## 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

determinations by other investigators showed that the other 40 per cent. was 70 per cent. protein, 24 per cent. lipid and 6 per cent. carbohydrate. From this analysis influenza virus resembles a small organism more than a large molecule.

By using a separation cell in the ultracentrifuge it was possible to show that biological activity of influenza virus is associated with the 115 mμ spheres and their aggregates and not with the small granules. This cell has a barrier about half way down, so that after ultracentrifugation, top and bottom layers can be removed and tested separately. Correlation between biological activity and content of particles can then be established in the two layers.

The conclusion that influenza virus is a particle 115 mμ in diameter was confirmed by the finding that this particle and biological activity migrated with the same speed under an electric field in the Tiselius apparatus.

The Eli Lilly and Company award of $1,000 and a bronze medal is made annually to an American scientist under thirty-five years who has accomplished outstanding research in biological chemistry. The purpose of the award is to stimulate fundamental research in biological chemistry in the United States.

## THE INTER-AMERICAN TYPHUS CONFERENCE IN MEXICO

THE Public Health and Welfare Department (Secretaría de Salubridad y Asistencia) of Mexico is calling an Inter-American Typhus Conference to be held in Mexico City from October 7 to 13, sponsored jointly by the Institute of Inter-American Affairs and the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

The purpose of the conference is to bring together leading workers in the typhus field in the American Republics in order that they may present and discuss the latest developments, both in the field of research and in the practical control of the disease.

Inasmuch as epidemic typhus is a serious problem in many of the American Republics and leaders of the typhus control program in the United States Armed Forces have experienced success in the control of this disease, it is believed that the calling of such a conference is opportune.

Invitations to leading scientists are being issued, but other individuals who have an interest in this subject will be welcome to attend the meeting. Correspondence should be directed to the Secretaría de Salubridad y Asistencia, Mexico, D. F.

# SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. T. WAYLAND VAUGHAN, emeritus director of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, has been awarded the Mary Clark Thompson Medal and honorarium of the National Academy of Sciences for 1945, in "recognition of outstanding achievement in his purposeful and ingenious coordination of observations and generalizations made in and bearing on the fields of stratigraphic geology and paleontology."

DR. FRANCIS G. BLAKE, Sterling professor of medicine and dean of the School of Medicine of Yale University, was presented with the Charles V. Chapin Memorial Award for 1945 of the City of Providence during the one hundred and thirty-fourth annual meeting of the Rhode Island Medical Society. The presentation was made by Hon. Dennis J. Roberts, mayor of Providence, following the delivery of the annual Charles V. Chapin oration. This lecture was entitled "Some Recent Advances in the Control of Infectious Diseases."

COLONEL EDWARD T. WENTWORTH, M.C., A.U.S., organizer and commander in Europe of the nineteenth General Hospital, has been named Albert David Kaiser medalist of 1945 by the Rochester Academy of Medicine "for outstanding services to the medical profession of county and state and for zeal in ministering to the defenders of our country in two wars."

THE Legion of Merit of the Army has been awarded to Lieutenant Colonel John A. Geddes, formerly research chemist of E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company.

THE Osler Memorial Medal of the University of Oxford for 1945 has been awarded to Professor C. G. Douglas, F.R.S., tutor in natural sciences and fellow of St. John's College.

THE gold medal of the British Royal Society of Medicine was presented on July 4 to Brigadier Sir Lionel Whitby at the annual meeting of the society. The medal is awarded triennially to "a man or woman who has made valuable contributions to the science and art of medicine." It was awarded to Sir Lionel Whitby in recognition of his distinguished work in relation to the problems of wound shock and the transfusion of blood and the blood derivatives.

THE American Society of Plant Physiologists has elected the following officers for terms beginning July 1: *President,* Dr. Paul J. Kramer, Duke University; *Vice-president,* Dr. Earl S. Johnston, Smithsonian Institution; *Secretary,* Dr. Robert B. Withrow, Purdue University; *Member of Executive Committee,* Professor D. R. Hoagland, University of California; *Member of Editorial Board of Plant Physiology,* Dr. H. A. Spoehr, Carnegie Institution of Washington.