

# NEWS and Notes

During the week past the Inter-Society Committee for a National Science Foundation announced the results of a survey of the representatives of the 70-odd scientific and educational organizations that constitute the members. Questions were directed to four of the controversial issues: type of administration, inclusion of the social sciences, inclusion of undergraduate fellowships, and patent provisions. The fifth controversy over the mandatory geographical distribution of funds was not included in the questionnaire.

Two-thirds of the respondents favored a single administrator; 18 per cent favored a Foundation made up of a large number of people; and 18 per cent favored the commission type of administration.

Ninety-eight per cent of the respondents favored the inclusion of the social sciences, either by specific mention or by the permissive provisions of S. 526 and the corresponding House bills. A large majority believed that undergraduate scholarships should be granted, 86 per cent voting in favor of this provision. Ninety-four per cent of the respondents believed that no special stand should be taken on patent legislation.

Certain other questions were designed to find out what compromise, if any, would be acceptable to scientists. The vote was:

Willing to accept a Commission if necessary, 95 per cent.

Willing to accept a single Administrator if necessary, 88 per cent.

Willing to accept a 48-man Foundation if necessary, 86 per cent.

Willing to accept permissive inclusion of social sciences, 99 per cent.

Willing to accept specific inclusion of social sciences, 94 per cent.

Willing to accept exclusion of social sciences, 37 per cent.

These percentages are based on a return of 73 per cent.

It would appear that the opinion of American scientists with regard to the best bills establishing a National Science Foundation would be made up of a combination of those now before the Congress. The language of S. 526 in connection with the inclusion of the social sciences, the provision for undergraduate fellowships, and the patent provisions would seem to be satisfactory, while the single administrator provided in S. 525 is preferred.

Clyde Kluckhohn, Department of Anthropology, Harvard University, has been awarded the \$10,000 prize in the Whittlesey House-*Science Illustrated* Contest to encourage publication of scientific books for general readers. Dr. Kluckhohn's book, *Anthropology and the world today*, will be published during the coming year, as will five other books put under contract as a result of the contest. These five contestants will receive \$1,000 each as an advance against standard royalties in order that they may complete their projects.

Manuscripts did not have to be complete to be entered in the contest, which closed November 1, 1946. An outline and 10,000 words were required at that time, and the completed book, ranging in length from 80,000 to 150,000 words, must be finished not later than November 1, 1947. More than 250 outlines and sample chapters were submitted.

The purpose of the prize-winning book, *Anthropology and the world today*, is to make plain the varying goals and interrelations of the branches of anthropology and demonstrate how anthropology has been useful in practical ways.

Following are additional books receiving honorable mention:

*Men out of Asia*, by Harold S. Gladwin, a discussion of the origin of the American Indian in which the author argues for migration from a common Asiatic source via previously existing land bridges, as against the view of independent evolution.

*You and your doctor*, by Benjamin F. Miller, which attempts to acquaint the layman with the problems of the general practitioner.

*Mendelyev*, by Daniel Q. Posin, a biography of the formulator of the

Periodic Table in chemistry and an outstanding Russian scientist of the 19th Century.

*Whom the gods love*, by Leopold Infeld, a biography of Evariste Galois, extraordinary child mathematician.

*Causes of catastrophe*, by L. Don Leet, which tells cause and effect of forces that shake the earth's crust with explanations of the geological processes involved.

Judges of the contest were Harlow Shapley, director of the Harvard College Observatory and president of AAAS; Waldemar Kaempffert, science editor, *New York Times*; Donald Culross Peattie, naturalist; and Gerald Wendt, managing editor, *Science Illustrated*.

Whittlesey House and *Science Illustrated* are member organizations of McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., whose president, Curtis Benjamin, made the awards on March 14. Mr. Benjamin also announced that Dr. Kluckhohn had made a gift of \$2,500 from his prize to Harvard University for research on the Navaho.

In a letter to President Truman, dated March 24, the Federation of American Scientists has urged that none of the Germany military scientists imported by the Army be given civilian employment or other privileges, and that they be returned to Germany as soon as possible.

W. A. Higinbotham, executive secretary of the Federation, stated that an inquiry to the War Department had brought a reply that, so far as citizenship is concerned, the German scientists will "in general" be subject to the usual immigration regulations. He added that a State Department spokesman had assured him that the war scientists are here as aliens in military custody, and will have to leave this country and apply for citizenship through the usual quota channels if they wish to be naturalized.

