easily and effectively from early years, but always upon his own occasions. He was a beautiful surgical operator, a fact so evident in the nerve ablation experiments which distinguished his later career. He was better than a good sculptor. He rejoiced in this dexterity and relied upon it. Yet I remember how characteristically he spoke at lunch in the Brigham Hospital years ago. At the beginning of the Ford era he purchased a car, the first in a long series. These Fords had character. On cranking, they responded to a definite formula or balked aggressively. Each car was an object of affectionate regard by the entire Cannon family, but Dr. Cannon never learned the anatomy and physiology of the Ford as known to millions throughout the land. He had too many vivid interests to burden his consciousness with the idiosyncrasies of even the most worthy Ford, remarking characteristically that he relied upon the "Vis medicatrix Fordi!" to keep the current old faithful in motion!

It is our habit to seek for influences which start men of great accomplishments upon their careers. Usually such efforts result in highly artificial syntheses inappropriate to the man involved. At his twenty-fifth anniversary dinner, Dr. Cannon described himself as the grandson of Ludwig and the son of Bowditch. But no teachers really influenced him. He had his own "self-starter" which never failed to stir and stir in his agile brain. His spirits rose and fell as he saw himself progressing or baffled in the current research. What Dr. Cannon accomplished was all his own. No one else had the ideas, no one else labored painstakingly over pupils, giving ideas and counsel without thought for self. What he published came wholly from his brain. His other contribution, the researches of pupils scattered all over the world, will speak Dr. Cannon's obituary as he would wish. Questions being answered, never an end of questions! In the study of living processes something is always beyond the horizon. Indeed, our progress is devoted to pushing back the horizon so that as we gain knowledge we are never satisfied with our gains. Dr. Cannon enjoyed this struggle. He judged contemporaries and pupils by their ability to ask good questions. Amongst his files I have come upon one large folder labelled "Questions." Here, upon varied bits of paper but always in his legible hand, are scores of questions noted as they came to him, and usually without comment.

Peptic ulcer from simultaneous stimulation vagus and sympathetic?

Factors affecting the growth of hair?

Milk secretion as affected by fright, rats (hissing sound)?

Effect of secreted adrenalin on bronchioles in dog?

Unilateral effect of convulsants?

Catnip in relation to sex? Spayed cats?

Dr. Cannon was fortunate in that much of his life was spent in the Harvard Medical School while it was under the administrative direction of Dr. Edsall. These two men saw eye to eye in their desire to extend productive scholarship through every department of the school. They worked and died together, leaving an example of accomplishment their pupils will be hard set to equal.

CECIL K. DRINKER

DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

DR. JOHN CAMPBELL MERRIAM, from 1920 to 1938 president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, died on October 30 at the age of seventy-six years.

THE death, at the age of seventy-six years, is announced of Robert Hagelstein, honorary curator of Myxomycetes at the New York Botanical Garden.

AT the annual Robert Kennedy Duncan Memorial Luncheon on October 29 the Robert Kennedy Duncan Club of Mellon Institute conferred honorary membership on Dr. Rufus Henry Fitzgerald, chancellor of the University of Pittsburgh. The club is in honor of the late Robert Kennedy Duncan, the originator of the industrial fellowship system; it is the center of the social and professional life in the institution.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

NUCLEAR PHYSICS AND CHEMISTRY AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY

RESEARCH in nuclear physics, the branch of science which helped develop the atomic bomb, will be made broader at Harvard University during the next five years. The Harvard Corporation has appropriated the sum of $425,000 for use of a committee on nuclear physics and chemistry during this period. Dean Paul H. Buck, provost of the university, will head the committee, members of which have not yet been announced.

Two other developments emphasize the university's interest in the atom and its possibilities in times of peace. The Harvard cyclotron, which did service with the Manhattan project of bomb development at Los Alamos, is to be returned to Cambridge for additional atom-smashing labors.

