

ELBERT DECOURSEY, brigadier general and commandant of the Army Medical Service School at Brooke Army Medical Center, was made an honorary member of the National Society of Anatomical Pathology of Venezuela when he attended the sixth Venezuelan Congress of Medical Scientists at Caracas 18-26 Nov.

JOHN G. GIBSON, II, research associate in medicine at Harvard Medical School and associate in medicine, Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, has been honored by the American Association of Blood Banks for research that has extended the life of red cells in collected blood. With his associates, Gibson developed a citrate-phosphate-dextrose solution that reduces the damage suffered by red blood cells during and following blood collection.

Working with Gibson were WALTER SCHEITLIN, research fellow in medicine, Harvard Medical School and Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, and WILLIAM P. MURPHY, JR., and SEARLE REES, both of whom were formerly on the school and hospital staffs.

TRUMAN O. WOODRUFF, who has been serving as research associate in physics at the University of Illinois, has been appointed research associate in the metallurgy and ceramics department of the General Electric Research Laboratory, Schenectady, N.Y.

ALBERT I. MENDELOFF of the Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, has been appointed associate professor of medicine at Johns Hopkins Medical School and physician on the staff of Johns Hopkins Hospital. He also has been named clinical chief of the staff in medicine at the Sinai Hospital in Baltimore, Md.

P. M. AUSTIN BOURKE, assistant director of the Irish Meteorological Service and chairman of an international group of experts established by the World Meteorological Organization to deal with plant-disease problems, has recently started a 1-year mission in Chile under the auspices of the United Nations Technical Assistance Program. He will advise the Chilean Government on meteorological control of the potato blight, which in the last 5 years has become a serious menace in Chile.

Necrology

ALBERT R. BECHTEL, Indianapolis, Ind.; 73; emeritus professor of botany and chairman of the department from 1920 to 1950 at Wabash College; 12 Dec.

EDWIN M. BLAKE, Mt. Kisco, N.Y.; 87; mathematician; 20 Dec.

BENJAMIN B. FREUD, Chicago, Ill.; 71;

emeritus professor and first chairman of the chemistry department at Illinois Institute of Technology; 12 Dec.

C. RILEY HOUCK, Memphis, Tenn.; 39; associate professor of physiology at the University of Tennessee; expert on kidney function and hypertension; 10 Dec.

SEYMOUR KORKES, Durham, N.C.; 33; associate professor of biochemistry at the Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, N.C.; 10 Dec.

SIEGFRIED W. LANDSBERGER, New Rochelle, N.Y.; 79; chemical engineer and food preservation expert; 12 Dec.

JAMES MCELGIN, Philadelphia, Pa.; 54; chemical engineer with the E. F. Houghton, Co., Philadelphia, Pa.; 7 Dec.

Education

■ The chemistry department of Howard University has inaugurated a graduate program leading to the Ph.D. degree. This is the first department in the university to begin training at this level. The department has 6 doctoral candidates enrolled in the new program.

With the initiation of the additional graduate training, the chemistry department has made arrangements for extending its activities in biochemistry by enlisting the cooperation of the department of biochemistry of the College of Medicine. Lloyd H. Newman, head of that department, and Lawrence M. Marshall and Felix Friedberg, members of the biochemistry faculty, will participate in the new curriculum of the chemistry department by offering advanced courses in special topics of biochemistry and by supervising the research undertaken by graduate students working toward advanced degrees. Together with Victor J. Tulane, associate professor of biological chemistry in the chemistry department, the four men will constitute the biochemical division of the department of chemistry.

■ *The Superior Pupil in Junior High School Mathematics* is the name of a new Office of Education bulletin by Earl M. McWilliams and Kenneth E. Brown. To secure data for this new publication, the authors visited classrooms in 140 junior high schools from Maine to California. Schools were selected because of their educational provisions for the superior pupil. These provisions are described.

The use of class activities such as mathematics clubs, contests, various conferences, and so forth are discussed. Ways of identifying superior students are presented. The publication may be obtained for 25 cents from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C.

■ Lowell Technological Institute has established a new 4-year course leading to the B.S. degree in general engineering. The course will train graduates who wish to cut across the traditional lines of engineering specialization; it will be available to incoming freshmen in September. It does not require the introduction of new subjects or equipment but primarily regroups present engineering courses.

■ A nurse-midwife school, perhaps the first to be offered in a university obstetrical clinic, will be resumed at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, with the aid of a \$75,000 grant from the China Medical Board of New York, Inc. The object is to train as many foreign students as possible, as well as American nurses planning to serve abroad, in this field of special importance in underdeveloped regions.

The board's work in China, which was primarily support of the Peking Union Medical College, has had to be discontinued since 1950 because of the prevailing political conditions. It now concerns itself with problems of medical education in all of Southeast Asia. Grants to institutions in the United States have been made primarily to further this policy.

■ A series of television programs demonstrating a fundamental medical teaching technique, the grand-rounds tour of hospital wards with discussions of significant cases by outstanding clinicians, will be telecast from Boston, Mass., on a series of closed circuits to some 50 cities throughout the country. The series will originate at the New England Medical Center and at Tufts University School of Medicine. It is being sponsored by the Upjohn Company and is a part of the Bingham Associates Program of Postgraduate Medical Education at the New England Medical Center.

The first telecast, which will take place on the evening of 18 Jan., will give physicians who view it an opportunity to watch a group of specialists participate in the "Management of acute abdominal emergencies." This program will be devoted to abdominal problems that occur in everyday practice—for example, massive gastrointestinal hemorrhage, acute appendicitis, perforated viscus, and acute gall bladder.

Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

■ The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, Inc., has awarded the first group of a series of grants that will be made in the future from the foundation's fund for basic research in the physical sciences. This fund, which was established earlier this year, was made possible by a personal gift of \$5 million from Mr. and Mrs. Alfred P.