The full text of the statement by the Federation of American Scientists follows: Dear Mr. President:

In press releases on September 13 and December 4, 1946, the War Department announced that, for the past year, it had been bringing into the United States key German scientists to act as consultants to various military research projects. The releases indicated that this program is to be extended, and that plans exist whereby some former enemy technical personnel will be permitted to accept positions in private industry and educational institutions upon completion of their present assignments. The possibility also was mentioned that the privilege of citizen-

ship might be extended to certain of these individuals.

The Federation of American Scientists wishes to express to you its deep concern over the implications of this War Department program. Certainly not wishing to jeopardize the legitimate needs of national defense, and not advocating a policy of hatred and vengeance toward our former enemies, we nevertheless believe that, during this critical post-war period of national and international adjustment, wholesale importation of scientists is not in keeping with the best objectives of American domestic and foreign policy. We believe that the high positions of trust and responsibility occupied by these individuals in the Third Reich demonstrate that they were either sympathetic with Nazi aims or, at the very least, acquiescent in them.

Any favor extended to such individuals, even for military reasons, represents an affront to the people of all countries who so recently fought beside us, to the refugees whose lives were shattered by Nazism, to our unfortunate scientific colleagues of formerly occupied lands, and to all of those others who suffered under the yoke these men helped to forge. It is not fitting that those who abetted tyranny should find a haven in free America to which the victims may not attain, that we should accept former enemies while barring those who were, and are our allies.

We therefore respectfully urge that the use of Nazi scientists by the armed forces be held to an absolute minimum, that none of them be granted citizenship, that none of them be given employment in industrial or academic installations, and that all of them be sent back to Germany as soon as possible.

## Visitors to U.S.

**H. B. G. Casimir**, co-director of the Philips Research Laboratories, Eindhoven, Holland, arrived in the United States this month to deliver a series of invitation lectures at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, on properties of matter at low temperatures and on problems in quantum electrodynamics. Dr. Casimir, who joined the staff of Philips Research Laboratories in 1942, has been directing the assembly of a cyclotron at an independent laboratory in Amsterdam by Philips in cooperation with the Dutch Government.

**Cornelle Heymans**, professor of pharmacology, University of Ghent, Belgium, will spend May and June in the United States as guest of the American Medical Association. Dr. Heymans, Nobel Prize winner, will attend the AMA centennial meeting in Atlantic City and the meetings of the Federation of Ameri-

can Societies for Experimental Biology in Chicago in May.

## Grants and Awards

**Syracuse University College of Applied Science**, Syracuse, New York, has been awarded \$46,000 in government contracts for industrial research. The Syracuse study, under Ralph E. Montonna, director of the College's Institute of Industrial Research, and B. J. Lazan, chief of the Materials Testing Laboratory, will follow two paths. A study of temperature-resistant materials is being sponsored by the AAF with a grant of \$27,000, and the Office of Naval Research has allocated \$19,000 for testing the abilities of materials and structures to absorb vibrational energy.

**The Cyrus M. Warren Fund of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences** announces availability of grants-in-aid of research in chemistry or closely related fields. Applications for the grants of \$300 or less, usually awarded for apparatus, supplies, or construction of special facilities needed in research, should be received by Frederick G. Keyes, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, not later than April 15.

## Fellowships

**The Bermuda Biological Station for Research** has received a grant of \$6,000 from the American Philosophical Society to be used for research fellowships at the Bermuda Station, 1947-49. Applications should be forwarded to Dugald E. S. Brown, director, Biological Station, St. George's, Bermuda.

During the next few years the scientific program of the Station will be centered around the physiology of marine organisms. To this end laboratories of physiology, biochemistry, and biophysics are being constructed and adequate facilities provided for the collection and maintenance of a wide variety of marine organisms. When reconstruction is completed, 17 laboratories will be available to investigators and several rooms for workers not requiring laboratory facilities. By June of this year there will be living accommodations for 24 workers.

