

cine, protective effect of thiouracil against the toxic cardiovascular action of epinephrine and sympathin.

W. E. Garrey, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, innervation of the heart of vertebrates.

Helen Ingleby, Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania, problems of cystic disease and carcinoma of the breast.

O. Boyd Houchin, Loyola University School of Medicine, Chicago, vitamin E deficiency in relation to cardiac function.

Rachmiel Levine, Michael Reese Hospital, Chicago, secretion and metabolism of progesterone in threatened abortion.

Daniel J. Glomset, Des Moines, Iowa, cardiac conduction.

H. M. Weaver, Wayne University College of Medicine, Detroit, production and treatment of alloxan diabetic coma in rats.

GRANTS OF THE ELLA SACHS PLOTZ FOUNDATION

THE twenty-first annual report for 1944 of the Ella Sachs Plotz Foundation for the Advancement of Scientific Education has been made public. This includes a list of those who received grants during the year together with the subjects of their research.

The following is an outline of the policy that has been adopted in making these awards.

Researches are favored that are directed towards the solution of problems in medicine and surgery or in branches of science bearing on medicine and surgery.

As a rule, preference is given to researches on a single problem or on closely allied problems; it is hoped that investigators in this and in other countries may be found, whose work on similar or related problems may be assisted so that more rapid progress may be made possible.

Grants may be used for the purchase of apparatus and supplies that are needed for special investigations, and for the payment of unusual expenses incident to such investigations, including technical assistance, but not for providing apparatus or materials which are ordinarily a part of laboratory equipment. Stipends for the support of investigators will be granted only under exceptional circumstances.

In the past few years the policy outlined in paragraph 2 has been neglected and grants will be given in the sciences closely related to medicine without reference to special fields. The maximum size of grants is usually less than \$500.

Applications for grants to be held during the year 1945-46 must be in the hands of the executive committee before April, 1945. They should be sent to Dr. Joseph C. Aub, The Massachusetts General Hospital, Fruit Street, Boston 14. There are no formal application blanks but letters asking for aid must state definitely the qualifications of the investigator, give an accurate description of the research, the size of the

grant requested and the specific use of the money to be expended. In their requests for aid applicants should state whether or not they have approached other foundations for financial assistance. It is highly desirable to include letters of recommendation from the directors of the departments in which the work is to be done. Only applications complying with the above conditions will be considered.

Members of the executive committee are Drs. George B. Wislocki, *Chairman*, Charles Janeway, A. Baird Hastings, Harry Plotz, Ernest Sachs, Paul J. Sachs and Joseph C. Aub, *Secretary*.

THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

At a meeting of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, held on January 12, 1945, as already reported in *SCIENCE*, Dr. Alexander Wetmore was elected to the post of secretary. This place was left vacant by the resignation on June 30, 1944, of Dr. Charles G. Abbot, who asked to be relieved of administrative duties in order that he might devote himself to his researches. Dr. Wetmore, who has served as assistant secretary of the institution since 1925, has accepted the post with the understanding that at some later time he will be permitted to return to research work.

Among the regents present at the meeting were Chief Justice Harlan F. Stone, chancellor of the board; Representative Clarence Cannon, and citizen regents Harvey N. Davis, Arthur H. Compton, Vannevar Bush and Frederic C. Walcott.

Reports presented covered the activities of the institution during another year of war. Much of its normal program of research and exploration continued in abeyance, with the scientific staff devoting much time to technical information needed by the Army and Navy and other war agencies. The questions coming to the institution cover a wide variety of topics, including native peoples; geography; disease-bearing insects; parasites; poisonous and edible plants, animals and fishes; shipworms; properties of foreign woods; and many others. In many instances the requests involve extensive research.

Seven more papers were issued in the series of "Smithsonian War Background Studies." These deal with Alaska, the East Indies, Micronesia and Melanesia, Burma, India, French Indo-China and China. Special editions of several of these papers have been used by the Army and Navy in training and orientation work.

