

### A MANAGING COMMITTEE FOR THE WESTINGHOUSE SCIENCE WRITING AWARD

THE Executive Committee of the American Association for the Advancement of Science has appointed a committee in management for the Westinghouse Science Writing Award. Thus far, the committee is as follows, with others to be added:

James A. Baubie, director of public relations, Westinghouse Electric Company.

Otis W. Caldwell, chairman, general secretary of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

G. Edward Pendray, counsellor in management of public relations and education.

Watson Davis, Science Service and National Science Writers Association.

Morris Meister, principal, Bronx High School of Science.

F. R. Moulton, permanent secretary of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Robert Potter, *American Weekly* and National Science Writers Association.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science thus plans to increase its efforts to advance popular knowledge, understanding and appreciation of science and of the scientific point of view. One principal function of the committee shall be to encourage and stimulate writers of science with the purpose of developing science writers for the public press. As a first step, it is proposed that one or more prizes be awarded annually by the association to newspaper and magazine writers who have made outstanding contributions during the year, the award or awards to be based upon criteria to be outlined later, but which should include such factors as imagination, understanding, skill in preparation, scientific accuracy, readability and wide influence in improving public understanding of science. A five-year period is planned for this experiment in encouraging science writing.

Further announcement will be made by the committee.

A. J. CARLSON,

*Chairman of the Executive Committee of  
the American Association for the Advancement of Science*

### THE HENRY NORRIS RUSSELL LECTURESHIP OF THE AMERICAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

At the business meeting of the American Astronomical Society on June 8, the council approved the establishment of the Henry Norris Russell Lectureship and appointed a committee to raise the supporting funds. This lecture, on astronomy or a related field of physical science, is intended to be a regular (probably annual) feature of meetings of the

society. It is to be of a technical and scholarly nature, and is expected to be an original contribution to science. The lecturer, who may be an American or a foreign scientist, is to be selected several months in advance by the council of the society.

Dr. Henry Norris Russell, professor of astronomy and director of the Observatory of Princeton University, has been a member of the Princeton faculty for forty years. He is a past president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, of the American Philosophical Society and of the American Astronomical Society. He has long been regarded as the dean of American astronomers, and his influence has been far-reaching in astronomy and in related fields in physics. For some time the question of how to honor him in some lasting way had been discussed among astronomers, until the establishment of this permanent lectureship in his name was proposed and adopted by the American Astronomical Society.

The committee for the soliciting of funds is composed as follows: Harlow Shapley, *chairman*, Walter S. Adams, Joseph C. Boyce, Theodore Dunham, Jr., Luther P. Eisenhart, Charles A. Federer, Jr., Alfred H. Joy, Dean B. McLaughlin, W. F. Meggers, Charlotte Moore Sitterly, Percy Witherell.

DEAN B. McLAUGHLIN, *Secretary*,

HARVARD COLLEGE OBSERVATORY,  
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

### NEWS FROM ABROAD

EDWARD F. WITSELL, Major General, Acting the Adjutant General, in a letter to Dr. Theodore Philipp Haas, of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, gives the following information concerning the condition of the Botanical Garden in Munich-Nymphenburg, Germany:

The following report has been received from the Commanding General, United States Forces, European Theater, concerning conditions at the Botanischen Staatsanstalten:

(a) *Greenhouses*: About one third of the hot-houses, and the plants therein, were destroyed by an air raid, July, '44. Because of the coal shortage last winter, another third of the tropical plants were destroyed through freezing. The remaining third of the hot-house plants is intact to date.

(b) *Gardens*: These show little effect either of neglect or war damage. Cultivation and maintenance were difficult during the war because of the lack of gardeners, and the frequency of air-raid alerts. However, the present condition is very satisfactory, remedial action having been taken to overcome the shortcomings imposed by the war.

(c) *Institute*: Damage slight and unimportant. Windows, doors and walls have sustained minor damage from blast and fragmentation. The museum specimens were transferred to the cellar, and have not yet been reinstalled. A considerable number of rooms were appropriated by the German Wehrmacht and are in need of gen-