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## Survey of Physiological Science

THE Survey of Physiological Science, under the sponsorship of the American Physiological Society and operating through a National Science Foundation contract, is measuring the present status of physiology and physiologists. By comparing the present position of the science and its people with the past, the Survey hopes to provide data upon which valid predictions for the future may be based.

The effort of the Survey includes all the physiological sciences, whether in botany, psychology, bacteriology, or zoology, and is concerned alike with the basic sciences, as well as their applications to medicine, agriculture, industry, and other scientific disciplines.

Problems in physiological education, research, application, and administration are considered to be the actual working aspects of the science. The techniques to be used include comprehensive questionnaires which will be sent to a representative number of physiological scientists whose names will be drawn from established rosters and institutional sources. These scientists will be found in a representative sample of academic, clinical, government, and industrial institutions taken from a composite list recently made up by the Survey. Not only will personal interviews be conducted with a small group from the sample, but it is hoped that regional seminars eventually can be

arranged to discuss ways and means of dealing with the problems that are brought out during the course of the Survey.

A comprehensive study of the physiology literature is being initiated and will concern itself with the quality, quantity, and efficiency of the present literature as a storehouse of physiological knowledge and as a form of communication.

College catalogue surveys, public attitudes toward physiology, professional potentialities, secondary school education in dynamic biology, special applications of physiology, and trends and perspectives of contemporary physiology as seen through the eyes of American and foreign physiologists are some of the special projects in progress.

The operations of the Survey, centered in Washington under the immediate supervision of an Executive Director, has the constant advantage of frequent critical scrutiny of a Central Committee composed of acknowledged leaders in animal, plant, and bacteriological physiology.

Frequent meetings of the committee, together with the constantly available advice from a number of special authorities and organizations acting as Subcommittees or separate consultants, and from other scientific surveys, ensure the validity and comprehensiveness of a project sure to affect vitally the future of physiology in this country.

L. M. N. BACH, *Executive Director*

*Survey of Physiological Science*

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