

administrative employees generally, and believes qualified scientists can contribute greatly to development of a simpler and more satisfactory principle and method of classifying this type of employee.

### Make Plans for—

**American Association of Junior Colleges**, 27th annual meeting, February 19–22, Hotel Jefferson, St. Louis, Missouri.

**Alpha Epsilon Delta**, five-state conference on premedical education, February 21, 22, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky.

**Eastern Association of Electroencephalographers**, February 21–23, Montrea Neurological Institute, Montreal, Canada.

**American Society of Mechanical Engineers**, spring meeting, March 2–5, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

**Western Metal Congress and Exposition**, fifth, March 22–27, Civic Auditoriums, Oakland, California.

**Society of American Bacteriologists**, annual meeting, May 12–16, Bellevue-Stratford Hotel, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

**American Oil Chemists' Society**, 38th annual meeting, May 20–22, New Orleans, Louisiana.

**American Society of Mechanical Engineers**, oil and gas power 19th national conference, May 21–24, Cleveland, Ohio.

**American Society of Mechanical Engineers**, aviation meeting, May 26–29, Los Angeles, California.

**American Society of Mechanical Engineers**, wood industries national conference, June 12–13, Madison, Wisconsin.

**American Society of Mechanical Engineers**, semiannual meeting, June 16–19, Chicago, Illinois.

**American Society for Engineering Education**, 55th annual meeting, June 18–21, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

**Chemical Society, London**, centenary meeting, July 15–17, London, England.

**International Congress of Pure and Applied Chemistry**, 11th annual, July 17–24, London, England.

**International Physiological Congress**, 17th annual, July 21–25, Oxford, England.

# COMMENTS

## by Readers

E. V. Cowdry presented an excellent case for more adequate support of cancer research by the Federal Government ("Financing Cancer Research," *Science*, January 17). However, the wisdom of his contention that this support should come through the enactment into law of the Neely-Pepper Bill (S. 93), which calls for a \$100,000,000 Federal appropriation for cancer research, may be questioned. The passage of S. 93 by Congress might well pave the way for similar bills seeking support for research on heart disease, arthritis, hypertension, arteriosclerosis, the common cold, and a number of other diseases which, because of the morbidity, mortality, or economic loss entailed, are at least as important as cancer to the people of the United States. If appropriations for research on specific diseases are proper, would not Federal laws financing various research programs in biology, the physical sciences, and the social sciences be logical?

As one actively interested in the conquest of cancer, I favor more adequate government support of cancer research but only in proportion to the research needs of other fields of medicine and science. This is in keeping with the democratic principle of promoting the welfare of all elements of our citizenry. Those who wish to contribute to research in particular fields of medicine such as cancer, heart disease, arthritis, hypertension, tuberculosis, and infantile paralysis may do so individually through the semipublic organizations already established to advance education, service, and research in relation to these diseases.

Should not the problem of more adequate Federal support for research in cancer and other fields of science be solved through the establishment of a National Science Foundation such as that envisioned by the compromise Kilgore-Magnuson Bill (S. 1850) considered by the last Congress? The administrative officers of the Foundation, in consultation with

the Advisory Board and Committees of the Foundation, would determine the monies to be budgeted for research in the various fields of science, including cancer. Presumably, the Foundation would be more competent to decide the relative merits and potential productiveness of such research programs from year to year than legislative pressure groups, no matter how sincerely motivated.

Accordingly, I urge that all American scientists unite and work unselfishly for the establishment by the present Congress of a National Science Foundation capable of effecting maximum utilization of the scientific talents of the Nation in all fields. (GEORGE E. WAKERLIN, *Department of Physiology, University of Illinois College of Medicine, Chicago.*)

José Oliver-González' article, "The Possible Role of the Guppy, *Lebistes reticulatus*, on the Biological Control of *Schistosomiasis mansoni*?" (*Science*, December 20, 1946, p. 605), confirms certain observations made here in our aquaria, where we have also found that guppies feed not only upon mollusk eggs and their embryos, but persist in attacking the tentacles of the mollusks until these are eventually nipped off. The tentacle of the snails is said to serve as a preferred part for the attack of the cercaria.

Some years ago I was asked by Puerto Rican scientists for methods to control the intermediate molluscan hosts of the liver fluke. I then suggested the introduction of domestic ducks in the areas invaded, since these birds readily feed upon mollusks and should be a help in reducing or eliminating them in infected areas. I wish here to offer the same suggestion for the control of *Australorbis*. The ducks would serve not only as a help in eliminating the malady but would furnish, in addition, a desirable food element for the crowded population of the island. (PAUL BARTSCH, *associate, Division of Mollusks, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.*)