

"Numerical Solutions of Integral Equations," by Professor A. T. Lonseth, of Northwestern University.

One hundred and thirty-one research papers were presented at this meeting, thirty-five in person and ninety-six by title.

T. R. HOLLICROFT,
Associate Secretary

RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS OF BIOLOGY

THE following statement has been submitted by the Committee on the Promotion of Research of the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts and Letters to the Subcommittee on War Mobilization of the Senate Military Affairs Committee, of which Dr. Lee R. Dice is chairman, which is currently holding hearings on proposals to increase research in the United States:

We earnestly urge the establishment of research institutes of biology in each state and territory of the United States and their generous support jointly by both the federal and state government. These biological research institutes should be dedicated to the discovery of the fundamental laws of biology and the application of biological knowledge to human affairs. Among the problems to be investigated should be included the causes of human diseases and mental disorders, the factors that determine human aptitudes and special abilities, the effects of different types of environments on the human organism, and the adjustment of human societies and cultures to the conditions and resources of their habitats. This kind of research can best be carried out in the individual states rather than concentrated in a single federal institution. Research in human biology surely deserves adequate support by the nation at least as much as and in addition to research in agriculture, in physical science and in engineering.

THE MAGNUSON BILL

THE executive committee of the Pacific Division, American Association for the Advancement of Science, at its meeting in San Francisco on October 19, voted unanimous approval of the following letter, which was written in the first instance by Professor Howard S. Reed to Senator Sheridan Downey of California:

Dear Mr. Senator:

In my capacity as an officer of the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, I am writing briefly concerning the bills before the Congress regarding national support of scientific research and development.

I have recently been studying the text of Senate Bills 1297, 1285, 1248 and 828. The idea underlying the proposals of the four bills is something new and will undoubtedly provoke an unfavorable reaction on the part of some people just because it is new and venturesome. I do not feel that way about it. I find that these bills recognize the fact that *all* the people should support and promote research in science and the useful arts. Hitherto,

support of these activities has come from relatively few public-spirited men and women. In a general way, I favor the proposals outlined in a bill introduced by Mr. Magnuson (Senate Bill No. 1285). The following are my reasons for endorsing this rather than the other proposals:

(1) The proposed National Research Foundation is authorized to develop and promote a broad program and to initiate and support basic scientific research.

(2) The Foundation is authorized to grant scholarships and fellowships. (This is undoubtedly one of the best ways to train promising young men and women.)

(3) The Board of Directors would be free to promote the purposes of the Foundation without the political or semi-political consideration.

(4) The Division of Publications and Scientific Collaboration which could make available to the public scientific information is extremely important, and I speak from experience when I say that privately operating scientific periodicals are fighting desperately for life.

For the first five years the Board of Research and Development could utilize existing laboratories. No greater mistake could be made than to spend large sums at present in the construction of Federal laboratories. It would be much better to make grants of funds to private industrial laboratories or educational institutions under the supervision of the Board of Directors. It will take nearly five years for the board to prepare an adequate program for research. In its essence, men and their intellects are the important things in research rather than lofty buildings. I am not in favor of having the research funds spent in the existing laboratories of the Federal Government because I do not believe that there are now men in those laboratories who are capable of directing basic scientific researches, except in a few cases.

Thanking you for your consideration, I am

Very respectfully yours,

H. S. REED, *Chairman of the Executive Committee, Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.*

The executive committee of the Pacific Division, in endorsing Professor Reed's letter, instructed the secretary to send copies to all members of the Senate and House Committees on Military Affairs, and to send a copy to the editors of SCIENCE.

FEDERAL SUPPORT OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

THE Board of Permanent Officers of the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University, at a meeting on October 8, 1945, unanimously approved the report of a committee appointed to formulate policy as to federal support of scientific research.

This report recommends the incorporation of four general principles in any legislation concerned with the problem. These are as follows: