a higher standard of visual function throughout the country.

Under the proposed regional scheme of the Joint Hospitals Board, the Oxford Eye Hospital will become the chief regional center (covering the counties of Oxford, Buckingham and Berkshire) for ophthalmological work and teaching. For this the present hospital is inadequate, and is to be rebuilt, the necessary funds being raised by a separate appeal from local sources.

One of the problems which the proposed department at Oxford would examine would be that of discovering the safest anti-bacterial drugs for ophthalmological purposes. The extreme delicacy of the eye is the governing consideration, as all the usual antiseptics are poisons, and further investigation will need contributions not only from ophthalmology, but bacteriology, mycology and chemistry. The most promising substance found so far is penicillin, the development of which is largely the result of work done in an Oxford laboratory.

The Oxford scheme, which will be generally welcomed, will form an important contribution towards the great national effort that is being made to abate the toll and suffering and economic wastage due to loss of sight and defective vision. Statistics prove that, while failure of vision is a hazard common to all, the risk falls increasingly on those who are in middle and later life. In 1941 out of a total blind population of 74,000 in England and Wales, 63,000 were persons over 40 years old.

REHABILITATION CLINICS AT THE NEW YORK HOSPITAL

A PSYCHIATRIC rehabilitation program which it is hoped may point the way toward reclamation of the estimated 80,000 New York City men thus far rejected or discharged from military service because of mental illness has been initiated by the Payne Whitney Psychiatric Clinic of the New York Hospital.

Recognizing that the thousands of men who have proved unsuitable material for the Army, Navy and other services because of psychoneurosis constitute a wartime emergency problem that will exist and grow, even after the war, the hospital has established a special out-patient clinic that is already functioning and the full resources of the clinic will be devoted to patients' rehabilitation. The integration of psy-

chiatric treatment with the psychological testing, retraining and employment resources of an actual community is to be emphasized in the program.

Originators of the plan are Dr. Thomas A. C. Rennie, attending psychiatrist at the clinic and associate professor of psychiatry at Cornell University Medical College, who will direct the program, and Mrs. Melly Simon, chief of psychiatric social service. Dr. Rennie was recently named director of the Division of Rehabilitation of the National Committee on Mental Hygiene. Basic funds to start the clinic have been granted by the Commonwealth Fund.

The clinic is staffed by New York Hospital psychiatrists, psychoanalysts and social workers, all of whom are serving on a voluntary basis, and it is expected that by mid-October fifteen or more such volunteer psychiatrists will be actively at work. In addition to the New York Hospital volunteer staff, other psychiatrists in the city have signified their willingness to participate in the same kind of project.

Among social service agencies having evidenced their interest and willingness to cooperate with the program are the New York City Committee on Mental Hygiene, the National Committee on Mental Hygiene, the Social Security Board, the U. S. Employment Service, the Vocational Adjustment Bureau, the American Rehabilitation Committee, the Community Service Society and the Y.M.C.A. Arrangements have also been made for the referral of cases to the clinic by the State Selective Service Board.

According to Dr. Rennie, the clinic will fulfil two main functions: one, as an actual treatment center for men in need of rehabilitation and, two, as a fact-finding agency to determine the extent of the problem, the amount of help necessary for rehabilitation, the nature of psychiatric disabilities and what percentage of the patients treated may eventually be re-employed.

NEW FLORAS PUBLISHED BY THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN AND THE UTAH STATE COLLEGE

BETWEEN the State Agricultural College of Utah and the New York Botanical Garden an agreement was signed in July by which the two institutions will cooperate in the field work for and the preparation and publishing of two important floras: (1) A Manual for the State of Utah and (2) A Flora (illustrated) of the Intermountain Region.

Both of these projects had been started by Dr. Bassett Maguire during the years he spent at the State College in Utah. Now, as curator at the New York Botanical Garden, he will be enabled to continue his work of collecting and writing on the plants of these regions, while his successor in Utah, Professor A. H. Holmgren, will aid in the work. Three more summers of exploration are planned: 1944 to complete the work

in the State of Utah, 1945 and 1946 to be spent in western Nevada and eastern Oregon and Washington, and 1947 to be devoted to a final round-up of the entire intermountain area.

