

helmi (chairman). Gregory Pincus is chairman of the study section and Sam R. Hall is its executive secretary.

Grants of the hormones will be made to qualified investigators who apply to the study section. Application should be made in a letter that describes the proposed work and provides an estimate of the amount of hormones required. Requests will be granted to the extent that supplies allow.

It is hoped that by this service both clinical and fundamental studies on the anterior pituitary hormones will be stimulated. At the same time, it is thought that much advantage will be gained from the fact that a large number and variety of studies may be made by numerous investigators, all using the same highly purified and carefully tested preparations. Continuing support for the program will be sought if, as is thought by the study section, work in these fields has been limited by the availability of suitable materials.

New Planned Parenthood Research Committee

A biological research committee has been established by the Planned Parenthood Federation of America to lead a "concerted program" of research for improved methods of birth control and of infertility therapy. The committee, composed of 13 leading scientists in the fields of biology, physiology, biochemistry, medicine and population, is headed by Carl G. Hartman, formerly the director of Ortho Research Foundation in Raritan, N.J.

Establishment of the committee is an outgrowth of a conference on the physiology of reproduction sponsored jointly last spring by PPFA and the Population Council. At that conference it became clear, according to Hartman, that "despite tremendous gaps in our knowledge, there does exist a sufficient base of information to justify concerted efforts to solve the known problems in this field." He pointed out that increased knowledge of research in human reproduction would not only lead to better methods of contraception, but would also aid the 10 percent of American married couples who are involuntarily childless.

Relics of Ancient Culture in Japan

Hokkaido University has announced discovery of relics from the earliest culture yet found in Japan. The discoveries were made by an expedition from Hokkaido University and the Institute of Regional Exploration, Ann Arbor, Mich. T. P. Bank, American Fulbright scholar from Michigan, and Sakuzaemon Kokama of Hokkaido were coleaders.

The artifacts—mainly obsidian and stone blades, scrapers, and hand axes—were imbedded in a thick water-deposited terrace that is more than 10,000 years old. The terrace is located near the Sea of Okhotsk coast of Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost island. The expedition has discontinued work but will resume exploration next year.

U.N. Technical Assistance Pledges

As a result of the seventh Technical Assistance Pledging Conference held at United Nations Headquarters in October, a total of \$30,295,000 will be made available by 65 governments toward the 1957 operations of the expanded program of technical assistance. This represents the largest sum yet provided for 1 year and exceeds by more than \$2 million the funds pledged at last year's conference.

As in the past, several governments announced that they would make their pledges known at a later date; others assured the conference that their contributions would be at least at the level of their 1956 support, but might be increased in the next few months. The government of the United States announced a maximum contribution of \$15.5 million of which \$14 million would be paid to match the first \$14 million of pledges from other governments; the balance of \$1.5 million would be contributed at a reduced matching percentage to be announced later.

Three countries—Albania, Morocco, and the Sudan—made pledges to the Technical Assistance Fund for the first time, and Honduras renewed support that had lapsed in 1956. Nineteen other countries increased the amount of their pledges over 1956, accounting for an additional \$750,000. Argentina, Bolivia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Spain, Syria, and Switzerland all raised their contributions by 50 percent or more.

News Briefs

■ The Brooklyn Botanic Garden has obtained a 223-acre tract of woodland at Kitchawan, N.Y., adjacent to Croton Reservoir, which it will use as a field station for research. Gifts for the purchase and development of the station already have reached nearly \$150,000. The garden is seeking to raise \$250,000, which would include a partial endowment fund.

■ A 38-acre site in Oak Ridge, Tenn., has been sold to the Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies to provide space for six new permanent buildings. The new construction is expected to cost \$3.5 million.

Scientists in the News

DICKINSON W. RICHARDS, JR., director of Columbia University's medical division at Bellevue Hospital, ANDRE F. CURNAND, professor of medicine at Columbia, and WERNER FORSSMANN, practicing physician of Bad Kreuznach in Western Germany, will share the 1956 Nobel prize for medicine and physiology, which this year amounts to \$38,683.59. The recipients are being honored for their discoveries concerning heart catheterization and pathological changes in the circulatory system. The official citation reads: "[Their] investigations have meant that diagnosis can now be made earlier and with greater certainty than before. In this way, the prospects of preventing further deterioration are increased."