## Colleges and Universities

**The University of Texas Department of Zoology** announces appointment of the following staff members

whose terms began last September: Clarence P. Oliver, University of Minnesota, professor; W. Frank Blair, University of Michigan, assistant professor; Lemuel A. Fraser, University of Wisconsin, instructor; and John M. Cairns, Washington University, St. Louis, instructor. Michael J. D. White, University of London, England, has been appointed professor of zoology to begin September 1947.

**Washington and Lee University**, Lexington, Virginia, announces that Marcellus Henry Stow has been appointed professor of geology and Lucius J. Desha, professor of chemistry, under the Thomas Ball Foundation professorships recently established. The Foundation was established through a gift of Mrs. Alfred I. du Pont, Wilmington, Delaware, in connection with the University's bicentennial program as a memorial to her father, Capt. Thomas Ball.

Dr. Stow served as deputy director of the Mining Division, War Production Board, during a wartime leave of absence, and before returning to the University this session was chief of the Mining Branch of the Civilian Production Administration.

Dr. Desha was professor of biochemistry at the University of Tennessee College of Medicine before going to Washington and Lee. He is currently acting dean of the latter University.

**The University of Utrecht**, Netherlands, has announced the following changes in science professorships since the liberation: new appointments—J. B. L. Hol, physical geography; J. F. Reith, pharmacy; D. van Dantzig, mathematics; J. W. M. Milatz, physics; G. J. van Oordt, zoology; and S. W. Visser, meteorology; retired—N. Schoorl, pharmacy; K. Oestreich, physical geography; J. A. Barrau, mathematics; E. van Everdingen, meteorology; deceased—L. S. Ornstein, physics; H. J. Jordan, animal physiology; W. C. de Graaff, pharmacy; L. M. R. Rutten, paleontology; and J. Wolff, mathematics.

**The Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn**, New York, has announced the 6th and 7th symposia in a series of eight on "Recent Progress in the Field of High Polymers," to be held in the student lounge of the Institute, 99 Livingston Street, Brooklyn.

"Advances in Physical and Organic Chemistry of Cellulose" will be discussed March 29 by the following: Eugene Pacsu, Princeton University; H. J. Philipp, Celanese Corporation of America, and E. W. Roseveare, E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Company.

"Mechanism of Polymerization" will be discussed April 19 by W. H. Melville, University of Aberdeen, Scotland; W. B. Reynolds, Philipps Petroleum Company; M. G. Evans, University of Leeds, England; G. Goldfinger, University of Buffalo; and A. G. Evans, University of Manchester, England.

Western Reserve University recently received a grant of \$70,000 from the Cleveland Foundation for continuation of work on disease prevention and for research on infectious diseases by the Elisabeth Severance Prentiss Department of Preventive Medicine, founded in 1945.

The Department is organizing and equipping a large laboratory for research on influenza, common cold, pneumonia, and some common childhood diseases. The laboratory will occupy half of the third floor of the School of Medicine building on the campus.

The Department is also working closely with the Cleveland Division of Health and other health agencies, as well as the staffs of university and city hospitals, on a program of preventive medicine.

Last summer five members of the Commission on Acute Respiratory Diseases in the U. S. Army Epidemiological Board joined the Department, with John H. Dingle, director of the Commission, Elisabeth Severance professor of preventive medicine. Work done by these men in the Army is being continued at the University.

The University of Illinois has recently acquired the parasitology library of the late Henry Baldwin Ward. Some 15,000 volumes have been purchased for \$15,000, and the Ward family has given as a Ward Memorial a reprint library of between 35,000 and 40,000 items.

## Meetings

The Pacific Division of AAAS will hold its 28th annual meeting in San Diego, California, June 16-21, with headquarters in the U. S. Grant Hotel.

The address of Thomas G. Thompson, president of the Pacific Division, will be Tuesday evening, June 17, on the subject, "Research." George L. Clarke,

Harvard University, will discuss "Light and Life Within the Sea," June 18, and Lee A. DuBridge, president of the California Institute of Technology, "Radar and Its Peacetime Uses," June 19.

Excursions have been planned to Los Coronados Islands, Mt. Palomar, Borego Valley, and the Salton Sea.

General communications may be addressed to the chairman of the local general committee, R. Dana Russell, U. S. Navy Electronics Laboratory, San Diego. Correspondence about exhibits should be sent to Ormus L. Doolittle, Engineering Department, Southern California Telephone Company, San Diego 1.