The two institutions are to share equally in all collections, and while the writing of the proposed floras becomes jointly the responsibility of both, the publication of the Manual for Utah is to be largely the responsibility of the Utah State Agricultural College, while the publication of the Flora of the Intermountain Region is to be mainly the responsibility of the New York Botanical Garden. This region, which has never been adequately or completely treated floristically, is the only major physiographic area of the country that has not heretofore come under the influence of the Botanical Garden, and it is the region perhaps least known botanically.

A VISITING PROFESSOR TO CHINA

DR. GEORGE B. CRESSEY, as already reported in *SCIENCE*, has been appointed a visiting professor in China by the Department of State, and concurrently will serve as representative in China of the National Academy of Sciences. He is leaving for Chungking this month and will return to the United States next summer.

The appointment is a part of the program of the department of cultural relations, and is designed to strengthen the ties between the United States and China. Professor Cressey will visit and lecture at various Chinese universities and research centers in order to bring the greetings of American scientists to their Chinese colleagues. Most Chinese universities have been obliged to take refuge in the interior and are seriously in need of contact with the outside world. Although it is impossible to send books and apparatus, the Department of State has arranged to forward

microfilm copies of professional publications from the United States.

Professor Cressey has been chairman of the department of geology and geography at Syracuse University since 1931, and is on leave for this assignment. Prior to 1931 he taught at the University of Shanghai. He is the author of "China's Geographic Foundations" and a new volume entitled "Asia's Lands and Peoples." Professor Cressey is also chairman of the Committee on Asiatic Geography of the National Research Council, and is one of the recognized authorities in his field. He served as consultant to the Chinese Government in 1934 and to the Soviet Government in 1937.

THE AUTUMN MEETING OF THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

THE autumn general meeting of the American Philosophical Society will be held on November 19 and 20, beginning at 10 A.M. on Friday, November 19. For guests invited by the society and for members from a distance the society will, as usual, meet the regular hotel charges for rooms during the period of the meeting and for such meals as are not otherwise provided for by the society. Those desiring such accommodations should notify the society as soon as possible.

On Friday morning, November 19, there will be papers chiefly by recipients of grants from the research funds. The afternoon and Saturday morning sessions will be devoted to a "Symposium on the Organization, Direction and Support of Research." On Friday evening, President James B. Conant, of Harvard University, will speak on "The Advancement of Learning in the United States in the Post-War World." This will be followed by a reception. Before the open session on Saturday morning, there will be an executive session of the members of the society.

L. P. EISENHART,
Executive Officer

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Manly Memorial Medal of the Society of Automotive Engineers was presented at the Los Angeles meeting to John Dolza and Harry C. Karcher, of the Allison Division, Indianapolis, of the General Motors Company, in recognition of their work on "Correlation of Ground and Altitude Performance of Oil Systems." The award was established in 1928 to honor Charles M. Manly, designer of the forerunner of modern radial airplane engines.

DR. EDWIN B. HART, professor of agricultural chemistry at the University of Wisconsin, was a special guest and the main speaker at a dinner given by the division of agricultural and food chemistry of the American Chemical Society in connection with the one hundred and sixth annual meeting, which was held at Pittsburgh from September 6 to 10.

DR. ROBERT M. GATES, president of the Air Preheater Corporation, New York, has been elected president of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. He succeeds Harold W. Coes, of New York. The joint meeting with the Engineering Institute of Canada opened at Toronto for three days on September 30.

EDMUND L. DUNN, of Boston, president of the New England Fish Exchange, was elected president of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission at the annual meeting recently held at Philadelphia.

THE Western Reserve University Chapter of the Society of Sigma Xi has elected the following officers for 1943: J. C. Gray, *President*; Normand L. Hoerr, *Vice-president*; R. F. Hanzal, *Treasurer*, and Helen A. Hunscher, *Secretary*.