President Conant of Harvard, who testified before the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee of the House of Representatives on March 7. Dr. Conant’s testimony is printed in full in this issue.

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which the Foundation, as presently contemplated, is likely to engage, it is quite possible that, from time to time, it will be expedient to rearrange these divisions.

In the last session of Congress there was considerable controversy over a provision in the Kilgore-Magnuson Bill which would establish, within the Foundation, a division of social sciences. This provision was eliminated on the floor of the Senate, and I believe that was a wise move. But I do think that the controversy was unfortunate. If we, as a democratic nation of free individuals are to survive, we must seek to understand the forces which affect our social organizations in order that they may be anticipated and guided in safe directions. A large amount of research is already being devoted to various aspects of the social sciences, both by the Government and by private individuals and organizations. Much more could be done to advantage. In view of the magnitude and complexity of this field, however, it seems to me that the Foundation should carefully survey it with a view toward determining those areas which could be made the subject of fruitful research under its auspices. Under H.R. 1830 this could be done, and I hope it will be done. But it is well to make research in the social sciences permissive rather than mandatory.

Finally, I should like to say a few words about the size of the undertaking which you are considering. The Foundation, particularly at the outset, need not be a grandiose venture. In my report to the President, Science: the endless frontier, I suggested a budget, for the first year, of $33,500,000, including $7,000,000 for scholarships and fellowships. That budget was carefully prepared on the basis of replies to questionnaires sent to more than 300 educational and other institutions. I still think the estimate is reasonable, but two factors have intervened to make an initial appropriation of this size unnecessary. The Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 will materially help to reduce the accumulated deficit of trained scientists and technicians. That does not mean that the Foundation need not commence its scholarship program immediately. It takes from four to seven years to train a scientist, as you know. However, it will lessen the urgency of the demand and permit the Foundation to plan its program carefully and begin it gradually. The Foundation will then be in a position to assume the full burden when the benefits of that act cease to be available.

The second, and greater factor, is the immediate availability of certain funds which can be transferred from the Services. The Army and Navy have shown great vision in undertaking basic research as an interim measure. Many of their research projects can, and, I am informed, will be transferred to the Foundation, supported by funds already appropriated by the Congress. These funds will materially decrease the initial appropriation necessary for the operations of the Foundation.

Of course, neither of the two bills before you is perfect, but H.R. 1830 is the best bill I have seen on the subject of science legislation. I have written to your Committee making several suggestions for changes. You will wish to make others. But those suggestions are primarily on details. What is of vital importance is that a National Science Foundation be established, and that it be established as promptly as is consistent with full examination of the matter by the Congress.

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Beard, April 25. The lectures, which are illustrated, are open to the public.

Rockford College, Rockford, Illinois, presented the following scientists at a conference on science, held as part of its centennial celebration February 21–23: Enrico Fermi, professor of physics, University of Chicago, who delivered the Charter Day address; Wendell M. Stanley, Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research; Frank B. Jewett, National Academy of Sciences; Detlev W. Bronk, chairman, National Research Council; Roger Adams, head, Chemistry Department, University of Illinois; Lillian Gilbreth, professor of management, Purdue University; John Torrence Tate, professor of physics, University of Minnesota; Emma Perry Carr, emeritus professor of chemistry, Mount Holyoke College; and Ruth M. Addoms, associate professor of botany, Duke University.

Rockford College was chartered February 25, 1847.

Meetings

A Symposium on Molecular Structure and Spectroscopy will be held at the Mendenhall Laboratory of Physics, The Ohio State University, June 9–14. There will be discussions of the interpretation of molecular spectroscopic data, as well as methods for obtaining such data, and sessions devoted to microwave and Raman spectroscopy. Dormitory rooms will be available. Further information may be obtained from Harald H. Nielsen, Mendenhall Laboratory of Physics, The Ohio State University, Columbus 10, Ohio.

The Midwestern Psychological Association will hold its 19th annual meeting at the Edgewater Beach Hotel, Chicago, May 2–3. Programs will be mailed to members about April 10. The Chicago Psychological Club is sponsor of the meeting, with Edwin Brye, Chicago Teachers College, chairman of the arrangements committee.

Reorganization of the American Institute of Physics and plans for a new semipopular monthly journal have been announced by the Institute.

Effective immediately, the 7,000 members of the five societies—American Physical Society, Optical Society of America, Inc., Acoustical Society of America, Inc., American Association of Physics Teachers, and Society of Rheology—will become members of the Institute, whereas before the Institute had no individual memberships. Provision is also made for associate membership in the Institute, open to others interested in physics.

No change is made in the organization, functions, and activities of the five societies, the announcement, published in The Review of Scientific Instruments, said.

Although there will be a new journal, technical journals now published by the Institute and member societies will remain unchanged. The new journal is designed “to foster unity among physicists and their societies, as well as understanding of the contribution and implications of physics.”

Lowell Observatory, Flagstaff, Arizona, recently received a gift of the optical parts of a large Schmidt telescope from Roger Lowell Putnam, trustee of the Observatory since 1927. The correction plate of the telescope has a clear aperture of 25 inches and the aperture-to-focus ratio is one to four, the observatory disclosed.

Jose C. Mendiola, director of the laboratory, National Psychopathic Hospital, Mandaluyong, Rizal, Philippine Islands, has written that his workers are in need of recent publications on histopathological technique.

NRG News

A Committee on International Scientific Unions has recently been appointed by the NRC. Keeping itself informed on matters relating to unions and ready to advise and assist American scientists and scientific organizations in their relations to these international bodies, the Committee consists of John A. Fleming, president, International Council of Scientific Unions, chairman; and L. V. Berkner, Marston T. Bogert, Karl K. Darrow, J. H. Dellinger, Joel Stebbins, Marshall H. Stone, Alexander Wetmore, and John K. Wright.

Recent Deaths

Charles L. Stevenson, 80, former professor of chemistry at McGill University, Montreal, and research chemist at the Wilmington plant of E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Company, died in West Long Branch, New Jersey, March 5.

Phillip W. Schutz, 38, professor of chemical engineering, University of California, Berkeley, died in Oakland March 7. He was consultant to the Manhattan Engineering District during the war and went to Berkeley to direct the University of California's program in chemical engineering last September.

Sir Halford John Mackinder, 86, English geographer, and holder of the Charles P. Daly Medal of the American Geographical Society of New York, died March 6 in London. One-time professor at the University of London, Sir Halford was also a member of Parliament for 12 years.


Noboru Takahashi, 54, plant breeder on experiment stations in Korea for 21 years under the Japanese, died July 7 in Japan. After graduating from Tokyo Imperial University, he conducted experiments in field crops, particularly rice and soybeans, in Korea from 1919 to 1945, except for years when he took graduate work in the U. S. and Germany. He has contributed generously of plant material to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, according to USDA officials.

Make Plans for——

Midwest Power Conference, March 31–April 2, Palmer House, Chicago.

American Association of Anatomists, annual meeting, April 3–5, Mount Royal Hotel, Montreal, Canada.

The Electrochemical Society, Inc., annual congress, April 9–12, Louisville, Kentucky.

American Chemical Society, spring meeting, April 14–18, Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Institute of Mathematical Statistics, meeting on stochastic processes and noise, April 24–25, New York City.

National Academy of Sciences, annual meeting, April 28–30, Academy Building, Washington, D. C.