NEWS and Notes

Science Writing Awards

Lester Grant, science reporter for the *New York Herald Tribune,* and **George W. Gray,** a free-lance writer living at Sparkill, New York, today were named winners of the fourth annual George Westinghouse Science Writing awards of $1,000 each for the best science writing of 1949. The awards will be presented at a luncheon in honor of the writers on December 28 in New York City during the annual meeting of the AAAS, which administers the awards.

Mr. Grant will receive the award for what was adjudged the best newspaper science writing of the year, a series of 15 articles entitled "The Challenge of Cancer," published by the *Herald Tribune* June 6 through June 20, 1949. The magazine writing award went to Mr. Gray for his article on the human brain, "The Great Ravelled Knot," in the October 1948 issue of *Scientific American,* a work the judges considered the best magazine science writing during the contest year (August 1948 through September 1949). There were 75 entries in the news writing competition and 108 in the magazine field.

Honorable mention in the magazine field was voted by the judges to **Herbert Yahraes,** a free-lance writer of Stanfordville, New York, for his article, "How to Keep Away From the Dentist," which appeared in the March 1949 issue of *Harper's Magazine.*

Although Mr. Grant said later he had worked harder on the cancer series than on any previous science writing, he had not originally entered his series. Late in September John W. Tietz, of the Department of Biology, De Witt Clinton High School in New York City, wrote to the AAAS suggesting that the cancer series be considered. Asked if he did not wish to enter the competition in view of the nomination by an AAAS member, Mr. Grant submitted the cancer series on October 7—only 24 hours ahead of the deadline. Mr. Yahraes' article was submitted by *Harper's* and he then withdrew another article he previously had entered. Both Mr. Grant and Mr. Yahraes had been Nieman Fellows at Harvard, Mr. Grant in 1948 and Mr. Yahraes in 1943.

Mr. Grant, at 36, has been a newspaper man for 19 years and science reporter on the *Herald Tribune* for three years. He was born in Taft, California, but calls San Francisco his home town.

Mr. Gray is 63. Born in Caldwell, Texas, he has been a free-lance writer for many years. His articles have appeared in *The Atlantic Monthly, Harper's, This Week, The Yale Review, The American Magazine, The New York Times Magazine,* and *Scientific American,* among others. He was graduated from Harvard in 1912.

Judges this year, chosen as representatives of the general public, science, newspapers and magazines, were: Morris Meister, retiring president of the National Science Teachers Association and principal of the Bronx (New York) High School of Science, *chairman*; Henry R. Aldrich, secretary, Geological Society of America; Detlev Bronk, president, The Johns Hopkins University, and chairman, National Research Council; Kent Cooper, executive director, The Associated Press; John R. Dunning, nuclear physicist, Columbia University; Clifton Fadiman, a member of the board of judges of the Book-of-the-Month Club; Rudolph Flesch, readability consultant, and Edward Weeks, editor, *The Atlantic Monthly.*

Previous winners of the $1,000 award for newspaper science writing are James G. Chesnutt, of the *San Francisco Call-Bulletin,* George Keaney, of the *New York World-Telegram,* and Frank Carey, science reporter in the Washington Bureau of the Associated Press. Previous winners in the magazine field are Steven M. Spencer, associate editor of *The Saturday Evening Post,* and Dr. Florence Moog, St. Louis scientist and writer.

The awards were established in 1946 to stimulate interest among young writers in making careers of science writing, and to encourage high standards of science writing in newspapers and magazines.

About People

Vannevar Bush, president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, has been elected a director of Merck and Company, Inc., manufacturing chemists of Rahway, New Jersey.

Roger Adams, head of the Chemistry Department, University of Illinois, and chairman of the American Chemical Society's Board of Directors, will be made honorary member of the American Institute of Chemists on January 13. The award will be made at a meeting of the Chicago chapter of the Institute, to be held at the Western Society of Engineers, Chicago.