The New York State Geological Association will hold its 19th field meeting at the College of the City of New York, May 9-10, 1947, year of the C.C.N.Y. centennial celebration. Reservations may be made through Cecil H. Kindle, Department of Geology, City College, New York 31.

Ten Swedish astronomers and geodesists will go to South America and five or six to Africa to study the solar eclipse on May 20. By means of exact timing of the eclipse an accurate determination of the distance between the two continents will be attempted, the Swedish-International Press Bureau states. The African group will probably be stationed north of the town of Accra on the Gold Coast, and the South American group at the Brazilian town of Araxá.

Astronomers from the United States, Brazil, Argentina, England, and New Zealand will observe the eclipse from Brazil and Argentina (*Science*, February 28).

Parcels have been sent to over 1,000 families of needy European scientists through the activities of a Committee of U. S. Scientists' Wives during the past year (*Science*, May 10, 1946). Packages have been sent to 400-500 Dutch, 210 Czech, 75 Polish, 100 Belgian, and 50 Greek families, as well as others in Finland, France, Norway, and Italy, the Committee reports. Many Poles, Czechs, Greeks, and others still need shoes, warm clothing, and foods, however. Names of needy families may be obtained from Grace H. Smith, National Bureau of Standards, Washington 25, D. C.

The Committee of Scientists' Wives has transmitted an appeal for Greek scientists by W. Edwards Deming, Bureau of the Budget, who recently returned from Athens. He pointed out that civil

service assistants at the Laboratory of Astronomy and National Observatory in Athens, as well as the astronomical station at Pentele, under the direction of S. Plakidis, are paid about \$30 a month by the Government. Explaining how far this goes, Dr. Deming said a luncheon costs more than \$1, shirts no less than \$8, shoes from \$20 to \$50, and sugar about \$.35 a pound. The government appropriation for instruments, books, periodicals, and other equipment for the entire Department of Astronomy amounts to \$350.

Prof. Plakidis, far from having modern equipment, has not even sufficient photographs of modern equipment to demonstrate in his lectures to about 30 students. Suggestions for donations are food and clothing; books and reprints; subscriptions to astronomical and mathematical journals; paper, pencils, pens, even scratch paper; any obsolete adding or computing machine; a slide rule; and the following equipment: a spectroheliometer (Hale's type), a spectroheliograph, an astrographic refractor (15-20 inch), and a Schmidt camera (36 inch).

Parcels sent by mail are still limited to 11 pounds, and since recipients of parcel post packages of any size in Greece pay a tax of 6,000 drachmas, the equivalent of a day's wages, it is important to send up to the 11-pound limit. Dr. Deming also suggested a group shipment by freight to Prof. Plakidis, who would distribute the materials.

Inquiries and communications about Prof. Plakidis and other scientists in Greece should also be sent to the secretary of the Committee, Grace H. Smith, at the above address.

## NRC News

The Division of Engineering and Industrial Research held its annual meeting March 3. Reviews of the major current activities of the Division were presented by the chairmen or the directors of the respective boards and committees.

Frederick M. Feiker, School of Engineering, George Washington University, outlined the proposed plan of organization, objectives, and probable methods of operation of the Building Research Advisory Board, which is being established at the request of the Construction Industry Advisory Council of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce to inventory and correlate technological research on building methods and materials. It is not

planned as a board to direct research or to establish or finance research projects.

The work of the Highway Research Board was reviewed by its director, Roy Crum. Now in its 26th year, the Board keeps in close touch with highway research, current and proposed, in every state of the Union. It disseminates highway research information obtained from these surveys by field representatives and other sources in a series of publications entitled "Research Correlation Circulars" and "Highway Research Abstracts." R. L. Morrison, University of Michigan, is chairman of the Board.

The Committee on Quartermaster Problems serves as an advisory group to the Office of the Quartermaster General in the latter's research and development program. Subcommittees have specific responsibilities in the fields of (1) plastics, (2) leather and footwear, (3) textiles, (4) germicides, insecticides, and biologicals, and (5) environmental protection. L. W. Bass, research director, Air Reduction Company, is chairman of this Committee, and W. George Parks is director.