Three new associate professors of physics, all

trained in nuclear research or theory, have been elected to the Harvard faculty. One is Dr. Robert Rathbun Wilson, formerly assistant professor of physics at Princeton University, who helped to evolve the atomic bomb. Others are Dr. Julian Seymour Schwinger, formerly assistant professor of physics at Purdue University, and Dr. Edward Mills Purcell, formerly tutor in Harvard's department of physics.

The Harvard cyclotron or atom-smasher, was constructed at the Gordon McKay Engineering Laboratory in 1938 to aid in the study of phenomena involved in disintegration of atomic nuclei. It was designed to produce atom-smashing projectiles of at least 8,000,000-volt energies. It was one of the mechanical pioneers in the study of what takes place when atoms are disintegrated.

Return of the cyclotron from war service, which reached an apex with the first use of atomic bombs over Japan, will be celebrated through the necessary construction of a new building in which it is to be placed. Dr. Wilson, who directed the Division of Research in Experimental Physics at Los Alamos, supervised the dismantling of the cyclotron in Cambridge and its re-assembly in New Mexico.

The new committee on nuclear physics and chemistry, headed by Dean Buck, will be representative of allied fields of scientific research. As reported in SCIENCE, the sum of $425,000 which it has been authorized to spend may be used for buildings, equipment or salaries. Within these financial bounds, there is no limitation on the allotment of funds in any one year for the next five years.

THE RESEARCH CORPORATION OF NEW YORK

THE Research Corporation of New York, a nonprofit organization devoted to advancing research and technology by use of revenues from inventions assigned to it by public-spirited inventors during a period of five years, will make grants for research and teaching to educational institutions amounting to the sum of $2,500,000. Preference in making these grants will be given, other factors being equal, to smaller institutions and those of more limited financial resources for research.

Dr. Joseph W. Barker, acting president of the corporation, has returned from service as special assistant to the Secretary of the Navy to his work with the corporation and with Columbia University. One hundred to two hundred grants of $2,500 to $5,000 will be made each year in order that students will be enabled to undertake at universities and colleges research of peace-time importance in pure science, especially in chemistry, physics, mathematics and engineering.

The first grants will be made by a special committee of members of industrial and university laboratories. The committee is composed of Acting President Barker, dean of engineering at Columbia University; Dr. Thomas H. Chilton, director of engineering for du Pont de Nemours and Company; Dr. William D. Coolidge, x-ray consultant for the General Electric Company; Timothy E. Shea, manufacturing engineer of the Western Electric Company; Dr. Lloyd P. Smith, associate research director of the Radio Corporation of America; Colonel Stafford L. Warren, professor of medicine at the University of Rochester; and Dr. Robert R. Williams, inventor of the synthesis of vitamin B_1 and coordinator of research of the Research Corporation.

Grants will be made to the institutions at which the investigators work and teach. The funds allotted will be available for the purchase of needed equipment and for employment of assistants either as fellows or otherwise. Awards will be based primarily upon demonstrated ability.

The Research Corporation was begun in 1912 with the gift, through Dr. F. G. Cottrell, of patent rights on electrical precipitation, which is used for removing dust, fume and mists from industrial gases and from the atmosphere. From revenues derived from these and other patents it has made grants of $1,279,637 in past years to fifty-two institutions. In recent years the Research Corporation has served universities by administering inventions that may arise in their laboratories.

Applications should be addressed to Dr. Robert R. Williams, Research Corporation, 405 Lexington Avenue, New York 17, N. Y.

FREEDOM FOR SCIENTIFIC WORK

THE following resolution has been passed by the Southwestern Section of the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine:

WHEREAS, there is now much discussion regarding Federal subsidy in support of scientific endeavor, in order to assure the continuance of the benefits of scientific effort, and

WHEREAS, the many reports, published discussions, and other comments relating to this important matter do not fully emphasize assurance of desired and continued freedom for scientific workers, now be it

Resolved, by the Southwestern Section of the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine that appropriate protagonists for Federal support of scientific work be informed of the section's wish, in company with responsible scientists throughout the nation, to have clear assurance of freedom of scientific endeavor, under any form of Federal subsidy, support, or encouragement, with the understanding that such freedom extend not only to scientific studies and scientific undertakings themselves,