

# News of Science

## Ford Aid to Education

The following statement was issued by President Arthur S. Adams of the American Council on Education concerning the announcement of the Ford Foundation that it will make grants totaling \$500 million to increase faculty salaries in 615 private colleges and universities, to improve and expand services in 3500 privately supported hospitals, and to strengthen instruction in privately supported medical schools.

"The Ford Foundation has made December 12, 1955 a historic date both for higher education and for American philanthropy. The grants are of sufficient size to become a very real force in improving the level of compensation for college faculties and hence the quality of instruction in private institutions of higher learning across the country. Even more important is the fact that the trustees of the Foundation have perceived a fundamental need and have moved to meet it by supporting the normal operations of existing colleges and universities. Now that the Ford Foundation has so dramatically led the way, we can confidently expect that other donors will to an increasing degree help, in the words of Henry Ford II, 'to strengthen American education at its base—the quality of teaching.'"

## AAAS 50-year Members

The following AAAS members were elected as 50-year members during the association's annual meeting in Atlanta, Ga.

Section A—Mathematics: William C. Brenke, Charles O. Gunther, Egbert J. Miles.

Section B—Physics: Henry M. Brock, Elizabeth R. Laird, A. Hoyt Taylor.

Section C—Chemistry: Howard B. Bishop, William Hamlin Cady, Benjamin S. Merigold, James A. Newlands, Frederick W. Schwartz, William Gabb Smeaton, Michael Xavier Sullivan, Edgar Theodore Wherry.

Section E—Geology and Geography: Eliot Blackwelder, J. Harlan Bretz, Frederick A. Camp.

Section F—Zoological Sciences: Cornelius Betten, Webster Chester, Gideon

S. Dodds, Louis Hussakof, Albert Hazen Wright.

Section G—Botanical Sciences: Mintin A. Chrysler, Claude Wilbur Edgerton, Roland M. Harper, Raymond J. Pool, Laetitia Morris Snow.

Section H—Anthropology: William K. Gregory, Lawrence Waters Jenkins.

Section N—Medical Sciences: George Baehr, Israel Simon Kleiner, Warren H. Lewis, Arthur N. Tasker, Frederick H. Verhoeff.

No section affiliation: Walter K. Gannon.

## AAAS Socio-Psychological Prize

Yehudi A. Cohen of the department of psychiatry, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, is the first recipient of the AAAS \$1000 Socio-Psychological prize. The award was announced on 28 Dec. during the AAAS annual meeting in Atlanta, Ga.

Cohen's entry was entitled "Food and its vicissitudes: a cross-cultural study of sharing and nonsharing in 60 folk societies." Cohen examined and confirmed the hypothesis that in those societies in which infants and young children are fed whenever they cry for food, or ask for food, the adult members of the society will share their food and wealth with other persons. Conversely, in societies in which infants and young children are fed only on a fixed schedule, or in which there is restraint or deprivation with respect to food, the adults will not share their food or wealth with others.

Of course, there were subsidiary hypotheses and other variables, dealing, for example, with the social and geographic distances separating members of the society. Nevertheless, Cohen found that the hypotheses he was testing were confirmed by the reports of the 60 folk societies on which he was able to secure adequate reports.

## AAAS Theobald Smith Award

ROBERT A. GOOD, American Legion heart research professor at the University of Minnesota Medical School, received the Theobald Smith award of the AAAS during the association's meeting

in Atlanta, Ga., 26–31 Dec. Good, who was a Markle Foundation scholar in medical sciences from 1950 to 1955, has conducted research in the following areas: natural and acquired resistance to gram-negative endotoxins; gammaglobulinemias and hypergammaglobulinemias; rheumatic fever; acute-phase reactions; immunology and hypersensitivity reactions; and hematology.

## Science Reprint Prices Increased

Owing to the larger page size of the new format of *Science*, there will be a slight increase in the price of reprints beginning with the issue of 6 January 1956. Authors and institutions who send payment before receiving a reprint order blank or a bill from Business Press should inform themselves of the new prices.

## Encouraging Scientific Talent

One hundred thousand new scholarships are needed immediately to conserve the nation's intellectual resources at the 18-year-old level, according to a report made public on 11 Dec. by the College Entrance Examination Board. In addition, the report said, there is urgent need for a revitalized program of guidance to insure that another 100,000 high-school graduates of superior ability acquire the desire for advanced education that they now lack.

Entitled *Encouraging Scientific Talent*, the report was prepared by Charles C. Cole, Jr., assistant dean of Columbia College, with the assistance of several education specialists. The report, and the study preceding it, were commissioned by the College Entrance Examination Board. Some of the background studies were supported by the National Science Foundation.

Insufficient financial backing and lack of motivation to attend college are given by the report as the chief reasons why each year 200,000 American high-school graduates in the upper 30 percent bracket of ability are lost to the colleges. The 400-page survey shows that this loss of talent is especially serious in the light of today's shortage of scientists and engineers.

To reach his findings, Cole engaged the Educational Testing Service to conduct research on the vocational aspirations and college and financial plans of talented high-school graduates of 1955. A random sample of 32,750 graduates, or 2.6 percent of the public school seniors in the nation, was used, and these were administered an aptitude test. Then, questionnaires were filled out by the students scoring in the top 30 percent on the test. From the questionnaires

came not only the important fact that 200,000 students of college ability did not intend to enroll in colleges during the present academic year, but also a body of other data as well.

