

## ACADEMIC FREEDOM

Illinois has been so free from outside interference that she can hardly realize all that "academic freedom" means. She is one of fewer than a half dozen states in which the trustees are elected by the people, rather than appointed by the governor either with or without legislative approval.

"How can the best board be secured?" is a question often asked. But the "best board" is not the primary issue, which is the *source of authority*. When the board is elected by the people, its mandate is as direct and independent within the field of education as is that of the governor or the legislature in that of government. And that is right, for education is an extra-governmental enterprise.

When the board is appointed by the governor, that officer is, on the face of things, as much responsible for the proper operation of a university as for that of an asylum or a penitentiary. And he not seldom acts upon the theory that such operation is an executive matter rather than legislative. In one notable case the governor discharged four boards and appointed new ones, resulting in the peremptory discharge of four

faculties and the appointment of a new personnel, all of which did not enhance the reputation of the state in academic circles.

Many institutions are the victims of "efficiency experts" who regard everything as "business" and would have "a business man" for university president. In these states everything is secondary to the machinery of government. In several states a finance board, of which the governor is chairman, can withhold any part or all of an appropriation after it has been made by the legislature. In some states the state purchasing agent is often the cause of delay and waste of funds because of his unfamiliarity with the great range of university needs.

All of which leads me to believe, after correspondence with our kind of institution in every state of the Union, that there are many facts and situations that have not yet entered into the calculations of the expert organizer; and that the best way to have a great institution of higher education and research is for the citizens to support it liberally, then let it grow naturally in ways that will meet the needs of the times and the locality.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

## MEDICAL RESEARCH IN CANADA

A SURVEY of existing facilities for medical research in Canada is to be made under the auspices of the Associate Committee on Medical Research established in March last by the National Research Council, according to an announcement made at the close of the organization meeting of the committee held recently in Ottawa. Sir Frederick Banting, chairman of the committee, will personally conduct the survey, visiting each of the principal centers to learn at first hand of the work that is in progress. An assistant secretary is to be appointed to aid Sir Frederick in the conduct of the survey and to carry on the routine work of the committee.

Discussions on a number of proposed activities of the committee took place, but it was the consensus of opinion that beyond the consideration of matters of general policy it would not be possible to shape a definite program until the results of the survey were made available for study. Stress was laid on the advantages to be gained by the further coordination of work that is being carried on in the principal centers of medical research in Canada. It was felt that much of the benefit to be gained through the newly established committee would be in the stimulus it could give and the assistance it could render to existing institutions for medical research.

Proposals were put forward that the committee

should plan to provide for scholarships in medical research and also to grant financial assistance for the conduct of research in universities and hospitals on approved projects. It was agreed, however, that owing to the limited funds available to the committee at the present time no action should be taken immediately on these matters.

In view of recent press statements suggesting that the Associate Committee on Medical Research would set up at this meeting a national scientific committee to investigate purported cancer cures throughout Canada this subject was raised for consideration. After the subject had been discussed at some length the committee agreed that the investigation of reputed cancer cures was not a matter on which the committee could take any action at the present time.

Those present at the meeting were: *Chairman*, Sir Frederick Banting, University of Toronto; *ex-officio members*—Major-General A. G. L. McNaughton, president, National Research Council, Ottawa; Dr. R. E. Wodehouse, deputy minister, Department of Pensions and National Health, Ottawa; Dr. T. H. Leggett, president, Canadian Medical Association, Ottawa; Dr. George S. Young, president, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, Toronto; *Members*—Dr. G. H. Ettinger, department of physiology and embryology, Faculty of Medicine, Queen's University, Kingston, Ont.; Dr. A. Grant Fleming, dean of the

Faculty of Medicine and professor of public health, McGill University; Dr. J. E. Gendreau, director, Radium Institute, University of Montreal; Dr. Duncan Graham, head of the department of medicine, Banting Institute, University of Toronto; Professor V. E. Henderson, secretary-treasurer of the Banting Research Foundation, Toronto; Dr. Donald Mainland, professor of anatomy, Dalhousie University, Halifax, N. S.; Dr. C. L. Pierre Masson, professor of pathological anatomy, University of Montreal; Dr. J. C. Paterson, director of the pathological department, Civic Hospital, Ottawa; Dr. W. G. Penfield, professor of neurology and neuro surgery, McGill University; Dr. P. H. T. Thorlakson, assistant professor of surgery, Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba.

