THE NATIONAL ADVISORY HEALTH COUNCIL

THE National Advisory Health Council met at Public Health Service headquarters in Bethesda, Md., on June 19 and 20.

The two-day session was devoted to discussion of the current and future activities of the several bureaus of the Public Health Service.

Surgeon General Thomas Parran, in opening the meeting, called attention to the legal functions now vested in the National Advisory Health Council under the provisions of the Public Health Service Act of 1944 (P.L. 410). Before the passage of this law, the council served solely in an advisory capacity. Now the council has the legal responsibility to

(1) . . . advise, consult with and make recommendations to the Surgeon-General on matters relating to health activities and functions of the service; and to serve in other capacities as requested;

(2) Recommend research projects for grants-in-aid in scientific fields other than cancer research, and recommend other procedures for the advancement of scientific research;

(3) Recommend the adoption of regulations by the service with respect to interstate quarantine for the prevention of communicable diseases, including regulations for the apprehension, examination and detention of persons who are spreading disease.

The programs of the Sanitary Engineering Division, the Bureau of Medical Services and the Bureau of State Services were discussed on the first day. On the second day, a proposed plan for the training of Public Health Service personnel was presented by the Division of Public Health Methods; the Nurse Education Division presented proposals for the postwar nursing program; and the work of the National Institute of Health was discussed.

The council recommended the approval of a grant-in-aid of $92,000 to the University of Utah for research on muscular dystrophy. This is the first grant-in-aid for general research projects to be made under the provisions of P.L. 410.

Among other important decisions of the council were recommendations that

(1) A committee of the council be appointed to act with designated officers of the service in the development of a program of clinical research;

(2) The Public Health Service strengthen its control of the interstate spread of disease through consultant services to public health laboratories and through maintenance of a $1,000,000 emergency fund to be used in epidemics and disasters;

(3) The Public Health Service undertake demonstrations in selected communities of generalized public health nursing programs, including bedside care;

(4) The Public Health Service establish a training program for its own personnel, which would include orientation, work experience, observation, in-service training and opportunities for state and local personnel to participate;

(5) The program of grants-in-aid and technical services to the states in the field of industrial hygiene be expanded;

(6) The Public Health Service seek appropriations for grants-in-aid for general research to be allotted to qualified institutions and individuals;

(7) When the Federal Government undertakes grant-in-aid programs related to public health and sanitation, the Public Health Service be empowered to conduct investigations for determination of the nature and extent of the problems involved and to approve the allocation of funds, functional effectiveness and placement of plants, installations and constructions required of such programs.

In addition, the council approved the policy of the Public Health Service on national programs for the control of water pollution.

Regular meetings of the council will be held twice a year; special meetings will be called as needed. Council members are to serve as chairmen of special committees dealing with specific subjects.

THE ELI LILLY AWARD

THE Eli Lilly and Company Award in Biological Chemistry for 1945 was presented to Dr. Max A. Lauffer, of the University of Pittsburgh and formerly of the Rockefeller Institute, at a special meeting of the Pittsburgh Section of the American Chemical Society in the Stephen B. Foster Memorial of the University of Pittsburgh on June 21. The award was made at a meeting of the section of which the recipient is a member because a spring national convention of the American Chemical Society was not held this year.

Dr. Harold K. Work, chairman of the Pittsburgh Section, introduced the speakers: R. Adams Dutcher, who expressed his impressions of "The Recipient and His Field of Work"; Dr. Charles A. Parsons, who presented the award to Dr. Lauffer on behalf of the American Chemical Society, and the medalist, Dr. Lauffer, who gave an address on "Influenza Virus" in which he pointed out that the cause of influenza was a matter of conjecture until 1933, when it became evident that the probable cause was a filterable virus. This virus can be conveniently propagated in the chorio-allantoic membrane of chick embryos and purified from the embryonic fluid by high-speed centrifugation.

With the electron microscope Dr. Lauffer showed that purified virus preparations contain three types of particles—small granules, medium-sized spheres (about 115 mμ in diameter) and clusters of these spheres. From ultracentrifuge experiments and density measurements, it was found that the spherical particles contained 60 per cent. water. Chemical