(a) Desirability of long-term grants to projects of major importance.
(b) Grants, where possible, of such magnitude as to permit individual investigators to appoint associates for long-term training periods.
(c) Granting of fellowships to institutions for training of workers to acquire new techniques and wider experience.
(d) Maintenance of continuing individual contact with workers in field.
(e) Provision, on a participating basis, for continuing economic security for professional workers.
(f) Liberal attitude toward the investigator's work, his publication and reports.

To assist it in the fulfilment of its advisory functions the committee, on its part, will make free use of either *ad hoc* or standing sub-committees in specific fields of interest. Furthermore, it proposes to arrange conferences of competent groups for discussion of problems, for interchange of reports, etc.; to make surveys to analyze problems or to determine progress in areas of special interest pertaining to cancer; to evaluate, through study by sub-committees and by the main committee, basic and clinical research undertakings, and submit recommendations for support to the American Cancer Society; to initiate and plan broad or specific programs of basic and clinical research, through activities of the sub-committees and main committee, and to secure the cooperative efforts of investigators in the general undertakings.

The committee has established a central office in the Washington headquarters of the council, where information on all phases of cancer research will be assembled and from which reports may be distributed to interested investigators.

Many members of the committee have participated intensively in the broad programs of research conducted under the pressure of war. It is both the hope and the sanguine expectation of the committee that the fruitful pattern of cooperative investigations so successfully established during the war years can now be carried on, modified and tempered to existing needs, into the continuing war against disease.

Membership of the committee, as now constituted, includes the following: Dr. C. P. Rhoads, *Chairman;* Dr. Florence R. Sabin, *Secretary;* Dr. A. R. Dochez, Dr. A. Baird Hastings, Dr. Charles B. Huggins, Dr. Donald F. Jones, Dr. C. C. Little, Dr. Carl R. Moore, Dr. John J. Morton, Dr. James B. Murphy, Dr. Eugene P. Pendergrass, Dr. Howard C. Taylor, Jr., Dr. M. A. Tuve and Dr. M. C. Winternitz.

PHILIP S. OWEN, M.D.
For the Committee on Growth,
Division of Medical Sciences,
National Research Council,
Washington 25, D. C.

APPEAL FOR THE DEFERMENT OF COLLEGE SCIENCE STUDENTS

AN appeal to President Harry S. Truman to reinstate a system of deferments for college science students on a national quota basis similar to a program abandoned in 1944 has been made by the presidents of eight colleges and universities.

The policy of a national quota was established by Selective Service in Bulletin 33-6 amended in January, 1944, and effective February 2, 1944. It established an overall quota for the nation of 10,000 students to be deferred "to meet civilian needs in war production and in support of the war effort." A National Roster was established which distributed the 10,000 deferments in engineering (6,775), physics (850), chemistry (2,250), and geology and geophysics (125). The order establishing the National Roster was rescinded less than two months after it had been established, in Selective Service Local Board Memorandum 115 issued in revised form on April 4, 1944.

The letter to President Truman reads as follows:

My dear Mr. President:

This letter is an appeal to you to reinstate the system of selective deferments for college students on a quota basis which was abandoned at the height of the war emergency. We believe this has now become a matter of imperative public policy in view of the serious and increasing shortages in the ranks of those who are in training for work in the interest of public safety and welfare.

Alone of all the allied nations the United States adopted the policy of drafting from the universities all able-bodied men regardless of the occupation for which they were training. In medicine pre-professional training was discontinued in June, 1944, and unless provision is made immediately for the deferment of pre-medical students, medical school entering students in 1946 will be approximately one-half or less of normal. Pre-dental students are in an even more serious situation and, as a matter of fact, the present freshman classes in dentistry this fall are less than one-third of normal. In osteopathy and in pharmacy the facts are similar. In engineering, the total enrollment for the country in 1944–1945 was only one-fifth of normal, and in classes above the freshman year only one-tenth of normal. In spite of the critical demand of continued and intensive research in physics and chemistry the number of doctor's degrees awarded in physics in 1945 was only 20% of those given in June, 1942, and in chemistry the situation is similar. In other fields such as agriculture, biology, geology and psychology, the numbers are smaller, but the facts are equally critical.

What we face is nothing short of an alarming dearth of talent in training in those fields in which the American people are most dependent for their public health, their industrial advancements and their scientific research. It must be remembered that it is now almost a whole college generation since the flow of young scientific and professional personnel began to be impeded. Each semester that the situation is allowed to continue the dislocations

become worse and the more damage will be done to our enduring peace time programs in these essential fields.

