

NEWS

and Notes

The Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare has reported favorably on National Science Foundation Bill S. 526, with amendments, as effecting a compromise between S. 525 and the original S. 526 (*Science*, February 21 and March 7). Major amendments to this bill provide that: (1) the Foundation shall consist of 24 members, the President being requested to give due consideration to recommendations from the National Academy of Sciences, Association of Land Grant Colleges and Universities, National Association of State Universities, or other scientific or educational organizations; (2) terms of office shall be staggered so that, following initial establishment of the Foundation, one-quarter of the members are appointed every two years; (3) the Committee for the Division of National Defense shall consist of not less than 12 or more than 36 members, half to be civilians appointed by the Foundation and half, representatives of the armed services, designated in equal numbers by the Secretaries of the principal branches of these services; (4) there shall be an executive committee of not more than 6 members within the Division of National Defense; (5) the Committee for this Division shall advise the Director on security classification matters; (6) no officer or employee of the Foundation shall acquire, retain, or transfer any rights, under patent laws of the U.S. or otherwise, in any invention produced in connection with his assigned activities and directly related to the subject matter thereof; (7) in making contractual or other arrangements for research, attention be given also to aiding institutions, agencies, or organizations which show potentiality for advancing research, as well as en-

couraging independent research by individuals; (8) funds available to government agencies for scientific or technical research or development may be transferred to the Foundation upon approval of the head of any such agency; and (9) the National Roster shall be transferred to the Foundation.

Discussion of amended S. 526 on the Senate floor is imminent. At the time of debate, Senator Wayne Morse will recommend a further amendment to the effect that a minimum of 25 per cent of all funds (exclusive of those for national defense) shall be distributed on a geographic and population basis among the states, such amounts to be expended only for research activities in tax-supported colleges and universities, including land-grant colleges, and an additional amount of not less than 25 per cent shall be expended in nonprofit organizations.

Five committees have been organized to direct local arrangements for the 114th meeting of the AAAS to be held in Chicago December 26-31, 1947: Finance, Equipment, Reception and Entertainment, Registration, and Publicity. At preliminary meetings held April 7-9, these committees elected officers, prescribed their respective functions, and discussed matters of general policy relating to the organization of the annual meeting.

The Equipment Committee elected R. T. Van Niman, Chicago Technical Societies Council, as its chairman. Members are: G. M. Bench, Chicago Board of Education; Donald Boardman, Wheaton College; J. M. Bradford, George Williams College; Leonard Freese, National College of Education; John Hudson, Loyola University; Weston L. Krogman, University of Chicago; C. Kutrumanos, Elmhurst College; Theodore F. Lindgren, Illinois Institute of Technology; M. C. Lobstein, Chicago Museum of Science and Industry; John R. Millar, Chicago Natural History Museum; John B. Murphy, DePaul University; Charles S. Seevers, Roosevelt College; B. J. Spence, Northwestern University; Eliot C. Williams, Chicago Academy of Sciences;

and W. R. Williams, University of Illinois. The Committee's functions include a survey of session rooms, procurement and distribution of projection machines, blackboards, public address systems, signs, and other items of equipment, and the scheduling of projector operators. Because of high rental costs and the exorbitant union wage rate of \$11 a session for operators, it was the consensus of this Committee that requests for projection equipment be restricted to cases in which its use is absolutely necessary for clarity of presentation, and that papers supplemented by projections be combined in one or two sessions.

The Reception and Entertainment Committee elected Miss Margaret Scriven, Chicago Historical Society, as its chairman. In arranging the General Reception for members of the AAAS, a women's tea, tours of educational and industrial organizations, and other special functions, Miss Scriven will be assisted by: Bernard J. Babler, DePaul University; Benjamin Burack, Roosevelt College; J. C. Chader-ton, University of Illinois; Harold Davis, Northwestern University; Alfred E. Emerson, University of Chicago; Alvin Johnson, Elmhurst College; Robert C. Kintner, Illinois Institute of Technology; Anna P. Kummer, Chicago Academy of Sciences; A. C. Maack, Chicago Technical Societies Council; D. M. MacMaster, Museum of Science and Industry; K. Lucille McCluskey, Saint Xavier College for Women; Karl P. Schmidt, Chicago Natural History Museum; A. H. Steinhau, George Williams College; and Paul Wright, Wheaton College.

The Registration Committee elected Hans O. Hoeppner, University of Chicago, as its chairman. Dr. Hoeppner at one time supervised the annual convention of the Kiwanis Clubs and is well qualified to direct his Committee in making the physical arrangements for registration. Those serving with him are: Sister Mary Bertha, Saint Xavier College for Women; Angeline Brandt, Wheaton College; Edward M. A. Chandler, Roosevelt College; Earl A. Davis, Jr., Elmhurst College; Clarence E. Deakins, Illinois Institute of Technology; Ralph O. Freeland, Northwestern University; Theodor K. Just, Chicago Natural History Museum; G. L. Schuytema, George Williams College; John M. Spence, University of Illinois; Kathryn J. Stephenson, Chicago Academy of Sciences; James J. Vasa, DePaul University; and Elmer

Wirth, Chicago Technical Societies Council.

The *Publicity Committee* will staff and equip a press room in the headquarters hotel for press representatives. It will also carry on a local campaign by press and radio to stimulate interest and cooperation among Chicago residents in the AAAS meetings and those of its many affiliated societies. Miss Jeannette Lowrey, University of Chicago, was elected chairman. Members include: Sister Mary del Rey, Saint Xavier College for Women; H. DeBruine, Elmhurst College; J. W. Fuhrer, George Williams College; L. M. Glassner, Chicago Technical Societies Council; J. L. Leedy, Wheaton College; Paul S. Martin, Chicago Natural History Museum; William V. Morgenstern, University of Chicago; Carl C. Pfeiffer, University of Illinois; Arthur J. Schaefer, DePaul University; Edward Stromberg, Northwestern University; Frank E. Wheeler, Illinois Institute of Technology; and Eliot C. Williams, Jr., Chicago Academy of Sciences.

The *Finance Committee*, under the chairmanship of W. P. Cortelyou, Roosevelt College, will subscribe the funds necessary to meet the expenses incurred by the local committees. Preliminary budget estimates indicate that these expenses will be close to \$4,000, exclusive of the contributions of time by more than 70 committee members. Dr. Cortelyou will be assisted by: Sister Stella Maria, Saint Xavier College for Women; Marion Barnes, Wheaton College; John K. Baumgart, Elmhurst College; Anton J. Carlson, University of Chicago; Nathan S. Davis, Chicago Academy of Sciences; F. R. Eckford, George Williams College; Gilbert A. Force, Illinois Institute of Technology; Garfield King, Chicago Historical Society; C. I. Reed, Chicago Technical Societies Council; Colin C. Sanborn, Chicago Natural History Museum; David M. Sharer, DePaul University; Robert K. Summerbell, Northwestern University; and G. E. Wakerling, University of Illinois.

An executive session was held by committee chairmen to discuss the coordination of committee plans and the nomination of a General Chairman. This session was also attended by G. M. Schmeing, Loyola University, and D. M. MacMaster, Museum of Science and Industry. In order that the visiting scientists shall participate in bearing the heavy financial cost

of the meeting, it was recommended by this Executive Committee that registration be made mandatory by restricting attendance at the sessions to those who register.

A Nominating Committee was also established to name candidates for general chairman of the Meeting. In the near future the Executive Committee will reconvene at the call of Dr. Hoepfner, who is serving as chairman pro tem, to elect the chairman.

The spontaneous and enthusiastic nature of the discussions at these first meetings of the local committees reflect a spirit of cooperation that will make the 6th Chicago Meeting one of the most memorable in the history of the Association.

About People

Robert P. Sharp, University of Minnesota, has been appointed professor of geomorphology, Division of Geological Sciences, California Institute of Technology, to begin September 1.

Betty Kellett Nadeau has been named research associate and lecturer in geology, Department of Geology and Geological Engineering, Washington University, St. Louis, to conduct research in micropaleontology.

David Krech, assistant professor of psychology, Swarthmore College, has been appointed associate professor of psychology at the University of California, Berkeley, beginning with the academic year 1947-48.

R. G. Sachs, Argonne National Laboratory, has been appointed associate professor of physics at the University of Wisconsin. The appointment becomes effective this coming fall.

Colleges and Universities

Harvard University has announced that its president, James B. Conant, will teach a course in "The Growth of the Experimental Sciences" in the University's new program of General Education next fall. Intended to give nonscientists a background in science, the course will draw on Dr. Conant's book, *On understanding science*, published this spring. This is the second time in Harvard history that a president has taught a

course in the modern sense of the word, President Lowell having taught Government I in 1917-18.

At the same time Harvard announced plans for expansion of its new program of General Education to include additional students in all classes and extend the courses on a more mature basis to juniors and seniors. The action follows six months of successful experience with small classes in General Education for freshmen and sophomores.

Through General Education courses in the humanities, physical sciences, and social sciences, aimed to give students a "clear appreciation of the range of human experience and achievement," the University states it is working toward a fundamental change in the elective system of undergraduate instruction. Ultimately it is planned to make the courses required for all undergraduates.

The conviction of President Conant and other officials at Harvard that the elective method did not meet students' needs for a well-rounded program of study resulted in a two-year study by a faculty committee which published a report, "General Education in a Free Society," in 1945. The findings were put into practice on an experimental basis last fall.

Elections

The Los Angeles Society of Internal Medicine, formerly Internal Medicine Section, Los Angeles County Medical Association, has elected Gurth Carpenter, president, Harold J. Hoxie, vice-president, and Edgar F. Mauer, secretary-treasurer, for 1947.

The Royal Astronomical Society has elected the following officers: president—W. M. H. Greaves, Astronomer Royal for Scotland and professor of astronomy, University of Edinburgh; vice-presidents—M. G. Adam, chief assistant, University Observatory, Oxford; M. Davidson; H. H. Plaskett, Savilian professor of astronomy, University of Oxford; and D. H. Sadler, superintendent of the Nautical Almanac; treasurer—Sir Harold Spencer Jones, Astronomer Royal; secretaries—W. H. McCrea, professor of mathematics, University of London; and A. D. Thackeray, assistant director, Solar Physics Observatory, Cambridge; and foreign secretary—F. J. M. Stratton, professor of astrophysics and director of the observatories, University of Cambridge.