

NEWS

and Notes

National Science Foundation. On March 31, April 1, April 4, and April 5 the Subcommittee on Public Health, Science, and Commerce of the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce held hearings on the several bills designed to create a National Science Foundation. Seven of the ten members of Mr. Priest's Subcommittee were on hand when the hearings opened, and both Mr. Crosser, chairman of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, and Mr. Wolverton, who was chairman in the 80th Congress, sat through the entire session and participated actively in the proceedings.

Mr. Priest reviewed the history and status of the legislation before introducing Detlev Bronk, who developed the need for a Foundation to guide publicly supported basic research. Representatives of the Engineers Joint Council and the American Cancer Society also spoke in favor of the legislation, following a summary of the current British system of public and private support of research by Sir Robert Watson Watt.

Friday's hearings opened with the testimony of George E. Folk, advisor to the Committee on Patents and Research of the National Association of Manufacturers. Mr. Folk said that the NAM favors the creation of a National Science Foundation but he expressed a number of objections to specific features of the present bills. The seven speakers who followed Mr. Folk spoke much more briefly. Congressman James E. Van Zandt and Dean Harry P. Hammond, of the Pennsylvania State College Engineering school, testified in support of the bills. Chancellor R. G. Gustavson, speaking in behalf of the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities and the National Association of State Universities, urged the principle of man-

datory geographic distribution of research funds but said that he personally believed that provisions of the present bills, if carried out in good faith, would safeguard that principle. Boris A. Bakhmeteff, of the Engineers Joint Council, approved of both H.R. 12 and S. 247 but felt the Senate bill was more flexible and practical. Dael Wolfe, secretary of the Inter-Society Committee for a National Science Foundation, and Hugh Wolfe, of the Federation of American Scientists, suggested several specific changes recommended by the groups they represented. M. H. Trytten, director of the Office of Scientific Personnel of the NRC, presented statistics showing the need for the scholarships and fellowships which the Foundation would provide.

Congressman Celler, author of H.R. 359, was the opening witness on April 4. He was followed by Karl T. Compton, who endorsed the bills under consideration in the name of the National Military Establishment and its Research and Development Board. The patent provisions of the bills were attacked by Harold J. Kinney, a Minnesota patent attorney, and endorsed by Lawrence C. Kingsland, Commissioner of the U. S. Patent Office. Sidney Kirkpatrick, representing the Associated Business Papers, expressed fear that the Foundation's authority to disseminate research findings might result in government competition with scientific and trade publications.

Ex-Congressman Lanham testified on April 5. The hearings were then adjourned until April 26, when two hours' time will be allowed to testimony by representatives of the American Patent Council.

DAEL WOLFLE

Theodore von Karman, advisor on aerodynamics to the California Institute of Technology and the U. S. Air Force, is leaving this month for scientific conferences in Europe. Dr. von Karman recently resigned as director of Caltech's Guggenheim Laboratory of Aeronautics and chairman of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory Board, to devote more time to

the Air Force and his own research and consulting work, but is continuing as advisor of the laboratories.

Charles T. Brues, professor emeritus of entomology, Harvard University, will spend the next nine months doing biological research at Silliman University, in the southern Philippines, under the auspices of the International Educational Foundation. Mrs. Brues, who is accompanying him, will make motion pictures of the plant and animal life of the region, under the sponsorship of the Fulbright Programs Branch of the U. S. Department of State.

Visitors to U. S.

Recent visitors from Britain include: **Sir Henry Tizard**, chairman of the Defense Research Policy Committee, Ministry of Defense, who came for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology mid-century celebrations; **S. Zuckerman**, University of Birmingham, and **R. L. Smith-Rose**, director of Radio Research, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, now visiting radio research establishments in the U. S. and Canada. These men may be reached through the British Commonwealth Scientific Office, 1785 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D. C.

Edy Velander, managing director of the Swedish Royal Academy of Engineering Sciences, will arrive in this country, about the middle of April. He plans to attend the United Nations Scientific Conference on the Conservation and Utilization of Resources, in June, as a delegate from Sweden, and will also speak at a dinner meeting of the New York Section of the Institute of Food Technology on April 20.

Grants and Awards

Eileen R. Cunningham, librarian of Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, will be the first recipient of the **Marcia C. Noyes Award** of the Medical Library Association, to be presented at the Association's annual meeting, April 11, in Galveston, Texas.

The 1948 **Lamme Medal** of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers has been awarded to V.

K. Zworykin, vice president and technical consultant RCA Laboratories Division, Radio Corporation of America, Princeton, New Jersey, for his contribution to the concept and design of electronic apparatus basic to modern television. The medal will be presented to Dr. Zworykin at the Summer General Meeting of the Institute to be held in Swampscott, Massachusetts, June 20-24.