George Sachs has resigned as director of the National Metallurgical Laboratory, Jamshedpur, India, and has established offices as consulting engineer in Cleveland. Dr. Sachs has been appointed president of the newly established Metals Research Associates, Inc., Cleveland. He will also act as consultant to the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics.

The 80th birthday of **Wesley R. Coe,** professor emeritus of biology at Yale University, and visiting research associate at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, was celebrated on November 11 at a dinner given by the faculty of the institution. Professor Coe was presented with a volume of complimentary letters from colleagues, fellow biologists, and former students.

William W. Rubey, staff research geologist of the U. S. Geological Survey, has been elected president of the Geological Society of America to serve during 1950.

Howard T. Evans, former head of the X-ray Diffraction Division of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Insulation Research Laboratory, has joined the staff of the Philips Laboratories, Irvington-on-Hudson, New York, for work on the application of x-ray crystallography to the study of the physics of solids.

Peter Bernfeld, formerly of the University of Geneva, has been appointed assistant professor of biochemistry at Tufts College Medical School. He will carry out enzymo-

logical research in the laboratories of the Cancer Research and Cancer Control Unit.

Visitors

Investigators working in the laboratories of the Department of Zoology, University of Chicago, include **P. Ferreira-Berrutti,** of the University of Montevideo (a Rockefeller Fellow); **Gert Andres,** of the University of Bern (Fellowship under the American Cancer Society); **Fiametta Rossetti,** of the University of Rome (Fellowship under Public Health Service Grant).

Grants and Awards

AAAS Research Grants have been awarded by the Washington Academy of Science to: *Edward C. Raney,* associate professor of zoology and fishery biology, Cornell University, $150 for assistance in a study on the distribution of the fishes of Virginia; *Angus M. Griffin* and *Jeanne C. Moan,* Department of Bacteriology, School of Medicine, George Washington University, $250 for assistance in completing a study on induced variations in the group of coliform organisms.

The British Royal Society has awarded two **Royal Medals** for 1949: to George Thomson, for his contributions to many branches of atomic physics, and especially for his work in establishing the wave properties of the electron; and to R. A. Peters, for his biochemical researches, in particular his investigations of the biochemical role of vitamin B_1 in tissue metabolism and of the toxic action of lewisite and other arsenical compounds. The Royal Society also awarded the **Copley Medal** to G. C. de Hevesy, for his work on the chemistry of radioactive elements and especially for his development of radioactive tracers; the **Davy Medal** to A. R. Todd, for his structural and synthetic studies in organic and biochemistry, with special reference to vitamins B_1 and E and the naturally occurring nucleosides; the **Sylvester Medal** to L. J. Mordell, for his researches in pure mathematics, especially for discoveries in the theory of numbers; and the **Hughes Medal** to C. F. Powell, for his work on the photography of particle tracks in connection with the discovery of mesons and their transformation.

The National Cancer Institute recently awarded $2,174,900 to 14 hospitals, universities, and other institutions for construction of cancer research facilities. The new awards are as follows: Boston University, $49,900; Duke University, $200,000; George Washington University, $250,000; Loyola University's Stritch School of Medicine, $200,000; Ohio State University, $300,000; Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, $125,000; University of Pittsburgh, $200,000; University of Southern California, $200,000; Stanford University, $100,000; the M. D. Anderson Hospital for Cancer Research, University of Texas, $100,000; Wayne University College of Medicine and Detroit Institute of Cancer Research, jointly, $150,000; Western Reserve University and the University Hospitals of Cleveland, jointly $300,000.

The Gorgas Award for 1949 was presented to H. Trendley Dean, director of the National Institute of Dental Research, U. S. Public Health Service, at a meeting last month of the Association of Military Surgeons of the U. S. Dr. Dean received the award for his demonstration of the relation of fluoride-bearing waters to dental health.

