

and algae, a member of the staff of the Laboratoire de Cryptogamie of the Museum d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, in 1937 president of the Société botanique de France, died on January 21.

VLADIMIR IVANOVICH VERNADSKY, professor of crystallography and mineralogy at the University of Moscow, died on January 6 at the age of eighty-two years.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### THE TYPHUS COMMISSION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

BRIGADIER GENERAL S. BAYNE-JONES, U.S.A., deputy chief of the Preventive Medicine Service of the Office of the Surgeon General, U. S. Army, and director of the U. S. A. Typhus Commission, has made the following statement:

In the President's Executive Order No. 9285 dated December 24, 1942, establishing the United States of America Typhus Commission, provision is made for research on typhus fever and for collaboration with all appropriate agencies. Ever since the commission went into action in January, 1943, research on typhus fever and the related rickettsial diseases has been one of the main objectives. This research has been conducted in this country and overseas by Typhus Commission personnel, and by investigators in the laboratories of the Army Medical School, the Army Medical Museum, the National Institute of Health, the U. S. Public Health Service and the Naval Medical Research Institute. Furthermore, there has been full collaboration with numerous civilian institutions both in this country and abroad. The work has advanced the understanding of typhus, has improved control measures of both epidemic typhus and scrub typhus and may be leading to the discovery of effective remedies for several types of typhus fever. There are many unsolved problems, but definite progress is being made. The point which I wish to emphasize is that the operation of the U. S. A. Typhus Commission again exemplifies collaboration and coordination of activities of both military and civilian agencies and the drawing to the support of a research program great resources and competent investigators from both military and civilian establishments.

### THE WAR AND ENGINEERING EDUCATION

To conserve certain advantages the war has brought, the Carnegie Foundation is conducting a study of measurement and guidance in engineering education at eleven cooperating higher institutions. The undertaking is sponsored jointly by the Engineers' Council for Professional Development, the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education and the Carnegie Foundation, funds being provided by the two engineering bodies and the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

Based on an inventory of the ability and skills which the entering student of engineering is expected to possess, seven special tests are used to appraise his ability and to assist in assigning and guiding him in his training and choice of career.

Among engineers and educators associated with the work are Robert E. Doherty, B. R. Teare and J. B. Rosenbach, of the Carnegie Institute of Technology; Everett S. Lee and A. R. Stevenson, of the General Electric Company; Alan R. Cullimore and A. D. Moore, of the Newark College of Engineering; R. L. Sackett, of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers; R. H. Frazier and T. P. Pitre, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; H. S. Rogers, of the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn; Francis M. Dawson and John M. Russ, of the State University of Iowa; T. W. Wood, of Northwestern University, and Carl J. Eckhardt, Jr., of the University of Texas.

### ADDITIONAL GRANTS OF THE SUGAR RESEARCH FOUNDATION

FUTURE uses for sugar and new evidence to establish the functions of sugar in the human diet are the object of research now being conducted by college and university investigators under grants-in-aid from the Sugar Research Foundation of New York City.

Founded under the laws of the State of New York on June 10, 1943, the Sugar Research Foundation, of which Joseph F. Abbott is director, is an organization of growers and processors of cane and beet sugar in the continental United States, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Cuba and Canada. Ody H. Lamborn is the executive director. Dr. Robert C. Hockett, who has leave of absence for five years from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he is associate professor of organic chemistry, is the scientific director.

The purpose of the foundation is to collect and discover facts about sugar—its physiological functions, its chemical characteristics—and to develop its many potential uses.

The first of the grants-in-aid was made to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where, in December, 1943, the Sugar Research Foundation Laboratories, a training center for carbohydrate chemists, were established. Here pure and applied organic chemical research on sugars is in progress. This is a five-year project for which the amount appropriated was \$125,000.

In addition to the individual grants listed in SCIENCE for January 12 the following grants are reported:

Professor Ancel Keys, laboratory of physiological hygiene, University of Minnesota, for studies of the human requirement for B vitamins.