Behind the award is the story of a line of inquiry that began 27 years ago when Forssmann introduced a catheter tube into a vein of his right arm. Sitting behind a fluoroscope and watching a large mirror, he pushed the tube gradually into the right ventricle of his heart and then had x-ray pictures made. This ended the investigation for several years until a paper on his findings came to the attention of the two men at Columbia. They took up the research where Forssmann had left off.

ROBERT F. MEHL, director of the metals research laboratory and head of metallurgical engineering at Carnegie Institute of Technology, was presented with the Grand Medal of Le Châtelier by the council of the French Society of Metallurgy at its recent annual meetings in Paris, France.

I. S. RAVDIN, who holds the John Rhea Barton professorship of surgery at the University of Pennsylvania, was retired from service in the U.S. Army Reserve, Medical Corps, in ceremonies that took place at the university on 30 Oct. Ravdin is the first medical officer to reach the rank of major general in the Army Reserve Corps. His retirement ceremony was attended by ranking officers from Philadelphia and Washington and from the Second Army Command Headquarters, Fort George G. Meade, Md. Gaylord P. Harnwell, president of the university, spoke on the program.

H. MAX HOUTCHENS has been named chief of the Veterans Administration clinical psychology division in the central office at Washington, D.C. He succeeds H. M. HILDRETH, who has accepted an appointment with the Public Health Service. Previously Houtchens has served as chief consulting psychologist to VA's clinical psychology division in the psychiatry and neurology service in Washington.

HOWARD T. KARSNER, research adviser to the Surgeon General of the U.S. Navy and emeritus professor of pathology at Western Reserve University, will present the first Carl V. Weller lecture of the Michigan Pathological Society. He will speak at the University of Michigan on 8 Dec. on the "Place of pathology in biomedical research."

CHARLES M. LANDMESSER, since 1949 a member of the department of anesthesiology at Albany Medical College and anesthesiologist-in-chief to Albany Hospital, has been named chairman of the college's anesthesiology department. He succeeds J. GERARD CONVERSE, who has resigned to accept a similar position at the University of Miami, Coral Gables, Fla.

EDWARD W. DEMPSEY, chairman of the department of anatomy at Washington University School of Medicine (St. Louis), has been named assistant to the dean of the school of medicine. He will retain his position in the department of anatomy.

HAROLD F. RICHARDS, former head of the physics department and professor of physics at Florida State University, Tallahassee, has retired after 31 years of service on the university's faculty.

M. M. WINTROBE, head of the department of medicine at the University of Utah, is making a lecture tour of the Orient.

WILLIAM A. J. CRANE, lecturer in pathology at the University of Glasgow, Glasgow, Scotland, has joined the staff of the Ben May Laboratory of Cancer Research at the University of Chicago.

MARION A. BLANKENHORN, who retired recently as Taylor professor of medicine and director of the department of internal medicine at the University of Cincinnati, has been appointed director of education in the department of internal medicine at the Jewish Hospital, Cincinnati, Ohio.

H. SIDNEY NEWCOMER has assumed the position of medical director of the New Drug Institute, New York. He will supervise the grants for clinical research and evaluation handled by the institute, both for new drug applications and for determination of therapeutic efficacy. Newcomer, a specialist in the appraisal of new drugs and their introduction to the medical profession, is perhaps best known for his introduction of curare as a relaxant. The New Drug Institute provides guidance and research services to drug manufacturers in the development of new and improved products.

MARY JENNEY, a senior nurse officer in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, has been appointed chief nurse consultant to the new USPHS Professional Nurse Traineeship Program, the first federal program to further education of qualified graduate nurses in supervision, teaching, and administration. In the first 2 months of this program, nearly all of the 56 participating institutions have requested funds to enable nurses to prepare for leadership positions.

