

LIFE INSURANCE MEDICAL RESEARCH FUND

ONE hundred and forty-six life insurance companies in the United States and Canada have cooperated to establish an organization known as the Life Insurance Medical Research Fund. It is the purpose of this fund to support fundamental research bearing on cardiovascular disease, including rheumatic fever, hypertension, arteriosclerosis and allied disorders.

To assist the board of directors of the fund in making grants an advisory council has been appointed with the following membership: Dr. Francis G. Blake, *chairman*; Dr. Ernest W. Goodpasture, Dr. A. Baird Hastings, Dr. Eugene M. Landis, Dr. Robert F. Loeb, Dr. C. N. H. Long, Dr. Seeley G. Mudd and Dr. Cecil J. Watson.

Funds will become available after January 1, 1946, and grants will be made for varying periods of time in accordance with the specific requirements of the research problems.

Applications for grants may now be made to the chairman of the advisory council and should be transmitted in duplicate through the administrative officer of the institution making application. Requests for grants should include a description of the proposed research, a budget, and the date when funds are desired. Applications received by February 1, 1946, will be given consideration at a meeting of the council to be held on or about March 1, 1946.

FRANCIS G. BLAKE, M.D., *Chairman,*
Advisory Council

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STAFF CHANGES OF THE U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

DIRECTOR W. E. WRATHER, of the United States Geological Survey, has announced recent organizational changes within the Geologic Branch of the Survey, which is headed by Chief Geologist W. H. Bradley.

The Geologic Branch has been subdivided into two divisions and a technical service and administrative group. Dr. H. M. Bannerman has been named chief of the Division of Economic Geology. During most of the war period he served as chief of the Section of Non-metallic Minerals.

Dr. H. S. Ladd has been designated chief of the Division of Areal Geology and Basic Sciences. He was formerly regional geologist, in charge of the Rolla, Missouri, office of the Survey. Dr. J. W. Peoples, assistant chief geologist, has been named head of the Technical and Administrative Group.

A Special Research Staff has been set up within the Geologic Branch, having advisory functions in

connection with long-range research planning and Branch policies. This staff includes Drs. D. F. Hewett, G. F. Loughlin and W. W. Rubey. Other geologists are temporarily assigned to this staff as the planning needs dictate.

A new Section of Geologic Information and Reports has been established. Don L. Carroll, until recently foreign editor and staff geologist of the *Oil Weekly*, has been designated chief of the new section.

The following sections now comprise the Division of Economic Geology:

Geology of Fuels: H. D. Miser, chief

Geology of Metalliferous Deposits: Charles P. Park, Jr., chief

Geology of Non-Metalliferous Deposits: Josiah Bridge, acting chief

Foreign Geology: J. V. N. Dorr, 2d, acting chief

Within the Division of Areal Geology and Basic Sciences are included the following sections:

Areal Geology: J. T. Hack, acting chief

Engineering Geology: E. C. Eckel, chief

Chemistry and Physics: W. T. Schaller, chief

Paleontology and Stratigraphy: J. B. Reeside, Jr., chief

Petrology: C. S. Ross, chief

Military Geology: E. S. Larsen, 3rd, acting chief

Geophysics: J. R. Balsley, acting chief

The Technical Service and Administrative Group includes the following units:

Manuscript Review Board: C. H. Dane, chairman

Geologic Map Editor: E. N. Goddard

Geologic Cartography: L. B. Pusey, chief

Committee on Geologic Names: Miss Frances Willoughby, secretary

Office of the Chief Clerk: Mrs. A. L. Brown, chief

Changes in field assignments have also been announced. A. L. Weissenborn, of the Rolla, Missouri, office, has been designated as regional geologist at Spokane, Washington. Robert A. Laurence has been made Eastern regional geologist, with temporary headquarters at Jefferson City, Tennessee. Charles B. Hunt, formerly chief of the Military Geology Unit, has been designated regional geologist at Salt Lake City.

NEWS FROM ABROAD

LETTER FROM DR. KARRE MÜNSTER STRØM

Dr. Karre Münster Strøm, head of the Department of Limnology of Oslo University, Norway, writes to Dr. Wm. Randolph Taylor that he and his colleagues have come through the war well, that he worked quietly at home most of the period, and that he hopes to pay the scientific visit to this country in 1946 that he had planned to take just before the war.

