

could readily be augmented and improved. The cost of expansion for such a study to "understand the nature of our social illnesses" would be only a few million dollars. The flow of the preponderance of all tax revenues to the federal government, according to Mrs. Meyer, has made it impossible to carry out the suggestion that state and local funds be used more extensively to support the public-assistance program. About 75 cents of every tax dollar now goes to the federal government, she reported, with the state and local governments getting only 15 and 10 cents, respectively. "Obviously," Mrs. Meyer said, "our state and city governments cannot meet their social obligations without federal aid or without a thorough revision of our tax structure."

New Committee Described

Mrs. Meyer ended her talk with a description of a new committee, of which she is a member, which was recently formed to integrate the results of research with programs attacking social problems. The group, called the Committee on Problems of the American Community, is composed of 16 natural and social scientists from universities and foundations throughout the country. It will not conduct new research but will experiment with ways of applying the results of past research.

The first problem that the committee will concern itself with is that of the social aspects of housing—the relationship of housing to the problems of family stability, population trends, child welfare, minority groups, care of the aged, juvenile delinquency, and community organization. The committee will operate for one year within the Conference Program on Public Affairs of the Brookings Institution in Washington.

Lawrence Memorial Award Established by AEC

The Atomic Energy Commission has announced the establishment of an Ernest Orlando Lawrence Memorial Award for recent, especially meritorious contributions to the development, use, or control of atomic energy in areas of the sciences related to atomic energy, including medicine and engineering. The award was established to honor the memory of the late Ernest O. Lawrence, director of the Radiation Lab-

oratory at Berkeley and Livermore, which is operated for the commission by the University of California. Lawrence died in 1958. The laboratory has since been named the E. O. Lawrence Radiation Laboratory in his honor.

The award, which will be made by the commission upon the recommendation of its General Advisory Committee and with the approval of the President, will consist of a medal, a citation, and up to \$25,000. It will be made to not more than five recipients in any one year, in the amount of not less than \$5000 each; it will not necessarily be made every year. It will be presented in the spring of the year, to men or women who are not more than 45 years of age, at a time and place to be determined by the commission. The recipients must be United States citizens.

In contrast to the commission's Fermi Award, the Lawrence Award is designed especially for the recognition of young scientists who have made recent outstanding contributions to the development, use, or control of atomic energy. The Fermi Award is based upon the lifetime contributions of theoretical and experimental scientists.

Science Talent Search Shows Sharp Increase in Interest

Steadily increasing interest in scientific training and professional careers is reflected in the growing number of students competing in the annual Science Talent Search for the Westinghouse science scholarships and awards, according to Watson Davis, director of Science Service. More than 33,000 sets of entry materials have been requested by the teachers and counselors of outstanding high-school seniors who wish to compete in the 19th Science Talent Search. This represents an 18-percent increase over last year, according to Dorothy Schriver, executive secretary of Science Clubs of America, which conducts the Search as an activity of the Science Service science youth program.

A comprehensive science aptitude examination to measure ability in scientific thinking is being given for the Search this month in public, private, and parochial schools throughout the United States. The 2½-hour test may be scheduled for any time up to 27 December; all completed entry materials must arrive at Science Clubs of America headquarters in Washington by midnight of that date. Requests for the ex-

amination will be filled up to the last day.

In addition to taking the aptitude test, each applicant must submit school records, faculty recommendations, and a report of approximately 1000 words on a scientific study he or she has carried out. Research papers entered last year dealt with such subjects as a linear induction accelerator for use in studying resonant nuclear reactions; six unusual land snails found in the Maryland Piedmont; new postulates in Boolean algebra; measurement of the infinitesimal amount of heat released when a solid is immersed in a liquid; the possible influence of radioactivity in speeding up evolution; the finite sums of polynomials; somersaulting Egyptian spiny mice; the biochemistry of vinegar; the digestive processes of the Venus-flytrap; and the use of solar energy for space cooling.

Approximately 10 percent of the students who fulfill all entry requirements of the Science Talent Search will be named members of the honors group and recommended to colleges and universities for admission and scholarship awards. From the honors group, 40 top winners will be selected to come to Washington for the Science Talent Institute, 3–7 March 1960. During the 5-day institute the 40 winners will be interviewed, and their potential ability will be further evaluated by a board of judges to determine how \$34,250 in science scholarships and awards provided by the Westinghouse Educational Foundation shall be distributed.

Volunteers Needed To Record Scientific Textbooks for the Blind

Scientists can perform valuable service by reading aloud textbooks for Recording for the Blind, which has headquarters at 121 E. 58th St., New York, N.Y. The organization has 14 centers throughout the country. A volunteer must be able to devote at least 2 hours a week to recording. It takes 25 hours to read an average textbook of 500 pages. To be effective, a technical work must be recorded by someone with a knowledge of the subject.

More than 1400 blind persons now use RFB's recorded books, which they obtain free of charge from 12 regional public libraries. About 700 of these subscribers are college students; the rest are adults who wish to continue their education.

Recording for the Blind has recorded