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## The Ciba Foundation

**L**ORD BEVERIDGE has described the Ciba Foundation for the Promotion of International Co-operation in Medical and Chemical Research in these words: "This place is not a laboratory for mixing compounds, but we do mean to make it a laboratory for mixing scientists."

As an *international* center, the foundation was set up in London, partly because London occupies a central position in world communications, and partly—in the words of the late Max Hartmann—because "The English language has become the scientific language of the world, and the scientific publications of the English-speaking nations today take first place."

The foundation is established as an educational and scientific charity under the laws of England, but it owes its inception to the insight and imagination of its founder, Ciba Limited of Switzerland, by which body it was endowed and is supported. It is, however, governed and administered as an English trust exclusively by its distinguished trustees, who are at present E. D. Adrian, president of the Royal Society and Master of Trinity College, Cambridge; Lord Beveridge, world-renowned economist; Lord Horder, the eminent physician; and Raymond Needham, Queen's Counsel and Treasurer of the Middle Temple. The director of the Ciba Foundation is Gordon Wolstenholme.

Sir Henry Dale formally opened the foundation in June 1949. Now that it has entered on its fourth year of activity, it is possible to make one or two useful generalizations as to the course that has been followed and as to the probable trend of policy for the future.

The basic idea was to provide accommodation without charge to leading scientists from overseas, so that they could meet each other and their British colleagues in an atmosphere conducive to a free exchange of views on their respective subjects. The guests have been drawn from thirty countries, and at least 200 of them have already come from the United States

and Canada. The idea has proved to be fundamentally right, and, as time goes on, it is being worked out in an ever-increasing progression.

For example, a scheme for short-term Anglo-French medical bursaries has been arranged between the Ciba Foundation and the Institut National d'Hygiène, and it is contemplated that this scheme shall be extended to other countries.

Informal symposia, or colloquia, strictly limited in membership, have been arranged between leading research workers from different countries, and these have been recorded in publications made available to their colleagues throughout the world. Of these conferences, there were nineteen between January 1950 and December 1952; twelve on endocrinological subjects, and the remainder on more general topics—e.g., toxemias of pregnancy, liver disease, the spinal cord, and the circulation.

Accommodation has been provided for important meetings of international committees concerned with various aspects of medical research. Small discussion groups, the proceedings of which remain unrecorded and unreported, also meet periodically; in these, distinguished overseas guests are invited to open debates on topics of their own choosing in the presence of small gatherings of those actively interested in similar research.

The library of the foundation has daily accessions, and the specialized section dealing in endocrinology already provides a service probably unique in Great Britain.

Words spoken by Sir Henry Dale on the occasion of the opening ceremony may be recalled: "It is more urgently necessary than ever before to widen and to multiply all legitimate channels of international understanding and co-operation in science." This aim is being realized by the Ciba Foundation in a variety of ways and on an ever-widening front.

GORDON WOLSTENHOLME

*The Ciba Foundation, London*

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