Colleges and Universities

The Premedical Society of the University of New Hampshire, Durham, was recently installed as the New Hampshire Alpha chapter of **Alpha Epsilon Delta**. Harold A. Iddles and Albert F. Daggett, department of chemistry, were initiated as honorary members, along with 32 premedical students. George Moore, department of zoology, will serve as faculty advisor.

Sigma Xi will install its 102nd chapter at Temple University, Philadelphia, on April 28. Installing officers will be Carl D. Anderson, national president of the Society, Nobel Laureate, and professor of physics at California Institute of Technology, and George A. Baitsell, executive secretary of the Society, and professor of biology at Yale University. The honorary degree LL.D. will be awarded to William H. Taliaferro, University of Chicago, and to Dr. Anderson, who will also deliver the installation address, "New Particles of Matter."

Western Reserve University's Department of Physiology is offering a new 12-month training course in the disciplines of cardiovascular research, supported by the American Heart Association and the National Heart Institute, U. S. Public Health Service. If the enrollment warrants, the course will begin July 1; otherwise it will begin September 1. Further information may be obtained from C. J. Wiggers, Western University Medical School, Cleveland 6, Ohio.

The **Four College Research Conference on Growth and Differentiation**, whose membership is drawn from the faculties of Amherst, Mt. Holyoke, Smith, and the University of Massachusetts, recently held its

first meeting at Amherst. The organization, limited to active research workers whose projects are being supported by outside foundations such as the American Cancer Society, the Atomic Energy Commission, and the National Institutes of Health, offers an opportunity for intimate discussion of current research findings on growth and differentiation.

The Zoology Department of the **University of Massachusetts** is conducting an integrated interscience seminar on the Organization and Structure of Protoplasm. Discussions are presented by graduate students, members of the zoology, chemistry, and bacteriology departments, and by speakers from other universities, including E. W. Dempsey, of Harvard, Jytte Muus, of Mt. Holyoke, E. J. Boell, of Yale, and F. O. Schmitt, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Meetings and Elections

The **Academy of World Economics** announces that its 27th annual forum sessions will be held the evenings of April 12 and 13 at the Brookings Institution, Washington, D. C. The current sessions on "American Foreign Economic Policy" will be held in conjunction with the National Social Science Honor Society, Pi Gamma Mu, and with the Washington chapter of the American Political Science Association. The proceedings of the sessions will be published in the July issue of the quarterly journal *Social Science*.

The **Foundation of Applied Research** will hold a national conference on ova transplantation on April 14 in San Antonio, Texas. Phases in egg transfer and superovulation techniques will be discussed by biologists, embryologists, and geneticists, and a report on the Foundation's seven years of experimentation in ova transplantation, designed to enable scrub cattle to give birth to registered, high quality animals, will be made.

The **Southeastern Section of the Botanical Society of America** will hold its spring meeting April 14-16 in conjunction with the Association of Southeastern Biologists, the Southern Appalachian Botanical

Club, and the Kentucky-Tennessee Branch of the Society of American Bacteriologists at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. A Central States Section of the Botanical Society of America has recently been organized and has elected the following officers: Paul Weatherwax, Indiana University, president; Edgar Anderson, Missouri Botanical Garden, vice president; and Oswald Tippo, University of Illinois, secretary-treasurer. This new section will hold its summer meeting jointly with the Northwestern Section in late August at the University of Michigan and the Cranbrook Institute of Science.

The **Association for Computing Machinery** will hold a three-day meeting, April 18-20 at the Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies, Oak Ridge, Tennessee. This will be the third national meeting of the association. A "604" multiplier, recently developed by the International Business Machines Corporation, will be demonstrated.

Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique announces that a **Symposium on Thin Films** will be held in Marseille, France, April 18-23. American scientists invited are: John Strong, Department of Physics, Johns Hopkins University; A. F. Turner, Scientific Bureau, Bausch and Lomb Optical Company, Rochester, New York; Bruce B. Billings, Director of Research, Baird Associates, Inc., Cambridge, Massachusetts; and Noel W. Scott, Radiation Branch, Engineer Research and Development Laboratories, Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

The **National Academy of Sciences** will hold its annual meeting April 25, 26, and 27, at 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington, D. C. A public lecture will be given April 25, at 8:00 p.m., by Sir Harold Spencer Jones, Astronomer Royal, Royal Greenwich Observatory, England. His topic will be "The Measurement of the Sun's Distance."