The Franklin Institute honored ten scientists at its recent annual Medal Day ceremonies. The Franklin medal, the institute's highest award, went this year to an aeronautical engineer, SIR FRANK WHITTLE, air commodore of Devonshire, England. The award is presented annually to a worker in physical science or technology. Sir Frank, a mechanical engineering specialist, was honored for pioneering developments in aircraft engines that have "revolutionized high-speed flight." The other medalists follow.

KENNETH BULLINGTON, a member of the systems engineering department of the Bell Telephone Laboratories, New York, received the Stuart Ballantine medal, for "advancement of space communications by means of beyond the horizon tropospheric wave propagation."

ROBERT G. LeTOURNEAU of Longview, Tex., president of R. G. LeTourneau, Inc., manufacturer of heavy construction equipment, received the Frank P. Brown medal "for his revolutionary improvements in earth-moving equipment with vast benefits to public works and private building construction."

FLOYD A. FIRESTONE, physicist, inventor, and educator of Dobbs Ferry, N.Y., received the Edward Longstreth medal "for his invention and development of a practical industrial tool for the detection and measurement of the location and extent of defects in metal parts by ultrasonic means."

EDWIN H. LAND, chairman of the Polaroid Corporation, Cambridge, Mass., received the Howard N. Potts medal for "ingenious development of a practical hand camera and a process to expose and develop the negative and create a good positive simultaneously."

Five research mathematicians from the University of Michigan and Stanford University received the Louis E. Levy medal "in recognition of their paper 'The Folded Tree' appearing in the July and August, 1955 issues of the *Journal of the Franklin Institute*." They are ARTHUR W. BURKS, CARL H. POLLMAR, DON W. WARREN, and JESSE B. WRIGHT, all of the University of Michigan, and ROBERT McNAUGHTON of Stanford University.

GEORGE F. REDDISH, professor of microbiology and public health at the St. Louis (Mo.) College of Pharmacy and Allied Sciences, will receive the 1956 achievement award of the Chemical Specialties Manufacturers' Association for technical contributions in the fields of public health, disinfection, and antiseptics. The award, fifth of its kind to be made by the CSMA, will be presented to Reddish on 4 Dec. during the association's 43rd annual meeting in Washington, D.C. Reddish is editor of *Antiseptics, Disinfectants, Fungicides, and Chemical and Physical Sterilization*, a compilation of technical data in the disinfectant field.

The University of Maryland physics department has announced the following appointments.

WILLIAM F. HORNYAK, formerly research physicist at Brookhaven National Laboratory, has been named associate professor and is heading the department's new program in experimental nuclear physics.

FRIEDRICH H. HUND, director of the Institute of Theoretical Physics at the University of Frankfurt (Germany), is a visiting professor for the fall term.

JOHN C. WARD, formerly of the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, N.J., and at present physicist for Varian Associates, Palo Alto, Calif., is visiting research professor.

ANTOINE VISCONTI, member of the Institute Henri Poincaré (France) is visiting lecturer. For the last 3 years he has been the representative for France in the CERN theoretical study group at the Institute of Theoretical Physics in Copenhagen (Denmark).

SIDNEY A. SIMMONS, for the past 6 years plant science editor for G. and C. Merriam Company, publishers of *Webster's New International Dictionary*, has resigned to take a position as technical editor with the General Electric Corporation in West Lynn, Mass.

Recent Deaths

LAWRENCE D. BELL, Buffalo, N.Y.; 62; founder and board chairman of the Bell Aircraft Corporation; 20 Oct.

TRUMAN L. BOYES, New York, N.Y.; 58; clinical professor of ophthalmology at the Post-Graduate Medical School of New York University-Bellevue Medical Center; 17 Oct.

VAN A. H. CORNELL, New York, N.Y.; 79; former head of the department of dermatology and syphilology at the New York Medical College; 24 Oct.

ANNA B. GALLUP, Mystic, Conn.; 84; retired curator-in-chief of the Brooklyn Children's Museum; 21 Oct.

THOMAS H. KEARNEY, San Fran-