The renewed activity of the Conference on Electrical Insulation was reported by the chairman, Ward F. Davidson, director of research, Consolidated Edison Company. This Conference, established some 20 years ago, held at the Johns Hopkins University last November the best-attended annual meeting in its history. The Conference each year publishes an annual report, including abstracts of papers given at its annual meeting. It also publishes annually a pamphlet now entitled "Digest of Contributions to Insulation Research."

The Committee on Artificial Limbs and the Committee on Sensory Devices are joint committees of the Division of Medical Sciences and the Division of Engineering and Industrial Research of the NRC. Both are advising on research and directing research in their respective fields for the Veterans Administration and the War Department. F. S. Strong, Jr., executive director, Committee on Artificial Limbs, reported for the chairman, Paul Klopsteg, director, Technological Institute, Northwestern University. The CAL program is attempting to develop more useful artificial members for veteran amputees and for the still greater number of civilians. Studies of available artificial limbs have been made, and the Committee participated in a survey of develop-

ments in artificial limbs in Great Britain and Germany and other Continental countries. Special attention has been given to control and operation of artificial hands by means of the muscles remaining in the arm stump. Other principal problems have been utilization of a suction socket for attachment of an artificial leg and development of some method of locking an artificial leg to bear weight when in a partially bent position.

The chairman of the Committee on Sensory Devices, George W. Corner, Department of Embryology, Carnegie Institution of Washington, told of studies made by his Committee in attempting to develop compact, hand-held, lightweight guidance devices for the blind. Such devices may be based on reflection of light or of supersonic waves. Attention has also been given to a device intended to read audibly, for the blind. This is actuated by a stylus drawn along the printed line of an ordinary type-wet book page. Magnifying projectors and special reading glasses intended for the aid of partially sighted subjects have also been studied.

The Committee on Ship Construction is advisory to the Bureau of Ships of the Navy Department in a research program on ship hull construction. Through the Bureau of Ships the Committee works very closely with the Ship Structure Committee, joint committee of the Navy, Coast Guard, the Maritime Commission, and American Bureau of Shipping. The problems of this program include testing of large welded and unwelded structures; correlation of such large-scale testing with laboratory tests; metallurgical factors affecting fabricating and service of hull steels; failure of typical ship structures under cyclic loading. The report was presented by Finn Jonassen, research coordinator for the Committee. The chairman is V. H. Schnee, assistant director, Battelle Memorial Institute.

## Recent Deaths

**Karl G. Berggren**, 55, vice-president of Thomas A. Edison, Inc., and manager of the special production department, died in West Orange, New Jersey, February 13. A native of Sweden, he joined the Edison Corporation in 1927.

**C. B. Waldron**, 81, until recently professor of landscape gardening and forestry, North Dakota Agricultural

College, Fargo, died March 6 in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

**August Frauehan**, 45, assistant professor of chemistry, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, died March 18 after an illness of several months.

**Robert Newstead**, 87, archeologist and entomologist, died recently at his home in Chester, England. Last year Prof. Newstead had presented his collection of scale insects, including 2,726 microscopic flies and 260 type specimens, to the Natural History Department of the British Museum.

**James E. King**, 71, emeritus professor of gynecology at the University of Buffalo and a past-president of the International College of Surgeons, died March 9 in Buffalo, New York.

**Frederico Nitti**, 41, chief of the chemical and bacteriological service of the Pasteur Institute, died March 2 in Rome, Italy.

**L. D. Huntoon**, 78, former professor of mining and metallurgy at Yale University, died February 23 in Pleasantville, New York.

**B. A. Linden**, 53, bacteriologist with the Food and Drug Administration since its formation in 1927, died March 9 in Washington, D. C.

## Make Plans for—

**American Association of Anatomists**, annual meeting, April 3-5, Mount Royal Hotel, Montreal, Canada.

**American Mosquito Control Association**, general meeting, April 5, Hotel Bellevue-Stratford, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

**The Electrochemical Society, Inc.**, annual congress, April 9-12, Louisville, Kentucky.

**American Chemical Society**, spring meeting, April 14-18, Atlantic City, New Jersey.

**Institute of Mathematical Statistics**, meeting on stochastic processes and noise, April 24-25, New York City.

**National Academy of Sciences**, annual meeting, April 28-30, Academy Building, Washington, D. C.

**American Medical Association**, centennial session, June 9-13, Atlantic City, New Jersey.