New York University-Bellevue Medical Center has received two separate gifts totaling $550,000: one of $450,000 from Bernard M. Baruch; the other $100,000 from the Louis J. and Mary E. Horowitz Foundation. The two gifts will be applied to the construction of that section of the Medical Center which will house the Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation in its new permanent home.

Harald H. Nielsen, chairman of the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Ohio State University, has been awarded the **Medal of the University of Liège** in recognition of his personal achievements in the field of infrared spectroscopy and his leadership of the Physics Department at Ohio State. Dr. Nielsen is on leave of absence while studying and working in Europe under a Guggenheim Fellowship.

Fellowships, Scholarships, and Prizes

The National Science Fund will award, on behalf of the **Sugar Research Foundation,** a prize of $25,000 for the most significant discovery in the utilization of sugar made during the past five years. Applications must be submitted by *February 1,* and the prize will be awarded March 15. Additional information may be obtained from the National Science Fund of the National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington 25, D. C.

Availability of the Damon Runyon Clinical Research Fellowships has been announced by the American Cancer Society. In most cases a fellowship will provide a period of training in a hospital under the guidance of a qualified clinical investigator, but it may be awarded for training in a basic science provided that such training is directed toward preparing the fellow for clinical cancer research. Fellowships are administered by the society upon recommendation of the Committee on Growth of the National Research Council. Applications submitted prior to *March 1, 1950* will be acted upon during April. Communications should be addressed to the Executive Secretary, Committee on Growth, National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington 25, D. C.

The Edwards A. Deeds Fellowship for research in physical science (engineering, metallurgy, chemistry, physics, mathematical physics, or any related subject) is being offered by the University College, Dundee, within the University of St. Andrews. The fellowship, open to both men and women, is of the value of £750 to £1050 per annum and is tenable for three years. The fellow will have the status of a university lecturer and, as part of his duties, may do a limited amount of advanced teaching in his department. Applications should be sent to Patrick Cumming,

Secretary, University College, Dundee, Scotland, not later than *March 31, 1950.*

Colleges and Universities

The Botany Department of the **University of California at Berkeley** has received an endowment fund of $320,000 from the estate of the late Willis Linn Jepson, professor emeritus of botany. The will stipulates that the fund be used for care and maintenance of the Jepson herbarium and library, the completion of the *Flora of California,* the revision of the *Manual of the flowering plants of California,* and the furtherance of studies on the flowering plants of the state and adjacent areas.

A new course, "Introduction to Oceanography," has been added to the graduate curriculum in biological oceanography, recently introduced by the **Narragansett Marine Laboratory of Rhode Island State College** with the cooperation of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Lecturers include Columbus O'D. Iselin, Woods Hole director, and Charles J. Fish, Narragansett director.

The Johns Hopkins University has accepted responsibility for operation of the scientific research and administration of the Arctic Research Laboratory at Point Barrow, Alaska, under a contract with the Office of Naval Research. George E. MacGinitie has been appointed resident director of the laboratory to coordinate the research at Point Barrow. Prof. MacGinitie is on leave of absence from the California Institute of Technology. The work at the Arctic Laboratory will be entirely handled by university scientists and their work will be unclassified. The laboratory was established in August 1947 as a frontier arctic field station for basic scientific research of physical and biological phenomena never before studied in arctic environment.

Meetings and Elections

The National Research Council's new Building Research Advisory Board will hold its first research correlation conference January 11–12 in Washington, D. C. The conference, entitled "Weather and the Building Industry," will consider the climatological research and its effect on building design, construction, materials, and equipment. Francis W. Reichelderfer, chief of the U. S. Weather Bureau, and Paul Siple and Helmut Landsberg, of the National Military Establishment, will take part in the conference. Those wishing to attend should communicate with William H. Scheick, executive director of the Building Research Advisory Board, National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington 25, D. C.