#### REPORT OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE FOR THE STUDY OF HOSPITAL IN- TERNSHIPS AND RESIDENCE

At a recent meeting of the Greater New York Hospital Association, the forthcoming report of a three-year survey of internships and residencies in the hospitals of New York City was discussed by Dr. F. L. Babbott, chairman of the New York Committee for the Study of Hospital Internships and Residencies, and by Dr. J. A. Curran, executive secretary. The New York Committee was sponsored by the five medical colleges of New York City and the New York Academy of Medicine. In its work, the committee has had the cooperation of ninety-seven voluntary and municipal hospitals in the municipal area. The study has been financed through grants made by the Commonwealth Fund, and the report will be published by the fund.

Dr. Curran pointed out that New York City occupies a leading position in the country in the education of doctors. At the time of the survey, 103 medical colleges in all parts of the United States, in Canada and in several foreign countries furnished over 2,000 graduates for advanced training in the internships, residencies and other house-staff services in the 182 hospitals of all types in New York City. Seventy-seven of these hospitals have been approved by the American Medical Association and were offering house-staff training to 1,968 individuals.

The report stresses the length and the arduous nature of the modern medical course. In New York City, besides the usual four years in medical college, at least two additional years of internship are considered necessary before a doctor may safely assume independent responsibility for the care of the sick.

The close association between medical colleges and hospitals was shown by the fact that 1,353 out of the 1,968 house-staff members were in hospitals having

some degree of medical college affiliation. Hospitals were divided into three groups—"teaching," "affiliated" and "non-teaching"—according to the degree of their participation in the undergraduate programs of the several medical colleges in the city. Over ninety-five per cent. of the internships in the so-called non-teaching hospitals were rotating (attempting to cover all services in the hospital), while most of the straight internships (on one service only) and mixed internships (on two or three services only) were provided by the teaching and affiliated hospitals. It is, therefore, important to consider the educational standing of the complete rotating internship.

The committee attempted to evaluate each step of the medical-educational process. A comparison of the preparation of the graduates of American and foreign medical schools showed in most instances the superior quality of the education received in the American institutions, as applied to intern requirements in this country. The survey demonstrated the need for better organized education of the interns, for in approximately half of the hospitals systematic introduction to their duties and continued instruction and supervision could be much better organized.

In addition to the internships, it was shown that there were 577 residencies and fellowships in 53 of the 77 hospitals of the city approved by the American Medical Association. Through these opportunities, interns have obtained advanced training in special fields. In the majority of instances, it was concluded that the residencies have greatly enhanced the quality of care given the patients and have been of valuable assistance in the teaching of students and interns.

The committee has undertaken a program of annual revisitation of hospitals cooperating in plans for improved house-staff education. Material gathered is said to have been invaluable in the guidance of undergraduates seeking internship placement. These revisits have revealed increasing interest in better education of the interns, and in better provision for their housing, recreation and health care. A serious obstacle has been insufficient funds for these needs.

#### THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH ANNI- VERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE LINNEAN SOCIETY

THE one hundred and fiftieth anniversary celebration of the Linnean Society of London was opened on May 25 in the rooms of the Royal Institution, when the Linnean Medal was presented to Sir D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson, and the president, John Ramsbottom, keeper of botany in the British Museum (Natural History), delivered his presidential address.

According to an account of the meeting given in the *London Times*, among those present were many foreign