



Gladys M. Keener
Executive Editor

AAAS EDITORIAL BOARD
(Terms expire June 30, 1952)

Howard A. Meyerhoff, **Chairman**

William R. Amberson Karl Lark-Horovitz

Bentley Glass Lorin J. Mullins

Walter J. Nickerson

F. A. Moulton, Advertising Representative

Survey of Physiological Science

THE American Physiological Society indicated its interest in constructive planning by sponsoring two committee studies in 1945 and 1946. The reports showed the need and opportunity for a serious examination of the status and trends of physiological science. This year seemed propitious, and, with approval of the council, Ralph W. Gerard, chairman of one of the earlier committees and now president of the society, approached the National Science Foundation last fall for support. The foundation is concerned with like problems for all of science, and it responded enthusiastically. On April 4 Alan T. Waterman, director of the foundation, reported on this page:

At the present time we are discussing with a leading society a plan, proposed by the society itself, to review the present and potential research activities in its field, to survey its trained manpower resources, and to study the relationship of this field to science and education in general.

The foundation has subsequently announced the award of a contract to the American Physiological Society for a two-year study of the history, status, and role of physiology in the United States (SCIENCE, 115, 566 [1951]).

Founded in 1887 "to promote the advance of physiology," the American Physiological Society now represents 1310 professional physiologists from universities, industry, government laboratories, institutes, and foundations. Physiologists are interested broadly in functional processes of living organisms, and for this segment of science the society and the National Science Foundation are alike concerned with four main problems:

- 1) National and other policy for promoting research and education in physiology;
- 2) The impact of physiological science upon the national welfare, via medicine and related professions, agriculture and animal husbandry, industry, government, foundations, and universities;

3) Existing and projected resources (finances, installations, materials, persons) and programs of research and teaching in physiology by educational institutions, industry, and government;

4) The present status, past development, and projected trends of research content and practice and of teaching emphasis.

The Survey of Physiological Science is the first stocktaking endeavor to be supported by the National Science Foundation, and it is hoped that it will be a prototype from which similar efforts in other fields of science may benefit.

The central committee created to direct the two-year survey is under the chairmanship of Ralph W. Gerard, professor of physiology, University of Chicago. Deputy chairman is Wallace O. Fenn, professor of physiology, University of Rochester.

Ex officio members are Eugene M. Landis, president-elect of the society, and Milton O. Lee, executive secretary and managing editor. Orr E. Reynolds, on leave from the Office of Naval Research, where he is director of the Biological Sciences Division, is serving as executive director for the initial phase of the survey.

The success of such an investigation will depend upon the choice and range of problems studied, the methods of approach, and the critical and incisive evaluation of the findings. The collaboration of many individual scientists and societies having physiological interests will be sought. Especially helpful, however, is the sound background that advice from interested scientists can provide. Suggestions relative to physiological research, education, and administration; means of inquiry and scrutiny; and sources of collected information are solicited. The committee and staff will be grateful for all such suggestions, which may be addressed to:

Survey of Physiological Science
American Physiological Society
2101 Constitution Ave.
Washington 25, D. C.

RALPH W. GERARD
ORR E. REYNOLDS

The American Physiological Society

SCIENCE, founded in 1880, is published each Friday by the American Association for the Advancement of Science at the Business Press, 10 McGovern Ave., Lancaster, Pa. Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at Lancaster, Pa., January 13, 1948, under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at the special rate postage provided for in the Act of February 28, 1925, embodied in Paragraph (d-2) Section 34.40 P. L. & R. of 1948.

All correspondence should be sent to SCIENCE, 1515 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington 5, D. C. The AAAS assumes no responsibility for the safety of manuscripts or for the opinions expressed by contributors. Four weeks' notice

is required for change of address, and an address stencil label from a recent issue must be furnished. Claims for a missing number will be allowed only if received within 60 days from date of issue.

Annual subscriptions, \$7.50; single copies, \$.25; foreign postage, outside the Pan-American Union, \$1.00; Canadian postage, \$.50. Special rates to members of the AAAS.

The AAAS also publishes THE SCIENTIFIC MONTHLY. Subscription and advertising rates on request.

Cable address: ADVANCESCI.