

neering, medicine, surgery, agriculture, manufacture and commerce, education or any other science of any nature or description."

Applications for grants-in-aid are receivable on forms which will be supplied upon request by the chairman of the committee, and will be considered by the committee of award on March 1, June 1 and October 1.

It is stipulated that title to equipment purchased outright from a grant from the Permanent Science Fund resides in the fund, such purchased equipment being subject to reassignment by the committee upon termination of research in the particular field of endeavor in support of which a grant is made.

It is further a condition of grants made by the academy from the Permanent Science Fund that they are not for financial support of work the results of which comprise partial fulfillment of requirements for an academic degree.

It is a policy of the committee not to approve requests for general permanent equipment for institutions.

Communications should be addressed to John W. M. Bunker, *Chairman*, Permanent Science Fund Committee, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge 39, Massachusetts.

THE COMMONWEALTH FUND AND MEDICAL RESEARCH

ACCORDING to the official summary of the twenty-fifth annual report of the Commonwealth Fund for the year ending September 30, 1943, the fund has contributed directly to undergraduate and graduate teaching in medicine by subsidizing departments of preventive medicine and psychiatry at medical schools, by offering advanced fellowships to instructors chosen by their department heads as potential leaders in medical education and by financing interschool visits by outstanding medical teachers. It has just begun a six-year schedule of grants to the Long Island College

of Medicine for the development of its department of psychiatry.

Medical research has taken more and more of the fund's income. Of the \$4,000,000 appropriated for this purpose in 25 years, nearly a tenth was distributed in the fiscal year ended October 30, 1943, when aid was given to 41 investigations at 11 university schools of medicine and 8 other institutions of similar scientific standing. War medicine plays a large part in current research. Studies of kidney and respiratory function, long aided by the fund because of their physiological importance, have made important contributions to the understanding of shock, now a crucial military problem, and grants have been made specifically for work of military significance in aviation medicine and the control of infectious disease. The three grants made this year for work not previously supported included one to the University of Pennsylvania, for a study by Dr. Max B. Lurie of physiological factors responsible for differences in susceptibility to tuberculosis; one to Washington University, for a study by Dr. W. Barry Wood, Jr., of recovery factors in certain types of pneumonia; and one to the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station for Dr. Selman A. Waksman's investigation of new substances derived from molds or fungi which, like penicillin, might be useful in the control of disease agents.

For the past two years fellowships have been offered to Latin-American physicians and public health workers for postgraduate study in the United States. Under this plan three men from the Argentine Republic, two each from Brazil, Uruguay and Venezuela, and one each from Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Haiti and Honduras hold appointments for the current academic year. Awards are made with the cooperation of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau. According to the report, these Latin-American fellows "are well-trained, energetic, eager to improve themselves, and almost without exception are either holding or preparing to hold positions of responsibility in public health and clinical medicine."

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Charles P. Daly Medal of the American Geographical Society of New York has been awarded to Sir Halford John Mackinder, the English geographer and statesman, and the Cullum Geographical Medal to Arthur Robert Hinks, secretary of the Royal Geographical Society, London. Presentation of the medals will be made in London later in the winter. Sir Halford served as reader in and professor of geography at the University of London from 1900 to 1925 and as member of Parliament and chairman of the Imperial Economic Committee from 1926 to

1931. Mr. Hinks has been secretary of the Royal Geographical Society since 1915. Honorary corresponding memberships in the society have been awarded to Dr. Christovam Leite de Castro, secretary-general of the National Council of Geography of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, and to Señor Manuel Medina, chief of the Geographical Office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Development of Mexico.

WILLIAM H. McAVOY, chief test pilot of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, has been