

for any other national purpose. It is proposed that the 2,000,000 acres of existing woodlands, so far as they are privately owned, should be either "dedicated" by their owners to forestry or acquired by the State.

The planning of the further 3,000,000 acres would mean the transfer to timber growing of this area from the 16,000,000 acres of uncultivated land at present classified as "rough grazings." The land for afforestation would be drawn only gradually from its present use and the loss to food production would be relatively small. The maximum area of bare land to be planted in the first post-war decade would be 500,000 acres.

It is proposed that the attainment of the 5,000,000 acres of effective forest should be spread over fifty years, though the rate of progress be subject to review and amendment.

The policy is also considered from the point of view of employment. It is estimated that the employment that would be provided by 5,000,000 acres of forest in full working order would be 50,000 men in the forests working full time and 200,000 in forest industries, a total of 250,000. These figures would be attained very gradually.

There are at present three national forest parks. The report suggests that without special effort one new park of this kind might be established every year for the next ten years at a capital outlay not exceeding £50,000; and that for the expenditure of £150,000 the total number of national forest parks could be increased to twenty by the end of the first post-war decade. There are twelve youth hostels in the existing national forest parks, and the report foreshadows an extension of the provision for recreational facilities in the new parks, with semi-permanent camps. It suggests that, if in view of the large schemes here outlined, Parliament should desire to place forestry under the direct control of a Minister, the Minister chosen should be the Lord President of the Council, and that he should be assisted by a committee, including the Secretary of State for Scotland, the Minister of Agriculture and the chairman of the Forestry Commission.

The chairman of the Forestry Commission is Sir Roy Robinson, and its members include representatives of all political parties.

THE RESEARCH COUNCIL ON PROBLEMS OF ALCOHOL

A GENERAL plan of reorganization of the Research Council on Problems of Alcohol was approved by the council on November 23. The provisions of the plan are as follows:

(1) The officers will consist of a president, six vice-presidents, a secretary and a treasurer. The president, secretary and treasurer shall be *ex-officio* members of the Board of Directors.

(2) The Board of Directors will consist of 40 members, 28 to be chosen on a regional basis, and 12 to be members at large. It will be made up of an increasing number of businessmen. The board will meet annually—if practicable, at the time of the council's annual business

meeting and the annual meeting of the scientific committee.

(3) An executive committee of seven members of the board will meet quarterly, with additional meetings as required.

(4) The new board and its executive committee will give special attention to the business and financial affairs of the council.

(5) An executive committee of seven members of the scientific committee will be appointed to give closer attention to research on the treatment of alcoholism.

(6) A new committee on alcoholism will be created. It will be composed of doctors treating alcoholics, liquor control administrators and representatives of the church, the distilling industry and the alcoholics anonymous group, together with others having some special interest in the problem of alcoholism. Sub-committees will be appointed to deal with the following subjects: The dissemination of the results of research, the treatment of alcoholism, the development of hospital facilities, state and local organizations, and the legal aspects of alcoholism.

REORGANIZATION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

As reported in the *Journal* of the American Medical Association, Dr. Thomas Parran, surgeon general of the U. S. Public Health Service, has announced the appointment of heads of the five new bureaus and divisions set up through the reorganization of the U. S. Public Health Service by Congress on November 11.

The reorganization was authorized in the enactment of a bill (S. 400). Dr. Lewis R. Thompson, medical director serving in the surgeon general's office, has been named assistant surgeon general in charge of the new Bureau of States Services. Dr. Ralph C. Williams, formerly district director with headquarters in New York, has been named assistant surgeon general in charge of the new Bureau of Medical Services. Dr. Rolla E. Dyer, director of the National Institute of Health, Bethesda, Md., will in addition serve as assistant surgeon general in charge of the new Bureau of Scientific Research. John K. Hoskins, senior sanitary engineer, under the new set-up will become chief of the division of sanitary engineering and William T. Wright, Jr., D.D.S., chief of dental work in the Marine Hospital Division of the Public Health Service, will become chief of the division of dentistry. All five will hold rank comparable to an army brigadier general. They have been in a grade comparable to a full colonel in the army. Mr. Hoskins is said to be the only non-doctor or dentist to hold a rank in the Public Health Service comparable to brigadier general. S. 400 provides that the surgeon general of the Public Health Service, under the supervision and direction of the Federal Security Administrator, is authorized and directed to assign to the Office of the

Surgeon General, to the National Institute of Health and to the Bureau of Medical Services and the Bureau of States Services, the functions of the Public Health Service and to establish within the office of the surgeon general and the other groups named such divisions, sections and other units as may be required to perform their functions.

