

*President*, Dr. David L. Soltan, University of Redlands; *Vice-president*, Dr. Roland R. Tileston, Pomona College; *Secretary-Treasurer*, Dr. Laurence E. Dodd, University of California at Los Angeles. The group applied for a charter as a regional chapter of the American Association of Physics Teachers. This application was granted by the national Executive Committee at its meeting in New York on January 18. The new group is the tenth member of the Regional Chapters. The first program meeting of the new chapter is planned for March 24 at the University of Southern California, with several invited papers on the general subject "Physics Teaching and the Post-War World," to be followed by a group of contributed papers.

SCIENTIFIC workers in the United States are collaborating with their Latin-American colleagues in making available files of journals for new and active institutions where the lack of adequate library facilities has greatly impeded research. Two libraries have already received a gift of journals. The Committee on Inter-American Scientific Publication, of which Dr. Harlow Shapley, director of the Harvard Observatory, is director, is now collecting journals for a number of other Latin-American institutions. Those having un-

used files of journals that they are willing to contribute are invited to communicate with the Comité Interamericano de Publicación Científica, Harvard College Observatory, Cambridge 38, Mass.

THE Helen Putnam Fellowship of Radcliffe College for advanced research in the field of genetics or of mental health, which carries a stipend of \$1,900, will be awarded annually, beginning with October 1, 1945, for an eleven-month period, with the possibility of a renewal. Appointments will be limited to mature women scholars who have gained their doctorate or possess similar qualifications and who have research in progress. All normal laboratory facilities will be provided to the holder of the fellowship. Applications for the award must be submitted to Radcliffe College not later than April 15. The first holder of the fellowship will be announced about the middle of May.

THE *Times*, London, reports that to express its gratitude to Holland, where numerous Zurich physicians were educated, especially at Leyden, the Swiss University of Zurich has decided to contribute to the revival of the University of Leyden. It contemplates the reconstitution of various departments and of the library, and will perhaps send professors there.

## DISCUSSION

### STAFFING SCIENCE DEPARTMENTS AFTER THE WAR

ALTHOUGH the December setbacks in Europe have for the time being caused attention to veer sharply from postwar problems, attention can never safely be completely withdrawn from the reconstruction period. It is unwise not to view present actions in the light of their postwar effect, as well as in the light of the needs of the present.

There is every indication that the war has raised the prestige of science and technology tremendously. Smaller businesses are anxiously casting about for ways of gaining access to the fruits of research. Strong political support may accelerate the tendency to channel some scientific effort in this direction. Larger businesses are planning to expand their research activities. In the cases of some laboratories plans call for doubling the size and scope of their activities. The Government, and particularly the military, are planning vastly increased research activity. Much of this planning is even now under way. The beginning of sharp competition for the best brains of the war research laboratories is clearly discernible.

Internal quickening of the demand for high-grade personnel is, however, only a part of the picture. The lesson of this war, that the possession of a sound and

creative technology is the sine qua non of military and economic security, has been learned by every country in the world through the bitterest of lessons, in many cases. There is plenty of evidence that foreign countries will uniformly pursue a policy of intensive technological renaissance. This new movement will concern America in two ways. There will be aggressive attempts to hire American engineers and scientists and there will be a flow of students to American universities. For example, India has a very ambitious program and has established an office in Washington to recruit technological personnel and to facilitate the enrolment of students in American universities. A number of other nations have already made tentative overtures. The extent of these movements can only be guessed at present, although the Division of Cultural Cooperation of the State Department is alert and observant and may be expected to gauge the trend as it takes shape.

In the face of these enhanced demands for technically trained personnel, the American policy during the war has not fostered an increased supply. In fact, the training of technical personnel has been largely stopped. The effect of this is discussed in an article in the January number of the *Scientific Monthly*. It is sufficient to state here again that the

American stock pile of scientific personnel has now reached a peak and for a time will progressively be reduced by the usual forces of attrition, until adequate training programs resume.