In the field of Latin American cooperation, the "Handbook of South American Indians," a coopera-

tive project with the State Department, was well advanced, with two volumes already in type and the third near completion. Half the authors represented in this unique work are anthropologists of the other American republics. Dr. Julian H. Steward, editor of the handbook, is also director of the Institute of Social Anthropology, established for training in anthropological teaching and research. This work is a part of the program of the Interdepartmental Committee for Cooperation with the American Republics.

New accessions to the collections of the National Museum numbered 239,640 for the year. The number of visitors, 1,532,765, of whom approximately 40 per

cent. were men and women in uniform, showed an increase over the previous year.

At the Freer Gallery of Art, much of the time of the staff was occupied in examining and translating Japanese documents for the war agencies, and in compiling a glossary of geographical and topographical terms for war purposes.

The three field observing stations of the Astrophysical Observatory were kept in operation, in spite of manpower difficulties. It is considered particularly important to maintain a continuous record of the solar constant of radiation so that there may be no break in these observations.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

AMONG New Year Honors conferred by the King of England are: *The Order of Merit* on Dr. Alfred North Whitehead, F.R.S., from 1942 to 1937, when he retired with the title emeritus, professor of philosophy at Harvard University; the title of *Baronet* on Sir Alfred Webb Johnson, president of the Royal College of Surgeons; of *Knight Bachelor* on Dr. Edward Battersby Bailey, F.R.S., director of the Geological Survey of Great Britain, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research; on James Chadwick, F.R.S., professor of physics at the University of Liverpool, for services to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research; on Professor Edmund Taylor Whittaker, F.R.S., professor of mathematics at the University of Edinburgh, lately president of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and on Charles William Blyth Normand, Meteorological Department of India, lately director-general of the observatories of India.

DR. ALEXANDER WETMORE, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, has been elected a fellow of the California Academy of Sciences.

BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES S. SIMMONS, U.S.A., chief of the Preventive Medicine Service, was chosen at the Saint Louis meeting president elect of the American Society of Tropical Medicine.

OFFICERS of the Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Disease, elected for the coming year at the annual meeting held in New York on December 16, are: *President*, William G. Lennox; *Vice-presidents*, H. Houston Merritt and Wilder Penfield, and *Secretary-Treasurer*, Thomas E. Bamford, Jr. It was voted to center the program for the meeting a year hence on the subject of epilepsy and convulsive disorders.

THE following officers of the New York City Branch of the Society of American Bacteriologists have been elected for 1945: *President*, Dr. Gustav I. Steffen,

Bureau of Laboratories, Department of Health, New York City; *Vice-president*, Dr. Ivan C. Hall, New York Medical College; *Secretary-Treasurer*, Dr. John E. Blair, Hospital for Joint Diseases; *Councilor* to the Society of American Bacteriologists, Mrs. Mary B. Horton, Sheffield Farms Company, Inc.

DR. CYRIL D. DARLINGTON, director of the John Innes Horticultural Institution, has been elected president of the British Genetical Society.

DR. A. E. JOHNS, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, has been elected president of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. He succeeds Dr. A. Vibert Douglas, dean of women at Queen's University, Kingston, who has retired after serving for two years. H. Boyd Bryden, Victoria, B. C., and Dr. J. W. Campbell, University of Alberta, Edmonton, have been elected vice-presidents. The Honorable George A. Drew, Premier and Minister of Education of the Province of Ontario, is honorary president. At the annual at-home of the society held at the University of Toronto on January 19, when Dr. Johns was inducted as president, Dr. Douglas gave an address on "Astronomy, Physics and Philosophy."

THE University of Oxford has conferred the title of professor on Dr. Ida Mann for as long as she remains Margaret Ogilvie's reader in ophthalmology and has provided a salary of £2,000 a year on condition that she give up private practice for profit. The university has collected £100,000 of the £250,000 required for research into fundamental problems affecting vision, with particular reference to biochemical problems.

DR. ISAIAH BOWMAN, president of the Johns Hopkins University, has been appointed a special adviser to the Secretary of State, Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., to act as consultant on matters of foreign policy.