

News and views

National Science Foundation

Its Programs Soon to be Under Way

Assuming that Congress would approve the President's recommendation for a fourteen million dollar budget for the National Science Foundation's first year of operation, it had originally been estimated that funds to be available for NSF support of basic research in the medical, biological, physical, mathematical, and engineering sciences would total more than eight million dollars. Over five million dollars were to have been allocated for graduate and post-doctoral fellowships under its program for training scientific manpower. The House of Representatives, however, cut the requested budget to \$300,000 after which the Senate proposed a figure of \$6,300,000. Final arbitration by a joint Senate-House conference committee resulted in a final appropriation of \$3,500,000 for NSF operations during the present fiscal year (July 1, 1951 to June 30, 1952).

The approved budget, although only one-quarter of the amount originally asked for, will enable the Foundation to start immediately on its two major operating programs; until now it has been concerned primarily with planning and with problems of organization and staffing. According to NSF Director Alan T. Waterman, approximately \$1,500,000 of the available funds will be allocated for the support of basic scientific research, about \$1,350,000 for the training of scientific manpower, and the balance for development of a national policy for the promotion of basic research and education in the sciences, for the wider dissemination of scientific information, and for other services including support of the National Scientific Register, now established in the Office of Education.

Basic scientific research will in most cases be supported by means of research grants. No grants have been made to date, although a considerable number of research proposals have been received from investigators in all parts of the United States. It is expected that many more proposals will be received shortly.

Proposals for research grants will be given preliminary evaluation and review by the Foundation's three research divisions: the Division of Biological Sciences under John Fields, the Division of Mathematical, Physical, and Engineering Sciences under Paul E. Klopsteg, and the Division of Medical Research under Dr. Field (acting). Each Division will be assisted in evaluation and review by a Divisional Committee, made up of outstanding scientists in the field, and by expert consultants employed on a part-time basis. Grants will be approved

by the Director and the 24-member National Science Board, whose chairman is James B. Conant, president of Harvard University.

Approximately four hundred graduate fellowships will be awarded by the Foundation for the next academic year under a program directed by Harry C. Kelly, who heads the NSF Division of Scientific Personnel and Education. Selection of fellows will be made solely on the basis of ability and will be carried on by the National Research Council, which has participated in the selection of fellows for various government and private agencies for many years. Most fellowships will be given to predoctoral applicants, particularly to those who will be eligible to begin graduate study during the coming year, although a limited number of postdoctoral fellowships will also be awarded. Final selection will be made by the National Science Board.

Fellows may pursue their training at accredited non-profit institutions of higher learning in the United States or similar institutions abroad approved by the Foundation. The fellow must show that he will be accepted by the institution in which he plans to study before his fellowship award is finally confirmed. Stipends will vary with the academic status of the recipients. First year fellows (those who expect to enter upon graduate study for the first time after June 1952 or those who have less than one year of graduate study) will receive \$1400. Second year fellows will receive \$1600, advanced predoctoral fellows \$1700, and postdoctoral fellows \$3000; these three categories of fellows will also receive additional allowances for wives and children. Normal tuition and laboratory fees will be paid by the Foundation, and limited allowances to aid in defraying costs of travel will be provided.

NSF fellows will be expected to devote full time to advanced scientific study or scientific research for the tenure of the fellowship. Fellows may not receive remuneration from other fellowships or similar awards nor from Federal grants or contracts during the tenure of the fellowship. The results of research carried out by a fellow during his training will be made available to the public without restriction, except as is required in the interest of national security.

Application forms for NSF graduate fellowships are available from the Fellowship Office, National Research Council, Washington 25, D. C. In order to be considered for the 1952-53 academic year, completed applications must be returned to the NRC by January 7, 1952. The affidavit and loyalty oath required by the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 will constitute part of the application form and must be completed and returned with other application materials.

Klopsteg Heads NSF Division Physical and Related Sciences

Paul E. Klopsteg, professor of applied science and director of research at Northwestern University's Institute of Technology, was appointed assistant director of the Foundation for the Division of Physical, Mathe-