

beings. The prize is intended to encourage studies and analyses of social behavior based on explicitly stated assumptions or postulates leading to conclusions or deductions that are verifiable by systematic empirical research; to encourage in social inquiry the development and application of the kind of dependable methodology that has proved so fruitful in the natural sciences.

Entries should present a completed analysis of a problem, the relevant data, and an interpretation of the data in terms of the postulates with which the study began. Unpublished manuscripts and manuscripts published after 1 January 1966 are eligible. The deadline for receipt of entries in the 1967 contest is 1 September. For instructions on how to submit an entry, write to: Socio-Psychological Prize Contest, AAAS, 1515 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20005.

18th Alaskan Science Conference

The Alaskan Science Conference in this Centennial Year of the Purchase of Alaska will be held at the University of Alaska, College, between 28 August and 2 September 1967. Visitors to the State will enjoy the new Marine Ferry System, the resurfaced Alaska Highway, and the special events in the "Centennial City" of Fairbanks. Investigators with summer field programs in Alaska are particularly encouraged to attend and sessions for field reports are scheduled.

Information and forms for reservations in University dormitories are available from the general chairman, Dr. Peter Morrison at the Institute of Arctic Biology, University of Alaska, College 99735.

AAAS-Westinghouse Science Writing Competition

Newspaper and magazine articles on the natural sciences and their engineering and technological applications are eligible for the 1967 AAAS-Westinghouse Science Writing Awards. Awards of \$1000 each will be presented for outstanding nonmedical science writing in (i) newspapers of over 100,000 daily circulation, (ii) newspapers of less than 100,000 daily circulation, and (iii) magazines of general circulation. Entries

must have appeared in print between 1 October 1966 and 30 September 1967.

Newspaper entries may be a single article or a series, or a group of three unrelated articles, editorials, or columns. Entries from magazines, including trade and professional journals, may be single articles or a series. Persons other than the author may nominate the articles, and up to three separate entries may be submitted in each category.

The awards are provided by the

Westinghouse Educational Foundation, which is sponsored by the Westinghouse Electric Corporation. The three awards will be presented on 27 December 1967, at the annual dinner of the National Association of Science Writers during the 1967 meeting of the AAAS in New York City.

Deadline for submission of entries is 10 October 1967. For additional information, contact Grayce A. Finger, AAAS, 1515 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20005.

Meetings

Biomedical Research: Changing Mores

An important responsibility of today's physician is guiding the course of biomedical research in a way which preserves the interests of the individual yet still promotes advances in the public welfare. The mores of biomedical research, and how they are changing, were the subjects of a colloquium at the meeting of the American College of Physicians held in San Francisco, 10-14 April 1967.

I. S. Wright (Cornell) introduced the theme of the meeting with the comment that previous failures in civilizations have come when man's material progress was insufficiently supported by philosophical, moral, and ethical codes that withstand the test of time. Other speakers amplified this statement by citing some of the problems which confront contemporary society. Many of these problems, such as transplantation of organs and trials of new drugs, are representative of the challenge of progress. However, other problems, such as birth control, therapeutic abortion, and eugenics, reflect refinements of age-old problems still waiting to be solved.

Samuel Stumpf (Vanderbilt) warned that "technological momentum" occasionally pushes investigators into boundaries where the ethical considerations are obscure or confusing. If we are to continue to place proper value on the dignity of the individual, we may have to forego some knowledge because the price is incompatible with respect for rights of the individual. This prelude by Stumpf led naturally to a good deal of

comment on "informed consent," particularly as it applies to transfer of organs and the investigation of new drugs on human beings. Signing of the consent does not absolve the investigator from being sued should the outcome prove disastrous. Joshua Lederer (Stanford) suggested that the hazards surrounding investigations in areas with unusual risks could be reduced by fair financial compensation of subjects and by insurance against failure such as is practiced in other "risk situations."

In the matter of new drugs, the risk is often taken first by the investigators themselves, who are aware of the limitations of transferring results of experiments on animals directly to human beings. Chauncey Leake (University of California, San Francisco) cited the example of his department which was responsible for five drugs now in common usage. However, he had barred other drugs from further investigation on human beings because it was always his policy to test the medication first on himself and other participating investigators after the drug had been cleared by tests on animals.

Another area of investigation possibly posing problems in the future was suggested by David Krech (University of California, Berkeley) who said he had successfully used various drugs to increase learning ability of animals. Krech reminded his audience of the many possible complications which could result from an across-the-board raising of the I.Q. of a group of people all at once. He doubted that this kind of research would find practical applications very soon.