SUMMARY STATEMENT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL, 1938–39

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Much of the attention of the National Research Council has been directed during the past year, based upon the culmination of previous interests, to various aspects of the function of research in industry. Large as are the expenditures for research in scientific institutions and in universities, the traditional seat of the quest of knowledge, and for research by the agencies of government, necessary in connection with their administrative and regulatory functions and service to the public, probably both of these together are now nearly equaled by the expenditures for research by industry. Moreover, if the amounts appropriated by the government for research in agricultural and engineering fields were added to the amounts directed to research in private industry, by far the greater amount of money expended at present for scientific work in this country would be found to be devoted to the applied sciences. Although mere expenditures of money are an imperfect criterion for real values, they are nevertheless indicative in these cases of the avidity with which knowledge is being sought after and increased for man's direct profit and advantage.

These trends are reflected in some of the activities of the Council. During the past year the Division of Engineering and Industrial Research of the Council...