THE DIVISION OF MEDICAL SCIENCES OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL AND NATIONAL DEFENSE

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Since last May there has been very active cooperation between the armed services of this country and the Division of Medical Sciences of the National Research Council on problems of military medicine. Because of the general concern with national defense it was felt that some report of these activities might be of interest to the readers of SCIENCE. For, in addition to the concrete results already achieved, the fact and degree of collaboration between civilian scientists and the Army and Navy Medical Corps and the Public Health Service are of great significance for the future.

In line with the original function of the National Research Council as an agency for scientific assistance to the government, the chairman of the Division of Medical Sciences in April of last year offered the services of the division to the Army and Navy. Shortly after this the Surgeon General of the Army, James C. Magee, requested the division to establish committees which would act in an advisory capacity to the medical corps. The Surgeons General of the Navy and of the Public Health Service concurred in the suggestion of civilian advisory committees, and immediate steps were taken to organize these groups. While at first the questions were confined to two specific problems—the treatment of traumatic shock and the chemotherapy of war injuries and infectious diseases—it was soon realized both by the members of these original committees and by the service representatives that in