The Sixth Annual Conference on Protein Metabolism, sponsored by the Bureau of Biological Research at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey, will be held January 27–28. Biosynthesis of the purines, effects of protein depletion on enzymes, transaminases and related enzymes in amino acid synthesis, alternative metabolic pathways leading to cancer, rates of plasma protein formation in man, and intravenous therapy in man will be discussed respectively by John M. Buchanan, University of Pennsylvania; Earl P. Benditt, University of Chicago; Irwin C. Gunsalus, Indiana University; Van R. Potter, University of Wisconsin; Irving M. London, Columbia University; and Charles S. Davidson, Boston City Hospital. The conference is open to all interested persons who register. Inquiries should be addressed to William H. Cole, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey.

The third annual symposium on modern methods of analytical chemistry, sponsored by the College of Chemistry and Physics, Louisiana State University, will be held January 30–February 2 on the university campus. Further information may be obtained from Philip W. West, Department of Chemistry, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

The American Society for Horticultural Science elected the following officers for the year 1949–50: president, S. L. Emsweller, Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Maryland; vice president, A. F. Yeager, University of New Hampshire, Durham; secretary-treasurer, Freeman S. Howlett, Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station, Wooster. H. B. Tukey, editor of the *Proceedings* since 1928, offered his resignation effective January 1.

Raymond F. Guy, manager of radio and allocations engineering of the National Broadcasting Company, has been elected president of the **Institute of Radio Engineers** for 1950. He will succeed Stuart L. Bailey, of Washington, D. C. on January 1. Sir Robert Watson-Watt, British radar authority, has been elected vice president.

The American Society of Professional Biologists, Inc., recently announced the election of the following officers: president, Roy F. Fritz, Department of Public Health, Berkeley, California; president-elect, Archie D. Hess, U. S. Public Health Service, Savannah, Georgia; treasurer, Alfred A. Draper, director of Steffan Laboratories, New York City; vice presidents, William Levin, director, Oregon Hygienic Laboratory, Portland, Oregon; H. Orin Halvorson, head, Department of Bacteriology, University of Illinois; Martin D. Young, U. S. Public Health Service, Columbia, South Carolina; Robert M. Johnston, director, Johnston Laboratories, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; executive secretary, Norman C. Laffer, associate professor of bacteriology, University of Maryland.

Recently Received—

Nuclear Science Abstracts, U. S. Atomic Energy Commission. Vol. 3, No. 5. Technical Information Branch, Oak Ridge. 25¢.

1948 Annual Report of the John and Mary Markle Foundation. John and Mary Markle Foundation, 14 Wall Street, New York City.

Goethe and Pharmacy. George Urdang. American Institute of the History of Pharmacy, Madison.

A Half Century of Globular Clusters. Harlow Shapley. Harvard reprint 320. Harvard Observatory, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The Society for Clinical and Experimental Hypnosis, 26 West 9th Street, New York City, is organizing a reprint library and would appreciate receiving two reprints each of any article dealing with hypnosis. Reprints may be forwarded to the society, attention of Jerome M. Schneck, chairman.

Mental Hospital Service, the clearinghouse soon to be established by the American Psychiatric Association to serve mental hospitals and other institutions caring for psychiatric patients in the U. S. and Canada, will have its headquarters in Washington, D. C., under the direction of Daniel Blain, medical director of APA. A grant from the Commonwealth Fund of $45,000 made the project possible, but it is expected that it will eventually be self-supporting through subscription fees from participants.

