

in San Francisco, Calif., KQED, is producing a two-program series called "Tempest in a Test Tube," featuring Harry Sello, research chemist at the Shell Development Company. The purpose of the series is to awaken an interest in chemistry and the allied sciences on the part of the teen-ager—particularly the junior-high-school student. The format includes many lively and colorful experiments with an informal explanation of the principles involved. Continuity and experiments are developed by a committee from the American Chemical Society.

Medical problems affecting future space travel are explored in a series of 13 half-hour programs called "Doctors in Space," which is to be filmed in part at the U.S. Air Force School of Space Medicine, Randolph Air Force Base, Tex. The series will feature Hubertus Strughold, chief of the school, and will use film now available at the school as well as specially prepared shots. Station KUHT in Houston, center affiliate, is producing the series under contract with the center.

"The World and Physics" is a series of 13 45-minute programs that features Edward Teller, and five high-school science students. Designed to stimulate curiosity about and increase knowledge of science among high-school students, the series will cover fundamental concepts in the physical sciences and will emphasize ideas rather than demonstrations and experiments. Each program will begin with an elementary description of the subject and will gradually develop to a point when the ideas involved will challenge the imagination of the participating students and of the viewers. The series is another being produced for the center by station KQED.

A series of 13 half-hour programs, "Nuclear Energy—Key to Tomorrow," will explain the fundamental principles of atomic energy and outline its peacetime applications. Being produced under contract with the center and its affiliate, station WQED in Pittsburgh, the series will draw on the resources of the Westinghouse Atomic Research Division, the Carnegie Institute of Technology, the University of Pittsburgh, and the Atomic Energy Commission. Featured participants will be representatives of the Westinghouse Atomic Research Division.

"Of Science and Scientists," with Philippe Le Corbeiller of Harvard University acting as coordinator and host, is a series of programs organized by Harvard and produced by educational station WGBH-TV in Boston. The series will provide an introduction to the scope and methods of the physical sciences. It will illustrate how the scientist thinks and works and will tell what he can and cannot do. Each program will focus on a single idea and will involve experimental

demonstrations and graphic illustrations from which discussion by one or more participants will develop. Some titles from the 23-program series are "Nature versus the Laboratory," "Science and Common Sense," "Are Scientists Dogmatic?," "Are Atoms Real?," and "Why Science Works." There are 23 programs in the series, each one-half hour in length.

### Whitney Biological Fellowships

The Helen Hay Whitney Foundation, New York, has announced that fellowships are available to people in the United States or abroad, up to the age of 35, holding the degree of M.D., Ph.D., or equivalent, who are seriously considering a career in biological or medical research, preferably related to connective tissue and its diseases. Stipends will be arranged to meet the needs of the fellow. Applications, to be submitted *before 15 Sept.*, should be requested from the Executive Secretary, Helen Hay Whitney Foundation, 525 E. 68 St., New York 21, N.Y.

The foundation was established in 1947 to support research in rheumatic fever. Its activities have recently expanded to include the study of connective tissue and its diseases.

### Philosophical Society Awards

The American Philosophical Society invites applications for grants in support of basic research, in accordance with the following general principles. Grants may be made for research in any field of scholarship and may include funds to cover travel and other expenses in connection with the collection of material for research. Grants are not made toward the payment of salaries of members of the staff of an educational or scientific institution, or for fellowships or scholarships, or for expenses in connection with the preparation of a doctoral dissertation. Support of a long-continuing project is not undertaken except in its initial stage. Applications should be typewritten on forms which may be obtained by addressing the Executive Officer, American Philosophical Society, 104 S. Fifth St., Philadelphia 6, Pa.

### Corporate Giving and Public Health

Measured in dollars, the total effort of the American people to raise and maintain the national standard of health reaches the annual amount of \$13 billion, according to the National Better Business Bureau, which has recently released a survey report entitled *Corporate Contributions to National Health Agencies*. The \$13 billion covers a great va-

riety of health activities—hospital care, research, preventive medicine, sanitation, food and drug regulation, and public information. However, the national health agencies, including the 26 which cooperated in the survey, deal with these problems selectively—that is, each one confines its interest to the field of a single disease.

The report showed a great diversification of reasons for giving to national health agencies, although nearly all national business firms are supporting them, both through direct contributions and through United Funds or Community Chests. It further showed that the number of national health agencies to which the average company contributes has doubled during the past 5 years. Among the reasons for contributing to national health agencies, 41 of the 158 corporations surveyed gave "effect of disease upon the economy."

### Cardiovascular Disease Abstracts

Publication of the first issue of *Cardiovascular Diseases*, an abstract periodical, has been announced by the U.S. Public Health Service and the Excerpta Medica Foundation. For this purpose, a grant of \$28,750 for the first year was made to the foundation by the National Heart Institute of the Public Health Service, on recommendation of the National Advisory Heart Council. Similar grants are contemplated for each of four additional years.

The publication's advisory board will have 40 members, nine from the United States. About 7000 abstracts throughout the world will contribute capsule versions of heart literature from approximately 1800 selected journals.

### Metropolitan's Death Statistics

Diseases of the heart, arteries, and kidneys accounted for 57 percent of the \$429 million paid out by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company in death claims last year. Cancer ranked second as a cause of death-claim payments. Together, these causes of death accounted for more than \$3 out of every \$4 paid in claims to beneficiaries.

The company's 1956 death-claim payments were the highest ever, rising \$33,348,000—or 8.4 percent—over the previous high total in 1955, and two and a half times the amount paid 20 years ago. The uninterrupted rise in death claims in a period of decreasing mortality, the company's statisticians point out, reflects both the growth in number of policyholders and the larger amount of life insurance owned per policyholder.

The rise in the proportion of disbursements for the degenerative diseases of