

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