

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION

ELMER DAVIS, director of the Office of War Information, and Neil Dalton, director of the Domestic Branch of the Office, have made the following announcement:

The facilities of the Office of War Information, Domestic Branch, have been made available to the newly organized Joint Board on Scientific Information Policy for the handling of information on scientific and technical developments of the Government during the war.

The Joint Board on Scientific Information Policy will be responsible for the organization and release of scientific and allied information for the Office of Scientific Research and Development, the War and Navy Departments and the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics.

The chairman of the board is Dr. John T. Tate, division chief, National Defense Research Committee, Office of Scientific Research and Development. Other members are: Rear Admiral Harold G. Bowen, U.S.N., chief, Office of Research and Inventions, Department of the Navy; Colonel Douglas Parmentier, U.S.A., chief, News Division, Bureau of Public Relations, War Department; Captain Waldo Drake, U.S.N.R., deputy director, Office of War Information, and Dr. George W. Lewis, director of aeronautical research, National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics. John Tait Milliken, chief of the Weekly Press Division, Office of War Information, is executive secretary.

The Joint Board on Scientific Information Policy has been created by concurrent action on the part of the Secretary of War, the Secretary of the Navy and Dr. Vannevar Bush, director of the Office of Scientific Research and Development, with the consent of the chairman of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics and the director of the Office of War Information. Its creation was in accordance with the recommendation of the Joint Committee on Scientific Information Policy, consisting of the Secretaries of War and Navy and the director of the Office of Scientific Research and Development, to study the problem of supplying the general public with authentic and useful information on wartime scientific developments.

The committee said in its report "that a positive information policy is desirable to supplement spot news stories, which probably can never be controlled as to accuracy of content or interpretation of scientific development; that the basic purpose of such a policy is to establish in the minds of the public a proper concept of how scientific development really has taken place; . . . and that the work of carrying out such a policy should be entrusted to a small group

of personnel whose duties shall include determining suitable stories, getting the necessary background of information from the laboratories and operational units concerned, and in general guiding the story to a release point. . . ."

The basic reports of the board will include such fundamental subjects of moment as radar rockets, metallurgy, jet propulsion, aircraft design, and public health, medicine, plastics, etc.

In addition to clearing and issuing basic releases on scientific developments, the board, through its office at the Office of War Information, Domestic Branch, Social Security Building, Washington, D. C., will carry out its directive function of assisting writers and publications through appropriate contacts, clearances and working information. Consideration will be given by the board to the special request of all branches of publishing, professional writers, radio and motion pictures. The existing facilities of the Domestic Branch of the Office of War Information will be provided for this purpose.

THE AMERICAN CONGRESS ON SURVEYING AND MAPPING

THE American Congress on Surveying and Mapping held its fifth annual meeting in Washington, D. C., on June 23. Commander Frank S. Borden, of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, was elected president; Major Richard T. Evans was named secretary-treasurer, and A. L. Shalowitz was named editor of *Surveying and Mapping*, the quarterly journal of the congress. The meeting included a panel discussion on "Cooperation among the Technical Organizations," in which representatives from the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Society of Photogrammetry, the American Geophysical Union and the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping participated.

The Congress on Surveying and Mapping was organized in 1941 for the purpose of advancing the sciences of surveying and mapping and to contribute to public education in the use of maps and to encourage the promotion of basic mapping programs.

THE AMERICAN STANDARDS ASSOCIATION

CHANGES in the constitution of the American Standards Association that will enable it to meet more fully the needs of government and industry in the postwar period have been announced by P. G. Agnew, secretary of the association. The national trade, technical and governmental groups that make up the association have ratified these changes, the principal one of which will remove present restrictions limiting the