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# News and Notes

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A discussion of national science legislation, under the auspices of the Washington Association of Scientists, was held in the Commerce Department Auditorium in Washington, D. C., on the evening of 12 June, Phillip N. Powers presiding. Featured on the program were addresses by Leverett Saltonstall, Senator from Massachusetts; Roy K. Marshall, director of the Fels Planetarium, Franklin Institute; and Howard A. Meyerhoff, executive secretary of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. All of the participants spoke in favor of S. 1850, pointing out that this bill represents a reasonable compromise in the matter of creating a National Science Foundation, and urging that scientists present a united front in order that such legislation might be passed at the earliest possible time.

E. Harold Hinman has just returned to the Tennessee Valley Authority, Health and Safety Department, as chief of the Division of Malaria Control. For the past four years he was Chief of Party of the Institute of Inter-American Affairs, Health and Sanitation Division, the first year in El Salvador and the last three years in Mexico. Prior to his departure from Mexico he received the Eduardo Liceaga medal from the Government of Mexico for eminent contributions to public health.

M. Tchou-Su, Institute de Biologie, 393 Route Ferguson, Shanghai, China, is badly in need of reprints, especially in the field of experimental embryology. He was associated with E. Bataillon, at the University of Montpellier, France, for several years and has published extensively.

Hood Worthington, who has been on assignment for the last three years at the Hanford Engineer Works, which the Du Pont Company formerly operated for the Government, has been appointed assistant director of the recently organized engineering research section, Rayon Technical Division, of Du Pont.

Ch. Joyeux, French parasitologist at the Institut de Médecine et de Pharmacie Coloniales, Université d'Aix-Marseille, France, writes as follows:

It is no longer possible for me to continue my research work. My laboratories were badly damaged during the course of the war, and the great increase in prices prevents further experimental work. I have retired, leaving to younger men the task of reconstructing the laboratory. I shall devote the remaining years of my active life to making scientific expeditions to different countries.

W. Malcolm Reid (Monmouth College)

Alfred Métraux, formerly with the Bureau of American Ethnology, Smithsonian Institution, has been appointed social affairs officer of the United Nations, a newly created office under the direction of Mr. Laugier, Undersecretary of UN.

Col. George C. Crom, Jr., after more than five and one-half years active duty with the AAF, is on terminal leave. Col. Crom's military service was highlighted by his contributions to the development of a wide range of aircraft electrical equipment. He is also credited by Wright Field officials with a major role in the development of 400-cycle power systems for aircraft. His service included tours of duty in Alaska and England in connection with cold-weather tests on turbosupercharger regulators. Col. Crom will continue to serve in a civilian capacity at Wright Field as a research consultant in the Engineering Division's Equipment Laboratory.

Sir D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson, of St. Andrews University, Scotland, was awarded a Daniel Giraud Elliot medal for his book *On growth and form* on 23 April by the National Academy of Sciences.

S. Ansbacher, formerly scientific director of the International Vitamin Corporation and scientific consultant of the American Home Products Corporation, has been appointed director of nutritional research of the Schenley Research Division.

E. G. Stanley Baker, released from service with the AAF as an aviation physiologist, has been appointed assistant professor in the Department of Biology at the Catholic University of America, effective 1 October 1946.

A. Cyril Callister, associate clinical professor of surgery, University of Utah School of Medicine, recently delivered a series of illustrated lectures at the Cardiological Institute of Mexico City, under the auspices of the National University at Mexico City, and at the University of Southern California Medical School. Dr. Callister's subject was: "The Use of Tube Grafts in the Treatment of Deep Complications of Burns."

