under thirty-five years of age who are citizens of the United States or Canada, and who have met all the requirements for the doctor's degree. Applications must be filed on or before December 31, on forms obtainable from the secretary of the Fellowship Board in the Natural Sciences, National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington 25, D. C. A handbook describing the fellowships—stipends, conditions and tenure—will be furnished upon request.

THE two hundred and sixty-fourth meeting of the American Physical Society will be held at the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, on December 16.

THE Committee on Arrangements of the Hormone Conference of the American Association for the Advancement of Science is preparing for a meeting at Mont Tremblant, Quebec, in September, 1945. The papers and discussion of the 1944 meeting will be published in the spring of 1945. The Committee on Arrangements consists of Drs. Robert Bates, R. D. H. Heard and Gregory Pincus, *chairman*.

FREDERICK STEARNS AND COMPANY has made a grant of $1,800 to establish for the coming year at the School of Medicine of the University of Georgia a fellowship in pharmacology for the investigation of uterine antispasmodics.

DISCUSSION

THE HARVARD APPARATUS COMPANY, THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHYSIOLOGY AND DR. W. T. PORTER

THE undersigned, having on the request of W. T. Porter assumed the guidance of the Harvard Apparatus Company, wish to place on record Dr. Porter's unique services to science. Some forty-five years ago, when there was scant if any laboratory teaching of physiology in our colleges and universities outside the medical schools, and laboratory teaching of physiology in medical schools was just emerging, Dr. Porter saw the probable importance of rendering available to our colleges, universities and medical schools good apparatus at the lowest possible cost for the laboratory teaching of physiology. Such laboratory experiments by students required many pieces of apparatus, accurate enough for reliable experimental results and inexpensive enough for very limited budgets. Such apparatus did not then exist. But Dr. Porter saw that it could be made by quantity production. So, much new apparatus was invented, and many classical instruments were redesigned to fit them for quantity production by special tools. It was for this great task that the Harvard Apparatus Company was formed. A great task, because it was foreseen that quantity production would give a surplus for other schools throughout the nation. Dr. Porter started the Harvard Apparatus Company as a private corporation, partly on borrowed funds. This business has been conducted by Dr. Porter in the public interest and without commercial profit. When there was a modest surplus, this was used: (a) to improve production equipment, (b) to provide a pension fund for the company's employees, and (c) to finance the W. T. Porter Research Fellowship in Physiology, administered by the council of the American Physiological Society. We intend to continue these policies. The research fellowship was started by Dr. Porter in 1920, and to date the Harvard Apparatus Company has paid to the American Physiological Society approximately $28,000 for this fellowship fund. So far this annual fellowship has been awarded to qualified young investigators working in well-equipped laboratories in the United States and in Canada. We feel sure that the council of the American Physiological Society will give due consideration to applications from qualified young investigators in other countries working in well-equipped laboratories in other lands.

In 1929 Dr. Porter offered the Harvard Apparatus Company as a free gift to the American Physiological Society. The society did not consider it feasible to undertake the management of the company. But the council of the society at that time said: "There is no one agency, during recent years, which has contributed more to the sound teaching in experimental physiology in this country than has the Harvard Apparatus Company."

In 1934 the Harvard Apparatus Company was reorganized as a non-profit corporation under the laws of the State of Massachusetts "for the promotion of teaching and research in physiology and its allied sciences." Dr. Porter gave to this corporation all property owned by the private Harvard Apparatus Company corporation. Dr. Porter has received no salary for his services to the corporation. We intend to follow Dr. Porter's example, with (we hope) some of Dr. Porter's efficiency and vision. In recent years the services to the sciences of functional biology rendered by Dr. Porter within our own borders have been extended to many other countries. The services of the company can be further extended to the liberal arts colleges, junior colleges and high schools where experimental physiology has not yet been introduced as an element of a liberal education, a forward step in the education of to-morrow, probably in the cards.

Forty-six years ago Dr. W. T. Porter founded *The American Journal of Physiology* (for the publication

of research), and for sixteen years he carried the entire financial responsibility and editorial burden for the first thirty-three volumes, that is, until 1914, when Dr. Porter presented this journal (including back volumes in stock) as a gift to the American Physiological Society.

These are significant services to science and to our fellow men. They call for more than a passing note, as they echo and amplify the voice of the English chemist, James Smithson of a hundred years ago, whose vision of science, whose faith in man and whose material wealth established the Smithsonian Institution of Washington, *"for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men."*

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ENTOMOLOGY IN WAR-TORN CHINA

ENTOMOLOGY, along with other sciences, is suffering greatly in China under the pressures and privations of the war, which for China has lasted so long and been so hard. The war has not only destroyed so much in the way of university buildings, libraries, laboratory equipment, insect collections and the like, and forced the moving or repeated moving of nearly all the educational and research institutions of the country, but has almost completely closed the sources of supply of literature, equipment and materials from the outside world. The economic situation within the country, together with the restrictions of war, have totally prevented or greatly hampered the manufacture of equipment and the reprinting of books. Thus the student, teacher, research specialist, medical entomologist and agricultural extension worker have all had to attempt to pursue their work against almost insuperable odds.

Furthermore, American contributions to Chinese entomology have been in a way more hampered than the field as a whole. This is partly because some of the institutions in which Americans participate did not move to West China during the early part of the war before American entry. This was because they enjoyed some immunity from the Japanese, or found it convenient to move to, or remain in, places like the International Concession in Shanghai, or the British colony of Hong Kong, and resulted in their being caught with the coming of Pearl Harbor. Likewise, some of the American teachers who were in Free China have had to return home for health or other reasons, including the difficulty of adequate financing as a result of the extreme inflation in China.

The following excerpts from a recent letter from Professor B. A. Slocum, professor of entomology in the College of Agriculture of the University of Nanking, at Chengtu in Szechuan Province, can perhaps more graphically emphasize the grave situation of entomology in China to-day:

> Entomology is marking time right now, for we do not have funds for research work. We are having trouble even to secure funds for the research of our graduate students. . . . Our university is having to let 21 per cent. of our staff go this summer. We have cut everything to the bone. For example, I had only $5,000 Chinese currency [less than US$50.00, officially, or under US$20.00 on the black (open) market] for my whole division this past year. Right now we are trying to sell equipment to keep going. It is difficult to keep up the morale of the staff under such conditions. . . . My division is opening an insecticide laboratory this summer. One of my students who just received his M.S. minoring in industrial chemistry will have charge of it.

Letters from others indicate that most of the universities or scientific institutions are in the same state to a greater or lesser degree. Some have been cut off from the rest of Free China by the recent merger in Kwangsi of Japanese forces from Hunan and Kwangtung, and fear they may have to close or try to move again. Letters from some have urged that scientists in this country collect duplicate literature or equipment to send to China as soon as circumstances permit.

American aid to Chinese entomology (or other sciences) during this critical period can be of great value, not only in reviving and strengthening it and helping in the solution of many pressing problems, but it can also react with beneficial results in America. Chinese entomologists have contributed much to world entomology, and will do so much more in the future, and the making known of their pests, beneficial parasites and insecticides, and the solution of their problems in medical entomology, can be of great benefit to America as well as to the Orient. If this country can give literature, equipment and specimens, and arrange scholarships and exchange of students, professors and research specialists, those objectives can sooner be attained, with much mutual benefit, including progress towards an harmonious world society.

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THE THREAT TO PURE SCIENCE

THE article "The Threat to Pure Science" by Alexander Stern[1] raises a number of questions relative to

[1] A. W. Stern, SCIENCE, October 20, 1944.