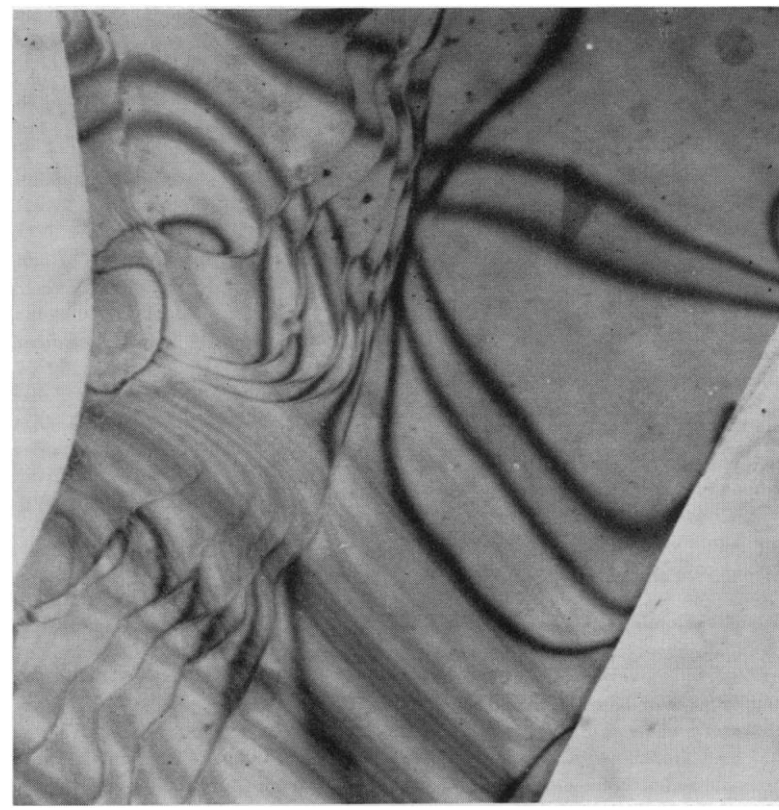
The U. S. National Committee on Theoretical and Applied Mechanics, recently formed by seven national scientific and engineering societies, has been admitted as an adhering body to the International Union of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics. Member organizations of the committee are the Society for Experimental Stress Analysis, American Society of Civil Engineers, American Institute of Chemical Engineers, Fluid Dynamics section of the American Physical Society, Institute for Aeronautical Sciences, American Mathematical Society, and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. Future plans call for American representation at a collegium on geophysics in 1950, and at a meeting of the IUTAM in Rome. Plans are now under way for an international congress for theoretical and applied mechanics to be held in the U. S. during 1951.

The reactor development program of the Atomic Energy Commission was the major subject under discussion at a press conference November 28—the first of an announced series of such conferences, to be held about once a month for the purpose of removing some of the secrecy surrounding atomic energy. Chairman David E. Lilienthal, whose resignation from the AEC will be effective December 31, presided.

A "breeder" reactor, using fast neutrons to convert the nonexplosive and naturally occurring uranium 238 to fissionable plutonium, has been designed at Argonne National Laboratory, it was announced, and will be built next year at the commission's new nuclear reactor testing station near Arco, Idaho. The theoretical possibility of a pile that produces more fuel than it consumes was announced by the AEC two years ago. Now engineering work is more than 90 percent completed and the reactor will be tested about 18 months hence. Dr. Lawrence Hafstad, director of the reactor program, called the project "the biggest . . . peacetime development in atomic energy that has been made."

Another breeder is being developed to produce significant amounts of electric power, using neutrons in the intermediate energy range. Construction is expected to begin at the site of the Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory early next year. If successful, the Knolls reactor will point the way toward production of useful power without depleting the national supply of fissionable material.

The commissioners said they expected that by 1952 the AEC would be building an atomic engine for ship propulsion. They also announced the design of an experimental reactor to provide information on the behavior of materials under severe radiation conditions. This is of particular interest in the development of reactors for the propulsion of aircraft.



A RECENTLY DEVELOPED TECHNIQUE for producing very thin slices of solid layered material made possible this transmission electron micrograph of a splitting of synthetic fluorine-phlogopite mica, showing laminar morphology of the mica. The dark bands are believed to be electron optical effects. Althea Revere, associate professor of electron microscopy at Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, New Jersey, developed the technique and prepared the micrograph. Magnification 10,000 × with resolution.