LETTER FROM DR. AAGE J. C. JENSEN

Dr. John E. Flynn, editor-in-chief of *Biological Abstracts*, writes that he has recently received a postal card from Dr. Aage J. C. Jensen, of the Kommissionen for Fiskeri- og Havundersøgelser, which gives assurance that Dr. Jensen is in good health and that, though the activities of the Kommissionen for Fiskeri og Havundersøgelser have greatly declined during the war years, there is prospect of their being resumed. Dr. Jensen's present address is: Charlottenlund Slot, Charlottenlund, Denmark.

LETTER FROM DR. W. AEG. TIMMERMAN

The director of the State Institute of Public Health, Utrecht, Holland, Dr. W. Aeg. Timmerman, has written as follows to the editor of *SCIENCE*:

During the war, from 1940 on, we have been completely devoid of all American literature. Money difficulties make it even now impossible to obtain American periodicals.

This most unsatisfactory situation continually increases our ignorance of modern scientific conceptions and technique. I would therefore be extremely grateful if authors of articles on microbiology, biochemistry, pharmacology, antibiotics, the manufacturing of sera and vaccines and on blood grouping, could send me some reprints of their work. This would be of very great help in our efforts to rebuild all that has been lost in recent years.

The American people have already given generous help to Holland: I hope, however, that I am not asking too much.

The address is: Director, State Institute of Public Health, Sterrenbosch 1, Utrecht, Holland.

I am, sir, yours faithfully,

LETTER FROM DR. F. VERDOORN

Dr. F. Verdoorn, managing editor of *Chronica Botanica* and botanical adviser to the Board for the Netherlands Indies, Surinam and Curaçao, writes that since his previous reports (*SCIENCE*, November 16 *et ante*) the death has been announced of the following biologists and agronomists in the Netherlands Indies:

Ir. J. H. Bos, chief forester of the Goenoeng Kidool Forest, Jogjakarata.

Dr. H. Duyfjes, Jr., teacher in biology, Bandoeng.

Dr. R. F. A. Altman, chemist of the Rubber Research Institute, Buitenzorg.

Dr. A. d'Angremond, director of the Experiment Station Association Sumatra Rubber Growers, Medan.

Dr. J. D. F. Hardenburg, director, Laboratory for Marine Biology, Batavia.

Dr. Ir. Ch. Coster, director of the Experiment Station, West Java, Buitenzorg, formerly chief forester (executed July, 1943, by the Japanese).

According to word received from Singapore, Dr. M. A. Donk, mycologist of the Buitenzorg Botanical Gardens; Dr. G. Giesberger, microbiologist, and Dr.

L. van der Pijl, known for his work on floral biology, are in Singapore, in relatively good health. R. E. Holttum, director of the Botanical Gardens of Singapore, is now in England; Dr. E. J. H. Corner is in charge of the gardens during his absence. Dr. M. R. Henderson, the curator of the gardens, who spent the war years in Newlands, South Africa, is on his way back to Singapore.

Of internationally known biologists in the Netherlands Indies it may be of interest to state that the following were alive last October:

At Buitenzorg:

Miss Dr. B. Polak, research associate, Institute of Soils, Genetics Agricultural Experiment Station.

Dr. D. F. van Slooten, chief of the Herbarium, Government Botanical Gardens.

Dr. H. J. Toxopeus, head of the Botanical Laboratory, Genetics Agricultural Experiment Station.

Dr. L. J. Toxopeus, entomologist, Zoological Museum.

M. A. Lieftinck, chief of the Zoological Museum.

Professor Dr. K. B. Boedijn, director of the College of Agriculture.

At Malang:

Dr. M. Hille Ris Lambers, geneticist, the Experiment Station Central and East Java.

News about the fate and whereabouts of Drs. Posthumus, van Steenis and van den Honert has already been published in *SCIENCE*.

LETTERS FROM DR. J. VAN DER BILT

Dr. Peter van de Kamp, director of the Sproul Observatory of Swarthmore College, has sent to us the following translation of letters, written in Dutch, received by him last summer while on a scientific mission in Paris. Since then he was in Holland, where he visited Dr. van der Bilt, lector emeritus in astronomy at the University of Utrecht, and found him and his wife well.

BAARN, 19 July 1945

... I had better not go into details about the horrible past five years and the deplorable condition of our destroyed and looted country. Practically everything must be built up anew, but there are no materials, raw or otherwise. Nevertheless a start has been made; yesterday, for the first time since Sept. '44, we received a small ration of electric current (9 kw for 60 days)¹ and on Sept. 1st there will be a little gas. Progress is very slow, but there is progress. My wife and I have come through all right, though we have become very thin and have aged much, especially after the railroad strike which induced the "Moffen"² to starve us. We lost about 25 kg weight, but did not have hunger oedema like so many others, among whom was Pannekoek. And since our liberation on May 5th we have already gained a few kg! Personally we had only one dangerous day, namely last

¹ Note by P.v.d.K.: Enough to burn one 50-watt lamp for three hours each night.

