which were partially destroyed by fire late in 1942 was one of the major events of the year, because it means the gradual resumption, starting within a few weeks, of the special floral displays which had been a leading attraction in the main conservatories every winter for a number of years. These displays, in a normal season when the plants could be grown and the people could reach the garden easily, have brought from five to fifteen thousand visitors to the conservatories on a single Sunday. The greenhouse which was damaged was the one in which the display material was being propagated and grown, and since the fire there has been no other place on the grounds where this extensive work could be carried on.

The opening of the new building will also enable the garden to re-establish experimental work and to resume the growing of a large collection of plants of scientific and economic value.

Explorations have been carried out in the tropical regions of the Americas during the year just closed. Dr. Bassett Maguire, curator, returned on November 1 from an eight months' exploring expedition in British Guiana and Surinam. E. J. Alexander, assistant curator, is now directing a six months' expedition for botanical and horticultural material in little known parts of southern Mexico. Dr. W. H. Camp, assistant curator, who is on leave of absence, is collecting specimens of plants in the mountains of Ecuador, while on a Government project in search of cinchona trees for quinine production.

## THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMONWEALTH FUND

IT is stated in the annual report by Barry C. Smith, general director of the Commonwealth Fund, that in the year ending September 30, 1944, the fund appropriated $1,254,988, chiefly for the relief of needs created or revealed by the war, for the long-range encouragement of health services, and for basic research and planning designed to improve health services after the war.

He reports that "In the field of health services conspicuous changes concerning medical practice seem to be in the making. These, although their exact form can not be foreseen, look primarily to the wider and more equable distribution of medical care. If they are judiciously planned and intelligently administered, they may also help to better the quality of medical care. The fund has contributed toward the exploration of these questions through a subvention (voted in 1943) to the New York Academy of Medicine for a study of medicine and the changing order; during the coming year it will publish a series of monographs growing out of this study. The fund will continue to experiment, as it has done for years, with ways and means of bettering the quality of medical care.

"In medical education—obviously a dominant factor in setting the level of medical practice—the situation is confused by the violent adjustments of the accelerated program. Many medical educators feel the need for new teaching methods, new cross-connections between departments in the medical school, new ways of retraining men already in practice. The fund hopes to share in furthering such changes, some of which, on a small scale, it has already helped to initiate.

"In medical research the future is unpredictable. What is predictable is that the growing preoccupation of investigators with underlying physiological patterns—the patterns that may hold the key to understanding and perhaps control of the chronic diseases of middle age and senescence—will continue for many years to justify the wholehearted support of many inquiries that seem, on their face, recondite and even 'impractical.' It is clear, too, that there may be a strong trend toward coordinated research, so strikingly vindicated in the handling of some problems of war medicine and so hard to reconcile with long-established habits in scientific work."

## GRANTS OF THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

THE following grants have been made by the Committee on Scientific Research of the American Medical Association:

George Ulett, University of Oregon Medical School, electroencephalograms in experimental focal brain lesions.

Hans Popper, Cook County Hospital, Chicago, liver structure in relation to function tests.

Wilbur Thomas, Bowman Gray School of Medicine, Winston-Salem, N. C., experimental cardiac rupture.

A. M. Lassek, Medical College of the State of South Carolina, effect of paralysis on human pyramidal system.

Archie R. Tunturi, University of Oregon Medical School, acoustic area in cortex of the dog.

Leo Hardt, Loyola University School of Medicine, Chicago, new gastroscope.

David Sandweiss and Thomas L. Patterson, Wayne University College of Medicine, Detroit, relation of the endocrine glands to urogastrone.

Israel Davidsohn, Mount Sinai Hospital, Chicago, problems of Rh factor.

Frederick M. Allen, New York, studies on refrigeration surgery and treatment.

J. LeRoy Conel, Harvard Medical School, postnatal development of the human cerebral cortex.

Herbert S. Kupperman, University of Georgia, pregnancy test.

Theodor E. Bratrud, University of Minnesota Medical School, colored illustrations for article on congenital adrenal hyperplasia.

Wilhelm Raab, University of Vermont College of Medi-