

first time in history a heavier-than-air machine had on that day been successfully flown at Kitty Hawk. Thus the airplane was born. Its creators were the immortal Wright brothers, Wilbur and Orville: and its place of birth was Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.

The fortieth anniversary of this epochal event, December 17, 1943, will come in the midst of the greatest war in history—a war in which the airplane will be the decisive implement of victory for democracy, decency and righteousness in the epochal struggle against aggression, brutality and slavery.

Before this global war and its tragic consequences had thrown a shadow over the face of the earth, the airplane was already revolutionizing the transportation and communications of the world. This swift messenger of peace and friendliness as between nations, this harbinger of a new world of trade and good will, had already served to bring the world closer together. In the miracle of this winged swiftness the farthest nations of the earth had been brought closer together in understanding and in commercial relationship. After the carnage of war is over and when victory is crowned, the airplane, immeasurably stimulated in its production and perfection, will prove the indispensable agency for rebuilding a disordered and mutilated world.

Under these circumstances, it is altogether fitting that the anniversary date of this world-changing event should be appropriately observed at the place of its occurrence.

Now, therefore, I, J. Melville Broughton, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby designate Friday, December 17, 1943, as Kitty Hawk Day, and do hereby call upon all citizens of North Carolina, and in so far as I may be privileged to do so all citizens of an America grateful for the achievement of the Wright brothers, to give suitable observance to this deeply significant event, and further do call upon all who are vitally connected with the airplane industry in America and upon representatives of the Army and Navy and governmental agencies to designate and delegate official representatives to attend a suitable observance of this event which will be held at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, on December 17, 1943, when and where appropriate tribute can be paid to the memory of Wilbur Wright, now deceased, and to Orville Wright, the surviving member of this world-famous partnership endeavor.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina to be affixed at Raleigh, the Capital, this the sixth day of October A.D. 1943.

J. MELVILLE BROUGHTON,
Governor

PREFERENCE RATINGS FOR LABORATORY EQUIPMENT

THE Safety and Technical Equipment Division has issued the following explanatory statement (see *SCIENCE*, October 22, page 358) on preference ratings for laboratory equipment of all kinds.

Blanket MRO ratings, that is, ratings which are assigned without specifying the kind and quantity of

material to which the rating is applied, may not be used for laboratory equipment, according to the provisions of Priorities Regulation No. 3. This restriction applies only to finished products and not to parts and materials for repair and maintenance of existing equipment. Such parts and materials may be purchased with blanket MRO ratings.

An exception to the rule against the use of blanket ratings is that ratings assigned under Orders P-43, P-56, P-58, P-68, P-73, P-89 and P-98b may be used for laboratory equipment even though they are blanket ratings. Blanket ratings assigned by CMP Regulation 5 and 5A may not be used, however.

Persons who need ratings and are not operating under one of these "P" orders should file PD 1A applications. However, where the purchase covers items on List A of Order L-144, the rating assigned in the authorized Form WPB 1414 may be used.

In reference to Order L-144 the division pointed out that the prospective purchaser should notify his supplier when he receives WPB authorization on Form WPB 1414 and should apply the authorized preference rating. Notification should be given by sending the supplier the certification described in paragraph (d)(2) of L-144 and the authorization should be retained by the purchaser.

A SURVEY OF MEDICAL COLLEGES

WILLIAM L. LAWRENCE contributes to *The New York Times* an account of a survey of seventy-two leading American medical colleges which shows that "the severe reduction in teaching staffs and the accelerated program" have resulted in a lowering of standards in a fourth of the colleges and threaten "a serious situation in medical education."

A report on the survey, made by the executive council of the Association of American Medical Colleges, was read at Cleveland at the annual meeting of the association by Dr. Willard C. Rappleye, dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Columbia University, chairman of the council.

Dr. Rappleye stated that "Many schools report that about a third of their most active and able teachers have gone into service. Upon those remaining have fallen the tasks of carrying the instructional load and the care of patients in the wards of the teaching hospitals which in a normal academic year would be a heavy burden. But the accelerated program which requires instruction throughout the calendar year places a demand upon the staffs still in the schools which can be met only for a limited time."

According to Mr. Lawrence, nineteen of the schools reported that their staffs were now below the number necessary to provide reasonably satisfactory instruction and are greatly overworked. Many of the other