

First, there should be complete freedom of research, both as to choice of problems and methods of attacking them, on the part of individuals and institutions. No hampering restrictions of any kind should be attached to grants of funds nor should there be attempts by any supervisory agency to regiment scientists or to control the direction of their research. Voluntary cooperation is to be encouraged, and ample support should be given investigators whose studies do not fit into any preconceived program.

Second, the body responsible for the administration of federal support should be completely free from political control and should select its own executive officer. Men chosen for this task should be of the highest scientific reputation and enjoy the confidence of scientists generally. It is desirable that the National Academy of Sciences, which was established to advise the government on scientific matters, should present in nomination a panel of names from which the members of the administrative body would be appointed.

Third, provision should be made for the support of the most fundamental and theoretical scientific investigations, most of which have no obvious practical application. Popular interest and support will naturally center on problems which promise immediately useful returns, but great care should be taken that fundamental problems, always the ultimate source of knowledge upon which applications must be based, are not neglected.

Fourth, since the almost complete cessation of education in science during the war has resulted in a serious deficit in trained scientific personnel in this country, it is important to increase substantially the number of persons receiving such training. This can be done by establishing, through federal funds, a series of undergraduate scholarships, graduate fellowships, and post-doctoral fellowships in the sciences. Compulsory enrollment in a National Science Reserve should not be a stipulation for such support.

FELLOWSHIPS IN THE MEDICAL SCIENCES OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

FELLOWSHIPS in the medical sciences, similar to those which have been administered by the Medical Fellowship Board of the National Research Council since 1922, will again be available for the year beginning July 1, 1946. These fellowships, supported by grants from the Rockefeller Foundation to the National Research Council, are designed to provide opportunities for training and experience in research in all branches of medical science. They are open to citizens of the United States or Canada who possess an M.D. or a Ph.D. degree, and are intended for recent graduates who are not yet professionally established.

In addition to these fellowships the Medical Fellowship Board administers two groups of research fellowships, made available through a grant from the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, Inc. The first group, open to applicants who hold either

the Ph.D. or M.D. degree, is for the purpose of providing opportunities for special training and experience in the study of filtrable viruses. The second group, open only to graduates in medicine who have completed one or more years of hospital experience in clinical surgery and are planning a career in orthopedic surgery, is designed to provide opportunities for training and research in those basic medical sciences that will be of particular value in furthering progress in the field of orthopedic surgery.

A series of fellowships in anesthesiology has been established through a grant from the American Society of Anesthesiologists. These fellowships are offered with a view to fostering a closer union between the clinical practice of anesthesiology and the fundamental disciplines on which anesthesia rests. Applicants must hold the M.D. degree and must have completed one or more years of hospital experience as intern or resident.

Fellows will be appointed at a meeting of the Medical Fellowship Board late in February, 1946. Applications to receive consideration at this meeting must be filed on or before January 1. Appointments may begin on any date determined by the board.

For further particulars address the Secretary of the Medical Fellowship Board, National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington 25, D. C.

NEWS FROM ABROAD

THE following letter dated August 8 from Dr. H. W. Newton, of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, has been received by Dr. Neal J. Heines, of Paterson, N. J.:

Dear Dr. Heines,

Thank you for your letter of July 16. I regret that I am unable to send anything but a short reply, because my correspondence has to be kept to the very minimum on account of my partial loss of sight from the onset of glaucoma.

The enclosures you send will, I am sure, be of interest to the Director of the Solar Section of the B.A.A. with whom I am in touch.

Thank you also for your expressions of good wishes for our safety at Greenwich. The five and one half years have been very difficult ones though a great experience. The observatory has suffered a considerable amount of superficial damage from blast and a few direct hits, but is safe fundamentally.

With reciprocal good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

H. W. NEWTON

P.S. I have not seen Mrs. Maunder for some time. She has not been very well, I think.

He has also received the following communication, dated September 27, from Dr. W. Runner, of the Astronomical Observatory at Zurich: