

nomical Society of Canada established the Chant medal for outstanding Canadian amateur astronomers.

Superposed on the background of steady day-to-day efforts were memorable dramatic moments in his life. He was a pioneer in the application of x-ray photography and in February 1896 took a shadow-picture of a woman's heel, by means of which a steel needle was located. He sent the first wireless telegraph message in Canada in November 1899, when a message was carried from one side to the other of a lecture room in University College. His long struggles toward the establishment of a large observatory at Toronto, after years of frustration and disappointments, had a dramatic culmination. Through the gen-

erosity of the late Mrs. Jessie Donald Dunlap, as a memorial to her husband, some of the golden riches from the depths of Canadian mines were fittingly transformed into a beautiful observatory for exploring the worlds beyond. The David Dunlap Observatory, with its 74-inch reflecting telescope—at that time the second largest in the world—was formally dedicated on Chant's 70th birthday, on which day he became director emeritus and received an LL.D. degree from the University of Toronto.

A major task of his life was his editorship of the *Journal of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada*, which he had founded and edited from its beginning. As late as the issue of September 1956, he contributed an article, the

obituary of his old friend Walter S. Adams of the Mount Wilson Observatory. As the last issue of volume 50 of the *Journal*, of which he was still editor, was on the press, his lifework ended. A record of exactly 50 years of continuous editorship of a scientific journal has few challengers.

In his life, as he followed the pathway to the stars, he typified the motto of the society he founded: *Quo Ducit Urania*. Canadian astronomers agree with Harlow Shapley who, on hearing of Chant's death, wrote, "No one can so rightly be adjudged the father of his country's astronomy and astronomers as Dr. Chant."

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News of Science

Mellon Institute to Cultivate Fundamental Research

Plans recently adopted by the board of trustees of the Mellon Institute, Pittsburgh, Pa., call for a major expansion of fundamental research in that institution. According to Matthew B. Ridgway, the board chairman, the decision to reorient the institute's principal investigational activities toward long-range basic scientific objectives represents the culmination of a broad assessment of the role of the institute over a period of several years. In this appraisal, the advice and counsel of eminent scientists from academic life and from the industries were brought to bear on the question of the types of effort in which Mellon Institute could make its greatest contributions in the future under the leadership of Paul J. Flory, executive director of research.

The imperative need for more active replenishment of the reservoir of scientific knowledge through fundamental research is widely recognized. Yet, notwithstanding the funds available for the support of research, the progress of fundamental science has seriously fallen behind the proliferation and consequent requirements of applied science and technology. For these reasons it has been concluded that Mellon Institute can perform a service to the sciences and indus-

tries and, hence, to the nation by structuring its organization as a center of advanced investigation, with comprehensive attention to fundamental problems. The course decided upon is a reaffirmation of the original purpose of the institute, a nonprofit institution founded in 1913 and dedicated to scientific research for the benefit of mankind.

Although it is the aim eventually to direct the institute's main efforts along the lines of fundamental scientific research, there is no intention to depart from the field of applied research. Indeed, a healthy collaboration between fundamental and applied research will be fostered. In applied research, investigation of long-range character, or pioneering nature, will be especially encouraged. Then, too, much of the fundamental research will naturally enter potentially practical areas that will invite industrial participation. Ultimate possibilities of technologic application will not, of course, be regarded as criteria for judging the scientific merit of fundamental research undertakings. As is well known, however, results of fundamental investigation, totally unactuated by economic considerations, may now and then reveal high utility.

Fundamental research is contemplated in fields embracing physical chemistry, chemical physics, and inorganic, organic,

and analytic chemistry. Solid-state investigations, polymer chemistry and physics, radiation studies, and biophysics and biophysical chemistry will be emphasized, according to present plans. The importance of granting freedom commensurate with ability to individual research workers is recognized, and a wide latitude of opportunity will be assured for creative research. Members of the research staff will be encouraged to direct their efforts toward significant objectives of their own choosing, and to evolve their own problems and programs. Thus the institute will nourish professional motives pointed at generating new ideas of value in scientific investigations for human welfare.

AAAS Socio-Psychological Prize

Through the generosity of an anonymous donor, the AAAS offers an annual prize of \$1000 for a meritorious essay in socio-psychological inquiry. Previous winners of this prize and the titles of their essays have been: Arnold M. Rose, "A theory of social organization and disorganization"; Yehudi A. Cohen, "Food and its viscissitudes: a cross-cultural study of sharing and non-sharing in sixty folk societies"; and Herbert C. Kelman, "Compliance, identification, and internalization: a theoretical and experimental approach to the study of social influence."

The conditions of competition for the prize to be awarded at the 1957 annual meeting, Indianapolis, 26-31 Dec., are as follows.

1) The contribution should further the comprehension of the psychological-social-cultural behavior of human beings—the relationships of these hyphenated words being an essential part of the inquiry. Whether the contributor considers