The **Kansas Academy of Science** will hold its 81st annual meeting at Kansas City College, Manhattan, Kansas, April 28-30. Cooperating societies are the Kansas Entomo-

logical Society, the Kansas Psychological Association, and the Kansas chapters of the American Association of University Professors.

The Society for Applied Spectroscopy will hold a symposium on "Theory and Application of Spectroscopy" May 21, at Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute, Brooklyn, New York.

The Fourth Annual AAAS-George Westinghouse Science Writing competition for an award of \$1,000 to the writer of the outstanding newspaper story on science during the year 1949 has been announced. Another \$1,000 will go to the writer of the outstanding magazine story of the year. Both awards, made possible by a grant from the Westinghouse Educational Foundation, are administered by the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The rules governing the newspaper competition require each entrant to submit three separate articles published during the contest year (in newspapers published in the continental United States and dated between August 1, 1948, and September 30, 1949), and to designate one of the three as the entry upon which he wishes to be judged. All three may have been published by the same newspaper or carried by the same press association.

The magazine entries must have been printed in an American non-technical magazine of general circulation and dated between August 1948 and September 1949, inclusive. Publications printing or distributing the winning newspaper and magazine articles will receive scrolls at the December meeting of the AAAS, when the winners of the 1949 awards will be announced. Although articles appearing in AAAS journals are automatically ineligible, readers of *Science* are invited to nominate suitable entries. All entries must be posted before midnight, October 8.

Entry blanks with detailed rules for the 1949 AAAS-George Westinghouse Science Writing Awards may be secured from the Managing Committee, Howard A. Meyerhoff, chairman, 1515 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D. C.

Winners of the 1948 awards of \$1,000 were Frank Carey, science writer in the Washington Bureau of the Associated Press, for his series of four articles on chloromycetin, and Florence Moog, of Washington University, St. Louis, for her article "The Biology of Old Age," published by the *Scientific American*.

Herbarium specimens of about 1,000 species have been collected on the Burma-India border during the past year by F. Kingdon-Ward on an expedition initiated by the New York Botanical Garden. The purpose of the expedition, begun early in 1948, is to obtain plant material, especially ornamental species, that will be suitable for culture in the U. S. To date, seeds of 260 plants have been received, none known to be cultivated in this country. The seeds have been distributed among the joint sponsors of the expedition—the New York Botanical Garden, the Huntington Botanical Garden of San Marino, California, Edward B. Stern of New Orleans, and Suydam Cutting of New York—and additional lots have been presented to growers in regions of the U. S. where they are expected to thrive.

The National Bureau of Standards' radio station WWVH, recently established on the island of Maui, Territory of Hawaii, is now broadcasting on an experimental basis continuous time and frequency standards on 5, 10, and 15 megacycles. The new station offers the Pacific area four useful technical services—standard radio frequencies, time announcements, standard time intervals, and standard musical pitch. WWVH's program of broadcasts is essentially the same as that of the Bureau's Beltsville, Maryland station WWV and it is expected that the new station may be received at many locations not served by WWV in the Pacific area. The ultimate aim of the International Telecommunications Union is to provide continuous world-wide coverage by means of suitably located stations all operating on the same frequencies without interfering with the widely used services from WWV.

University of Wisconsin scientists recently completed experiments which indicate that agene, the bleaching agent used in flour, is not a cause of human epilepsy, as has been thought. Collaborators on the experiment were C. A. Elvehjem, department of biochemistry, College of Agriculture; G. W. Newell and S. N. Gershoff, industrial fellows in biochemistry, T. C. Erickson, neurosurgery, and W. E. Gilson, medical electronics, School of Medicine. According to a report in the February *Journal of laboratory and clinical Medicine*, a control group of 19 persons, five of them epileptics, showed no ill effects after being fed a diet containing high concentrations of agene. The tests covered periods up to 210 days.

The National Society of Inventors, Inc., has established a Washington, D. C. chapter headquarters. Those interested in technological and engineering research and development may obtain further information from Lewis H. Renshaw, chairman, or John H. Haas, secretary-treasurer, 930 F Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

The new national reactor testing station will be established on the Snake River plains of Idaho, the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission announces. Negotiations are under way with the Navy for the transfer to the Commission of the Naval Proving Grounds at Arco, which are included on the proposed site. The total area of the grounds will be about 400,000 acres, comparable in size to that of the Hanford plutonium production center on the Columbia River in Washington. All but about 20,000 acres are government owned land.

Make Plans for—

Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, April 14–16, Biloxi, Mississippi.

American Association of Pathologists and Bacteriologists, annual meeting, April 15–16, Boston, Massachusetts.

American Geophysical Union, 30th annual meeting, April 20–22, Washington, D. C.