

the present time, before a blood transfusion is performed the groups to which the recipient and donor belong must be determined.

We warmly commend this book to our readers as calculated to be of much use to them from the clearness and completeness of its arrangement and information.

THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION.

The Review of the Rockefeller Foundation, always interesting, is specially so this year, as owing to the death on May 23rd, 1937, of John Davison Rockefeller, the founder of the Rockefeller Foundation in his ninety-eighth year, the President, Mr. Raymond B. Fosdick, reviews the work from its foundation showing the broad principles upon which the work was based.

Mr. Rockefeller always made his gifts after thorough study and careful planning. He did not believe that it was wise to attempt to maintain foundations in perpetuity. "Perpetuity is a pretty long time," he remarked.

During 1937, the Rockefeller Foundation appropriated a total sum in excess of 9,500,000 dollars. Of this amount, 2,400,000 dollars was given to the medical sciences, 2,200,000 dollars to public health, 2,000,000 dollars to the social sciences, 1,100,000 dollars to the natural sciences, 800,000 dollars to the humanities, and 400,000 dollars to rural reconstruction in China.

In carrying out its 1937 programme the Foundation operated in 52 different countries, from Norway to the Fiji Islands. Twenty-three of these countries were in Europe, four in Asia, three in Africa, six in South America, eleven in North and Central America and the West Indies, and five in other parts of the world. Forty-five per cent. of the money given went to foreign countries, and the remainder, 55 per cent., was for work in the United States.

Amongst the largest appropriations and authorisations made during the year were 240,000 dollars to the Royal Institute of International Affairs, London, for its general programme of research in international problems, and 150,000 dollars to the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, London, for basic economic research upon current problems.

The Foundation's programme, in terms of broad objective, is the advancement of knowledge. Within this general area there are certain specific fields upon which emphasis is at present being placed. The emphasis in the medical sciences is largely on psychiatry; in the natural sciences, on experimental biology; in public health, on the development of a trained personnel and on the study and control of certain diseases; in the social sciences, on such basic problems as international relations, social security and public administration; and in the humanities, on efforts which tend to raise the general cultural level and to promote cultural interchange between countries.

NEW INTERNATIONAL BARRIERS

From the beginning of its activities twenty-five years ago the Foundation has been guided by the objective written into its Charter: "The well-being of mankind throughout the world." "In accordance with this purpose the aim of the trustees has been to maintain the work of the Foundation on an international plane without consideration of flags or political doctrines or creeds or sects . . . For in the last analysis knowledge cannot be nationalised. No successful embargoes can be maintained against the export or import of ideas. Whether new conceptions in atomic physics come from Copenhagen or from Cambridge, England; whether the cure for cancer is developed in Newhaven or in Berlin; whether it is a Russian or an Italian or an American who takes the next step forward in mankind's struggle with virus diseases—we are all of us, under whatever flag, the joint beneficiaries of the intel-

lectual property of the race. In all the clash of competing nationalisms there is here an underlying principle of unity; the single aim and language of science is the discovery of truth. . . .

"A Foundation, therefore, whose aim is to assist in pushing out the boundaries of knowledge must necessarily work wherever the best tools are to be found."

This ideal, which for more than two decades the Rockefeller Foundation has consistently attempted to follow, has in recent years encountered serious difficulties. And these difficulties are increasing. Objective scholarship is possible only where thought is free—and freedom can exist only where there is tolerance, only where there are no "Keep Out" signs against the inquisitive and questioning mind. Disinterested research cannot survive in an atmosphere of compulsion and repression. It withers under the efforts of governments to impose uniform ideologies and to circumscribe in the interests of a dominant regime the area of intellectual liberty. Particularly in the broad range of subjects covered by the social sciences, and in the humanities as well, the world has recently witnessed in several countries the progressive disintegration of creative scholarship.

PUBLIC HEALTH: A WORLD PROBLEM

Twenty-five years ago, when the Rockefeller Foundation was created, the first work it undertook was in public health. Dr. Wickliffe Rose, the director of this activity, laid out the line of attack which has since been consistently followed by the trustees. "Unless public health is conceived in international terms," he said, "the strategic opportunity of our generation will be lost."

For two decades and a half the Foundation has been guided by this principle. It has followed yellow fever to Central and South America and Africa, and it has studied such diseases as malaria and hookworm in areas as wide apart as the West Indies and the South Sea Islands. Laboratory techniques have been brought to the assistance of field work all over the world in influenza, scarlet fever, tuberculosis, yaws, syphilis, rabies, and the common cold. Schools have been established for the training of public health personnel; and governmental agencies, national and local, have been assisted in building up more adequate health departments. Altogether, the Foundation has operated in 77 different countries and colonies and has expended approximately 63,000,000 dollars on public health work.

In 1937 2,200,000 dollars was appropriated for this purpose. Aid was given to the Johns Hopkins Hospital School for Hygiene and Public Health for a field training area in the city of Baltimore, to Puerto Rico and Panama for stations for the training of public health nurses; to Western Reserve University and the universities of California, Washington and Toronto in connection with their courses in public health nurse training.

In 1937 the diseases investigated included yellow fever in South America and Africa, hookworm and schistosomiasis in Egypt, tuberculosis in Jamaica and Austria, rabies in Alabama, scarlet fever in Rumania, influenza in Hungary, yaws in Jamaica, and malaria in a number of countries, including the United States, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Central America, Cuba, Colombia, Albania, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Portugal and India.

Work on this world-wide scale would seem to be justified by the growing propinquity of human life. With every new method of transportation the people of all countries—and their diseases—are brought closer together. There is no difference in influenza or in scarlet fever between Rumania and the United States; and yellow fever, given the chance, could ravage India as easily as it has ravaged South America and Africa. Disease knows no frontiers and has never been a respecter of flags.

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