## Announcements

*The Empire Scientific Conference* of the Royal Society, London, opened 17 June and will extend to 8 July. The Conference opened in London, moves to Cambridge on 22 June, to Oxford on 1 July, and back to London for two closing days. A general description of the program follows:

17 June Opening Ceremony.

18 June General Scientific Organization; papers from Canada, New Zealand, and the Colonies.

19 June General Scientific Organization; papers from Australia, South Africa, and India.

20 June Methods of improving the interchange of scientists throughout the Empire.

22 June Natural products of the Empire and the chemical industries that are or might be based on them.

24 June Agricultural science in the Empire; Mineral resources of the Empire.

25 June Measures to secure greater uniformity in physical standards of measurement and the use of units, terms, and symbols; Collection and interchange of scientific records and experimental material, including the safeguards that will have to be taken to minimize the risk involved in the distribution of plants, seeds, and animals.

27 June A scientific information service (for scientists).

28 June The etiology and control of infectious and transmissible diseases, particularly those which are insect-borne.

1 July Physiological and psychological factors affecting human life and work under tropical conditions and in industry; Modern methods of mapping and exploration by air, including the use of radio technique in ordnance survey.

3 July The science of nutrition.

4 July Land utilization and conservation, including forestry, soil erosion, irrigation, etc.

6 July Empire cooperation in the scientific field, with existing and projected international organizations.

8 July Dissemination of scientific news to the public generally.

### *Why H. R. 6448 Is the Better Bill*

*(Continued from page 724.)*

Science Foundation from political control or interference were in serious jeopardy. The immediate outcome of this meeting was the creation of the Committee Supporting the Bush Report. The first action of this Committee was to address an open letter (*Science*, 1945, **102**, 545) to President Truman, emphasizing in a constructive manner the principles emphasized in the Bush Report. This letter, dated 24 November, and signed by 43 scientists, was released with the prior consent of the President. It placed upon the President's desk an appeal to restore the initiative in science legislation to his own hands; it announced clear-cut principles for the information of legislators who must assess this legislation; and lastly, it served to inform scientists throughout the country that all was not well with the legislation and to acquaint them with the major issues involved.

This letter was subsequently opened to general endorsement and over 5,000 scientists of all ranks and from all branches of science added their names to the original endorsements and supported the position taken by the Committee. Shortly thereafter President Truman replied to Dr. Bowman in terms which made it clear that he favored the provisions of the Kilgore rather than the Magnuson Bill.

Since that time numerous conferences have been held among representatives of Dr. Bush's office, the Committee Supporting the Bush Report, and Senators Kilgore and Magnuson or members of their staffs. Conferences have also been held with other Senators directly or indirectly concerned with pending science legislation. In view of the indications in Washington, it appeared that the best hope for early enactment of science legislation lay in modifying the last draft of

the Kilgore Bill, S. 1720, along such lines as would make it acceptable to scientists generally.

Largely in consequence of a continued exchange of views, a new joint bill, S. 1850, was framed and sponsored by Senators Kilgore, Magnuson, Johnson, Pepper, Fulbright, Saltonstall, Thomas, and Ferguson, and introduced in the Senate on 21 February. This bill was reported to the floor by the Senate Military Affairs Committee on 19 March by a vote of 6 to 2, the opposing Senators contesting the patent sections, the inclusion of the social sciences, and the mandatory allocation of funds to land grant and tax-supported institutions. The opponents of this last provision call it with some warrant "the land grant pork barrel." Its effect is to throw substantial sums of money toward tax-supported institutions, some of which, as judged by graduate work, give evidence of little or no interest in or capacity for research, and to deprive privately supported institutions which have research merit of an equivalent amount. Every person who has considered this legislation is in favor not only of equitable geographical distribution but of using Federal funds to build up research in promising institutions where research is not well developed. But the automatic allocation of funds, even though their expenditure is not required, does not, in the opinion of many, seem the wisest method of accomplishing this end. Allocation should be left flexible and in the hands of the National Science Board.

Although S. 1850 follows the general pattern of "in-line" organization, with considerable power vested in a single administrator, the Foundation proposed therein is such that the best interests of science appear to be protected and scientists assured of reasonable authority and responsibility in policy-making and administrative decisions.