

# Association Affairs

## Prize in the Social Sciences

A PRIZE of \$1000 for an essay on theoretical sociology was offered in 1951 (*SCIENCE*, 114, 508 [1951]), but in the opinion of the judges none of the entries adequately met the conditions established for the award, and no prize was given. A prize of \$1000 is now offered for 1952 for essays reporting upon inquiry into the theory of social processes and group behavior. The conditions of the competition are as follows:

A. The contribution should further the comprehension of the psychological and cultural behavior of human beings in contemporary society, with specific recognition of the space-time frame of reference. The descriptions and interpretations presented should be developed from carefully controlled observations of actual social situations.

B. The development should be along those methodological lines that have been most prominent in the established sciences. Special attention in the particular case should be paid to the manner of theoretical-factual construction that can be studied in the line of progress from Charles Darwin through C. S. Peirce, William James, and John Dewey.

C. Clear recognition and steady stress should be given to observation as taking place always under postulation, and to postulation as always arising out of prior observation. If this view is not held, its alternative should be made scientifically clear. The essay should foster liberation from traditional philosophic-linguistic conventions and from outmoded boundaries between different social disciplines.

D. The focus of attention should be the process of movement and change in society, the interactions between individuals and groups, and the adjustments and readjustments in their relationships that make for activity and development.

## COMMENT

This is not a prize for *conventional* work in the social sciences, even when done by the best conventional technicians; nor is it a prize for *any* kind of original work, no matter how brilliantly dialectical it may be. Fundamentally, it is a prize to encourage procedures within the framework of the best-formulated evolutionary naturalism and experimental or operational logic of the past half-century or more.

Manuscripts will be judged by a committee of three persons who will be fully qualified to appraise material in this field, but who will not necessarily be sociologists. Entries should be sent to Howard A. Meyerhoff, Administrative Secretary, American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1515 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington 5, D. C., not later than

October 31. To facilitate the work of the judges, the material should be submitted in triplicate, and the name of the author should be omitted from the typed copy. Definite preference will be given to unpublished manuscripts or to essays especially prepared for this competition, but articles that have been published since December 1, 1951, will not be excluded from the competition merely by virtue of having been published. Announcement of the winner will be made at the Association's St. Louis meeting in December, but the Committee of Judges reserves the right to withhold the prize if no worthy essay is submitted.

## AAAS Research Grants

THE AAAS administers the A. G. Stillhamer Endowment Fund, which was given for the purpose of supporting research in biology. For several years the income from this fund has been allowed to accumulate, and the Association is now prepared to offer a \$500 Stillhamer Grant for Biological Research in 1952. In subsequent years it will offer comparable grants of \$500 in other scientific fields.

In addition to the Stillhamer Grant of \$500, the Grants Committee will also consider applications for an award not to exceed \$500, preferably in a field of science other than biology. This special grant is available for 1952 only, and it is not planned to offer it annually.

It is proposed to announce the 1952 awards at the St. Louis meeting of the Association, December 26-31, 1952, and applications will be received through November 15. Each application should provide the following information: name and address of applicant, his institution, a detailed description of the research project, together with a statement regarding any projects thus far made, the specific purpose or purposes for which the funds are needed, the anticipated cost of the project, amounts and sources of other funds available for the project, and the names of two or more scientific colleagues who are sufficiently familiar with the project to advise the AAAS Grants Committee regarding it.

For the purpose of administering these annual grants, the AAAS Grants Committee will be revived, and the names of the members will be published in a subsequent issue of *SCIENCE*.

All applications should be submitted in triplicate to Howard A. Meyerhoff, Administrative Secretary, American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1515 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington 5, D. C.