² An opprobrious name for the Germans used by the Dutch.

April 25, when Baarn was under British fire, but everything came off all right.

Nearly all intellectual work was stopped for months because of lack of current, of trains and also of time, because everyone had to toil daily for his food and fuel. None of the astronomers died, but the elder ones were certainly not benefited. Professor v. Rhyn was in Helendoorn for a year with an acute case of T.B.; he is at home again but is not cured. Professor Hertzprung recently has retired and Oort has become director. Minnsort was a hostage for two years; last winter he almost died as a result of making distant "hungertrips." But he is exceedingly tough. We are practically certain that we shall not see Pinkhof back. Of approximately 100,000 Dutch Jews an estimated 5,000 are alive; the others have been butchered in an atrocious manner, . . .

THE HAGUE, 22 July 1945

. . . Naturally all of us have become quite a bit thinner, but have kept alive on sugar beets and tulip bulbs. The latter, when boiled, taste like chestnuts. Not every-

one can stand them, because they are slightly poisonous; this, however, can be corrected with some chalk. Toward the end we had no gas, no electricity, hardly any fuel, and had to cook on a sort of small emergency oil stove. Well, that is over now and we are already gaining some weight. The effect of lack of protein is remarkable; it causes a noticeable lack of memory. Our staff was much bothered by that; however, it does not seem to be lasting; after good nourishment it returns. To keep myself in shape I had stored up some casein, which proved quite helpful. . . .

On November 28, 1945, Dr. van der Bilt received the sad news of death through exhaustion as Japanese prisoners in the Netherlands East Indies of the following Dutch astronomers:

Dr. Arnout de Sitter, acting director of the Bosscha Observatory at Lembang, Java.

Dr. W. Chr. Martin, Bosscha Observatory.

Mr. J. Uitterdyk, teacher in Batavia.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. JOSEPH L. ROSIN, pharmaceutical chemist of Plainfield, N. J., was presented on December 11 with the 1945 Remington Medal of the New York branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association in recognition of his work as "the foremost American authority on chemical reagents." The medal was presented at a dinner meeting at the Hotel Pennsylvania, attended by leading representatives of professional and scientific pharmacy.

At the annual meeting in New York City of the American Pharmaceutical Association the Award for Scientific Distinction was presented by Dr. Alan Valentine, president of the University of Rochester, to the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research. It was accepted by Dr. Homer T. Swift, acting director of the hospital of the Rockefeller Institute, who read an address by Dr. Herbert S. Gasser, director of the institute, who was unable to be present.

THE second presentation of the Elizabeth Severance Prentiss Award in health education was made to Dr. C.-E. A. Winslow, Lauder professor emeritus of public health of the School of Medicine of Yale University, at the Cleveland Health Museum, which celebrated on November 27 its fifth anniversary with a civic luncheon at which the attendance was about five hundred.

THE Achievement Medal of the Florida Academy of Sciences (Phipps and Bird, Richmond, Va., donor) was awarded to Garald G. Parker, geologist of the U. S. Geological Survey, Ground Water Division, of Miami, Fla., at the meeting in St. Augustine of the academy on December 6 and 7. The title of his paper

was "The Effect of the Pleistocene Epoch on the Geology and Ground Water of Southern Florida."

At a dinner given on November 28 in honor of the seventy-first birthday of Dr. Chaim Weizmann, he was presented with a check for \$1,000,000 to be used for the establishment of the Weizmann Institute of Science in Palestine.

PHI LAMBDA Upsilon, the honor society for men in chemistry, announces the election of the following officers to serve for the coming triennium: *President*, Dr. T. F. Buehrer, of the University of Arizona; *Vice-president*, Dr. L. F. Audrieth, of the University of Illinois; *Secretary*, Dr. James M. Church, of Columbia University; *Treasurer*, Dr. Herschel Hunt, of Purdue University; and *Editor of The Register*, Dr. Robert D. Vold, of the University of Southern California.

DR. HANOR A. WEBB, head of the department of chemistry of George Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville, was elected president of the Tennessee Academy of Science at the business meeting on December 1. Dr. Paris B. Stockdale, head of the department of geology at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, was elected vice-president. Kendall E. Born, of the State Division of Geology, Nashville, was re-elected secretary-treasurer.

DR. W. B. YOUNG, acting dean of agriculture at the University of Connecticut, has been appointed dean of the College of Agriculture and director of the Experiment Station. Dr. W. L. Slate will again become vice-director.