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL GRANTS FOR RESEARCH IN ENDOCRINOLOGY

It is announced that requests to the National Research Council Committee for Research in Endocrinology for aid during the fiscal period from July 1, 1944, to June 30, 1945, will be received until February 28. Application blanks may be obtained by addressing the Division of Medical Sciences, National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington, D. C. In addition to a statement of the problem and research plan or program, the committee desires information regarding the proposed method of attack, the institutional support of the investigation and the uses to be made of the sum requested. No part of any grant may be used by the recipient institution for administrative expenses. Applications for aid of endocrine research on problems of sex in the narrower sense can not be given favorable consideration, but the committee will consider support of studies on the effects of sex hormones on non-sexual functions—*e.g.*, on metabolism.

ANDREAS VESALIUS

THE Historical Library of the Yale University School of Medicine has arranged for the publication of a life of Andreas Vesalius, the great military surgeon and one of the most important figures in medicine of all time. During the winter of 1544, Vesalius served with the armies of Charles V in the Marne Valley, at Soissons, Château Thierry and the Argonne.

His biographer, the late Dr. Harvey Cushing (Yale 1891), had struggled in the same terrain in the last war, and he dedicated the energies of the last years of his life to the portrayal of the life and work of Vesalius.

Plans had been laid to celebrate the four hundredth anniversary of the birth of Vesalius in 1914, but the last war prevented the observance, and the Louvain Library, which contained many of the most important relics, was destroyed. The Historical Library, where Dr. Cushing's great Vesalian collection is housed, not only celebrated, as it did on October 30, the 400th anniversary of Vesalius' book "On the Structure of the Human Body," but also published Dr. Cushing's "Bibliography of Andreas Vesalius" (issued by Schuman's in New York). In acknowledging assistance which has come from Dr. W. W. Francis, of the Osler Library in Montreal, of Dr. Edward Clark Streeter, curator of Museum Collections of the Yale Medical Library, and of Dr. Arturo Castiglioni, research associate in the history of medicine and formerly professor of medical history at the University of Padua, Dr. Fulton in his preface comments:

Because of his knowledge of anatomy Vesalius undoubtedly found himself better equipped to deal with war injuries than many of his contemporaries, excepting of course Ambroise Paré who, like many surgeons of 1943, had learned anatomy the hard way—in the field of battle. For these, and many other reasons, we have persevered in bringing out the Vesalius bio-bibliography in 1943, at a time when physicians on every battle front will undoubtedly welcome a reminder of the man who at the early age of twenty-eight years first adequately portrayed the fabric of the human body. When the lights burn low and tradition falters, we must carry the torch of remembrance until it can flame again and brighten the paths of learning and free thought for those who now "sit in darkness and in the shadow of death."

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Association of Military Surgeons of the United States on October 22 presented its Gorgas Award to Hugh S. Cumming, surgeon general, U. S. Public Health Service, retired, and at present director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau. The award was founded in 1942 by John Wyeth and Company of Philadelphia and consists of a medal and scroll and \$500. It is given each year to a member of the association who has made "notable contribution to medical science of value to the military service."

THE Massachusetts Horticultural Society has awarded the George Robert White Medal to Richardson Wright, of New York City, editor of *House and Garden*.

A DINNER in honor of Dr. Carl J. Wiggers on the completion of twenty-five years as professor and head of the department of physiology at the School of Medicine of Western Reserve University, was given on November 18 by his associates and students. Dr. Torald Sollmann, dean of the medical school, presided.

HONORARY memberships in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers given to "persons of acknowledged professional eminence elected by unanimous vote of the council" were conferred at the sixty-fourth annual meeting in New York City on Francis Blossom, of New York, fellow of the society and a partner of Sanderson and Porter, Engineers; on