

## BOOK REVIEWS

*Directory of Fellowships Awards, 1917-1950*, The Rockefeller Foundation, with an Introduction by CHESTER I. BARNARD, President of the Foundation, 49 West 49th Street, New York, 1951, xiv and 296 pages.

For many decades the Rockefeller Foundation has been, and still is, one of the major promoters of science, operating through the granting of fellowships, without any discrimination as to race or nationality. The functions of the Rockefeller Foundation fellowship programme have been to select individuals of outstanding promise in fields of interest defined by the general programme of the Foundation, and to help prepare these individuals to make significant contributions to research and teaching or public service in the future. In these 34 years, 2,566 awards were granted in the International Health Division (689 to nurses), 1,263 in the Medical Sciences, 1,219 in the Natural Sciences, 823 in the Social Sciences, and 471 in the Humanities. The amount expended for this purpose was roughly \$ 19,000,000. An additional \$ 9,500,000 was expended to grants to other organizations for their own fellowship programmes.

It is interesting to see this quantitative justification of what was up till now generally known as a qualitatively most impressive high-light in the promotion of social and cultural welfare. Readers of this journal will be particularly interested in the paragraphs from the Preface concerning the Medical and Natural Sciences. "In the Medical Sciences, there was from the start an insistent emphasis on the promotion of research. Also present has been the idea of multiplying centers from which medical skill, acquired by physicians through their fellowship training under famous medical specialists, could radiate into new areas. In medicine, as in public health, former fellows in many instances qualified for leading roles in the creation of strong outposts in the battle against disease. In the Natural Sciences, high scientific criteria for selecting fellows have been rigorously applied. The goal of providing outstanding leaders in research and in teaching has always been kept in sight. Persistent effort, too, has been made to keep this program broadly international in scope. Stress in the last 20 years has been on the biological rather than the physical sciences, and there has been a close coordination with Foundation programs in other divisions".

In his Preface, the President of the Foundation modestly states that "it would be wholly unwarranted to credit to the fellowship itself the proud record made by scores upon scores of Rockefeller Foundation fellows", since it is safe to assume that many of the chosen outstanding individuals "would have had distinguished careers even without the help of a fellowship". We may add that thousands of these outstanding individuals owe an everlasting gratitude to the Foundation for having helped them to overcome certain thresholds, and in the benefit of mankind we may express the hope that, for many years to come, the Foundation will continue its munificent catalyzing activity.

W. GADE (Amsterdam)

*Mécanisme de la Narcose*, Colloques internationaux du Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique XXVI. C.N.R.S., Paris 1951. pp. 215. Prix, broché, 1600 francs français.

Les Colloques Internationaux du Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique ont été organisés en partie grâce à un don de la Fondation Rockefeller, qui permet de réunir des scientifiques de toute nationalité. L'un de ces colloques a été consacré à l'étude du mécanisme de la narcose; le présent volume en renferme les divers rapports, ainsi que les discussions auxquelles ces rapports ont donné lieu: Les phénomènes narcotiques en biologie générale et l'échelle des inhibitions fonctionnelles (P. GAVAUDAN); Les bases expérimentales de la théorie lipodique de la narcose (K. H. MEYER); Relations between thermodynamic indices of narcotic potency and the molecular structure of narcotics (J. FERGUSON); Action des narcotiques sur les synapses et sur les axones dans un ganglion sympathique (J. M. POSTERNAK ET M. G. LARRABÉE); Narcose par les gaz indifférents (J. B. S. HALDANE); La pharmacodynamie comparée des toxiques physiques (P. GAVAUDAN); Narcotized mitosis and the precipitation hypothesis of narcosis (G. ÖSTERGREN); The reversible denaturation of enzymes by narcotics (W. D. McELROY); Biochemical basis of narcosis (J. H. QUASTEL); Action