The danger here is that the colleges and universities will not be able to compete for personnel, either in point of salary or in point of time. Where industry or foreign countries will be able to offer immediate inducements, the American universities and colleges will often have to wait for an assured budget and an adequate student body before committing themselves to paying faculty salaries. Already an appreciable number of former faculty members, who have been in the services and have resigned their commissions, have found attractive industrial positions waiting for them. Although they may have preferred teaching positions, suitable ones were not open, since colleges and universities are not now in a position to add to their staffs.

Unfortunately, no simple remedy for the problem can be suggested. Recognizing the danger, Dr. James B. Conant recently spoke out urging industrial laboratories not to "kill the goose that lays the golden egg." However, individual laboratories are in no position to be forbearing. If they do not hire the bright young men, their competitors will. And foreign countries will, of course, be guided only by their needs and resources. Subsidization of colleges and universities to permit them to build staffs carries with it certain unfortunate controls which are undesirable. Other more direct manpower controls are even more abhorrent. The most satisfactory of all solutions would be an aggressive policy of selection and training of scientifically apt youth. In this way a supply might be reached which would obviate the necessity of rigid controls in this field which otherwise seem inevitable.

It is to be hoped that the crucial importance of resuming scientific training at all levels will soon be recognized and that the colleges and universities will be able to make proper adjustments to present altered conditions, so that they may successfully build their staffs to meet the mounting postwar training load. It is not too much to state that the future welfare of the nation is closely involved, in view of the central role of the sciences in military and economic spheres.

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### "PSYCHOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES AS -AMONG RACES?"

PROFESSOR GARRETT'S recent communication<sup>1</sup> on the correctness of Professor Montagu's statement<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> SCIENCE, N.S., 101: 16-17, 1945.

<sup>2</sup> SCIENCE, N.S., 100: 383-384, 1944.

regarding the question of the demonstration of valid differences in psychological characteristics among races poses problems of a psychological and semantical nature.

Professor Garrett states that "investigations of race differences in this country have regularly and consistently found differences as between Negro and white" and that, though such differences may be interpreted differently, the "fact of their existence can not be denied." Such a statement, when read in conjunction with Professor Garrett's general comments, seems to imply that there does exist a firm factual basis for the contention that there are racial differences in psychological characteristics. The available body of fact does not seem to support this contention.

While it is a fact that studies in which various features of cultural difference were not controlled have frequently purported to demonstrate the existence of differences in various test performances as dependent upon the variable of "race," the admissibility of such evidence as worthy of serious consideration is, indeed, questionable. The demonstration of differences in test scores between white and Negro Americans does not at all necessarily constitute evidence in support of innate racial differences. Such differences in test scores could only be interpreted as representing inherent differences in racial capacity if all the other variables which affect test score were carefully controlled. The most obvious of such variables are socioeconomic status, education, general cultural surroundings, urban or rural domicile and rapport between subjects and examiner, all of which are independently capable of yielding significant differences in performance. Thus, a simple demonstration of differences in score as among races on a psychological test does not mean that racial differences have been demonstrated, but only that different mean scores have been obtained for different ethnic groups. This is quite a different matter from demonstrating "psychological differences as among races." The most that can be concluded from such studies is that two test populations, which differ among other things in skin pigmentation, tend to make different mean test scores.

Perhaps the most interesting and candid rejection of the "evidence" for a racial basis of the differences found to exist in test performances in the so-called comparative racial studies has come from the late Professor C. C. Brigham, whose own study<sup>3</sup> formed a corner-stone of the racial differences in intelligence theory. In a review<sup>4</sup> article appearing seven years after the publication of his extensive comparative study Brigham concluded, on the basis of the then available evidence, that:

<sup>3</sup> C. C. Brigham, "A Study of American Intelligence," Princeton, N. J., 1923.

<sup>4</sup> C. C. Brigham, *Psychol. Rev.*, 37: pp 158-165, 1930.