### Edison Foundation Awards

■ The Thomas Alva Edison Foundation inaugurated its presentation of annual awards to encourage more wholesome influences for youth in the mass media at a dinner that was held on 13 Dec. at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York. Awards that were given for encouraging the interest of young people in science and in scientific and engineering careers were as follows: the best science film for youth, *The African Lion*, Disney Studios; the best science television program for youth, *Mr. Wizard*, Don Herbert of the National Broadcasting Company; and the best science radio program for youth, *Adventures in Science*, Watson Davis of Science Service.

Two other awards that relate to science were the one that was given for the best children's film, the Swedish film *The Great Adventure*, and the special citation that was made to the American Broadcasting Company for outstanding work in drawing public attention to the shortage of scientists and engineers.

### News Briefs

■ The U. S. Food and Drug Administration has granted permission for the use of Aureomycin as a preservative for uncooked poultry. This is the first time use of an antibiotic has been permitted on a food. Approval was given when no more than seven parts per million of Aureomycin remain on treated uncooked poultry. The decision to allow this amount of residue was based on evidence that cooking of poultry destroys this concentration of the antibiotic.

■ The first technological research center in Colombia has been established in Bogotá with the aim of broadening the nation's economic structure. The center was set up by the Agricultural Industrial and Mining Credit Bank of Colombia, with the aid of Armour Research Foundation of Illinois Institute of Technology.

■ Dag Hammarskjöld, Secretary-General of the United Nations, on 8 Dec. sent to President Eisenhower a copy of the first of the 16 volumes of the Proceedings of the International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy to arrive from the printers. He has likewise sent a copy to Homi J. Bhabha of India. This first volume to be published is vol. 3 on power reactors.

■ The Soviet Union has legalized abortion for the first time in almost 20 years, according to an announcement on 30 Nov. in the government newspaper *Izvestia*. There has been a new annual population increase of 3 million persons that has more than offset the wartime depopulation.

Abortion in the Soviet Union has had a varied history. Between the Bolshevik Revolution and 1936, abortion was freely practiced, especially in major cities. With the onset of a more conservative trend, a legal ban was rigidly enforced. At present, it is felt that the government's drive to increase the birth rate through bachelor's taxes, family allotments, and other devices has met with success.

### Scientists in the News

EDGAR S. MCFADDEN, agronomist at Texas A & M Agricultural Experiment Station, was awarded the John Scott medal for his origination and development of the first rust-resistant bread wheat. The award is administered by the Philadelphia Board of Directors of City Trusts and is given to "ingenious men and women who make useful inventions."

It has been stated that because of McFadden's work, 25 million people are eating who otherwise would be dead or dying of starvation and that during the war years he saved American farmers an estimated 400 million dollars. McFadden received the medal, accompanied by a premium of \$1000, on 27 Dec. during the AAAS annual meeting in Atlanta, Ga. Presentation was made at the close of the general symposium on Atomic Energy and Agriculture.

EDMUND W. SINNOTT, dean of the Yale University Graduate School and president of the AAAS in 1948, will retire on 30 June. Sinnott, a scientist, educator, and author, is a specialist in botany. In recent years he has become widely known for his attempts to synthesize the results of scientific research and religious thought into a unified philosophy, a philosophy that evaluates the role and responsibilities of scientists in modern life.

Sinnott is a graduate of Harvard University. He joined the Yale faculty in 1940 as Sterling professor of botany and chairman of the university's botany department. Five years later he became the first director of the university's Division of the Sciences, and at the same time assumed the post of director of the Sheffield Scientific School. Despite his heavy administrative load, he has continued to conduct research and to hold a limited teaching schedule.

Sinnott received his Harvard degrees

in 1908, 1910, and 1913. From 1908 to 1912 he was Austin teaching fellow and assistant in botany at Harvard, and for the next 2 years he served as instructor in the Harvard Forestry School.

From 1915 to 1928 he was a member of the faculty of Connecticut Agricultural College, serving as professor of botany and genetics, after which he moved to Barnard College as professor of botany. He joined the Columbia University faculty in 1939, the year before he went to Yale.

Sinnott, in addition to his long connection with the AAAS, is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi, American Philosophical Society, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He was president in 1945 of the American Society of Naturalists, and in 1937 he was president of the Botanical Society of America. He also served on the Board of Managers of the New York Botanical Gardens from 1933 to 1940, and from 1926 to 1932 was editor-in-chief of the *American Journal of Botany*.

ALLEN O. GAMBLE has been appointed project director of the National Register of Scientific and Technical Personnel in the National Science Foundation. For the past 9 years Gamble has been with the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, where he directed the recruitment, examination, training, and performance-reporting programs of the NACA.

ROBERT R. WILLIAMS, chairman of the Williams-Waterman Fund for the Combat of Dietary Diseases, Research Corporation, New York, received the annual William Procter prize for scientific achievement on 29 Dec. during the AAAS meeting in Atlanta, Ga. The \$1000 award, which is administered by the Scientific Research Society of America, was presented to Williams immediately after he had delivered an address at the AAAS general session that was sponsored by RESA. He spoke on "Chemistry as a supplement to agriculture in meeting world food problems."

FREDERICK BELLINGER, chief of the chemical services division of the Engineering Experiment Station at Georgia Institute of Technology, has been selected by the United Nations to serve as an adviser to the Egyptian Government in the establishment of an industrial research program under a project arranged by UNESCO.

RUSSELL F. MILLER, former research assistant at the University of Wisconsin, has been appointed associate professor of biochemistry at Virginia Polytechnic Institute.