It is not a sufficient answer to say that it will be possible to correct the shortages in these areas through the enrollment of discharged veterans. Many of those who are eligible for such courses have lost too much time to complete the long years of preparation which are necessary. With very many of these men their interest is obviously on shortening as much as possible the time between their return and the time of going to work in productive jobs.

But even that proportion that come back to college are not yet returning in sufficient numbers to make possible the rapid expansion of students in training in these areas which is essential if the United States is not to compete at a material disadvantage with the other allied nations. Such effects, it must be remembered, are cumulative, and only appear in their full effect after several years have passed. Unless immediate action is taken, we run the risk of jeopardizing our own peace time future.

The numbers thus to be reserved can be stabilized by the establishment of a national quota, with allocation to various institutions based on proportion of their normal peace time students in training in the areas in question.

We believe that we should take no further chances as a nation with the training of men for these critical fields. We are not pleading the interests of the colleges; we are concerned about what we hold to be a matter of fundamental national policy.

The policy, recently adopted by Selective Service, through which young men will not be inducted during the quarter or semester in which they become eighteen, does not meet this need. It only postpones the necessity for immediate action. If these men are inducted at the end of the term, another whole year will be lost in the training of men for these essential fields. Steps must now be taken to determine quotas and to select those who should be deferred to continue their training.

Respectfully yours,

O. C. CARMICHAEL,
Chancellor, Vanderbilt University
HARRY WOODBURN CHASE,
Chancellor, New York University
CARTER DAVIDSON,
President, Knox College
EDMUND E. DAY,
President, Cornell University
CHARLES SEYMOUR,
President, Yale University
ROBERT G. SPROUL,
President, University of California
REV. EDWARD V. STANFORD, O.S.A.,
Rector, Augustinian College, Washington, D. C.
RAYMOND WALTERS,
President, University of Cincinnati

HONORABLE HARRY S. TRUMAN
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

THE PLIOCENE OGALLALA FORMATION AND ASSOCIATED QUATERNARY DEPOSITS

THE geology and geomorphology of the Pliocene Ogallala Formation and associated Quaternary deposits were studied during the week of August 15 in the field by Dr. Maxim K. Elias, paleontologist of the Nebraska Geological Survey; Dr. John C. Frye, assistant state geologist of Kansas; C. Richard Murray and Utley N. Benge, geologists, Division of Ground Water, U. S. Geological Survey; Edward H. Templin, assistant soils inspector, U. S. Bureau of Plant Industry, and Dr. W. Armstrong Price, geologist, Corpus Christi, Texas, leader.

A side trip to Gatuña Canyon and Carlsbad, New Mexico, was led by Ronald K. De Ford, chief geologist, accompanied by Dr. W. A. Waldschmidt, geologist, Argo Oil Corporation, Midland, Texas. Specialists consulted in the field, but unable to take the trip, were Glen L. Evans and Richmond L. Bronaugh, geologists; Grayson E. Meade, vertebrate paleontologist, Bureau of Economic Geology, University of Texas, and Adolph Witte, anthropologist, Texas Memorial Museum. Others who contributed information were Dr. Kirk Bryan, geologist, Harvard University; Dr. Raymond Sidwell, geologist, and Dr. Harold M. Hefley, ecologist, Texas Technological College, Lubbock.

Definite results which can already be announced include the identification of the pisolitic lithology and occasionally fully preserved bioherms of the "algal" limestone of the High Plains Ogallala to the North in the "caliche cap-rock" of the Llano Estacado; collection of seeds diagnostic of members of the Ogallala of Kansas and Nebraska in the Ogallala of Texas, and a better understanding of the origin of "caliche" caprocks of the semi-arid regions than had been previously attained by the group.

W. ARMSTRONG PRICE
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

NEWS FROM ABROAD

DR. C. A. BROWNE, collaborator of the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry of the Agricultural Research Administration, sends to SCIENCE the following paragraphs taken from a letter received from Dr. H. C. Prinsen Geerligs, of Amsterdam, well-known Netherlands authority on the agriculture, technology and economics of sugar manufacture in Java, which may be of interest in connection with the accounts in SCIENCE of the atrocities suffered by European scientists during the German occupation.

We had a most terrible time in the years between May 10th, 1940, and May 5th, 1945. Our country was overrun, inundated, pillaged and ruined. We were robbed of everything; furniture, radio apparatus, etc., were stolen.