

SCIENCE

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CONTENTS

<i>The Utilization of Patents for the Promotion of Research:</i> PROFESSOR T. BRAILSFORD ROBERTSON	371
<i>Scientific Events:—</i>	
<i>Joseph Young Bergen; The American Association of Variable Star Observers; The Cornell Medical School; A School for Oral and Plastic Surgery; The Red Cross Medical Service</i>	379
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i>	381
<i>University and Educational News</i>	385
<i>Discussion and Correspondence:—</i>	
<i>Isolation Cultures with Small Aquaria:</i> DR. FREDERICK H. BLODGETT. <i>Two Methods of Orientation of Small Objects in Paraffin:</i> JAS. A. NELSON. <i>The Aurora Borealis:</i> CHARLES A. MEAD	386
<i>Scientific Books:—</i>	
<i>Jackson's Experimental Pharmacology:</i> DR. DAVID I. MACHT	388
<i>Aphis Immunity of Teosinte-corn Hybrids:</i> DR. W. B. GERNERT	390
<i>Special Articles:—</i>	
<i>The Tillering of Wheat:</i> A. E. GRANTHAM. <i>Transmitting the Fowl Nematode:</i> JAMES E. ACKERT	392

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THE UTILIZATION OF PATENTS FOR THE PROMOTION OF RESEARCH

ON September seventh of the current year an agreement was executed between Dr. T. Brailsford Robertson, professor of biochemistry and pharmacology, and the regents of the University of California, whereby the ownership of his patents covering the growth-influencing substance "Tethelin" which he has isolated from the anterior lobe of the pituitary body, and which, among other possible applications to therapy, promises to be of value in accelerating the repair of slowly healing wounds, was transferred to the University of California, upon the condition that the proceeds or profits which might accrue from their ownership of these rights should be devoted to the furtherance of medical research, such research to be conducted under the immediate direction of a board of directors constituted in the first instance of the undersigned individuals.

The proposal thus advanced by Professor Robertson and accepted by the regents of the University of California constitutes, we believe, a new development in the relationship of science to the industries, and of scientific investigators to the institutions employing them, and we believe that, as such, it should receive the serious consideration of the scientific public, entirely apart from the separate question of the possible merits of this particular invention.

The growing recognition of the intimate dependence of the industries upon science and the increasing complexity and requirements of scientific research itself, have led