

hall (*Physiol. Rev.*, 25, 182; 1945) has reviewed the inorganic industrial risks and says that uranium salts are very toxic and may cause chronic nephritis and degeneration of the liver. Gustafson, Koletsky and Free (*Arch. Intern. Med.*, 74, 416; 1944) reported severe tubular necrosis of the kidneys in dogs to which uranyl nitrate had been given intravenously, but sodium citrate, given either by the mouth or intravenously, protected the kidney against uranium poisoning. This was confirmed by other American workers. The reason why sodium citrate should protect the kidney in this way is apparently not known.

### Bureau of Current Affairs

THE functions of the new Bureau of Current Affairs which has recently been set up by the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust has been outlined in the first of a series of information leaflets which the Bureau proposes to issue. The leaflet contains a brief summary of the policy of the Bureau and a prospectus of the activities which, gradually, it intends to develop. Although the Bureau does not seek to establish discussion groups, it proposes to act as a 'provisioning' body for those that already exist and those new ones which will be developed by various educational and social organisations. Of the services which the Bureau will offer there will be, first, a discussion-brief in pamphlet form called *Current Affairs*. This will be issued fortnightly and will be similar in size, style and purpose to the Army Bureau of Current Affairs bulletins so long familiar to the Services. The bulk of the twenty-page pamphlet will contain a popular exposition of some selected theme by an accepted authority; the preamble will be a 'layout for discussion' built up in the editorial office. The bulletin will, moreover, be illustrated in a variety of ways—with line-drawings, for example, which the group-leader could reproduce on his black-board, or with pictorial devices to illuminate some obscure point in the text. The second publication to be launched in the Bureau's immediate programme is a pictorial one called *Map Review*. This, too, will be published once a fortnight and will be produced in poster size and in colour. Its front side will embody in maps, pictures and diagrams the more significant events in current affairs for the particular fortnight, while its reverse side will carry full-scale maps delineating the major political, social and economic problems of our time. Displayed on the walls of any canteen, library or club, these map-reviews will provide a graphic summary of topical issues. The Bureau will also develop other pictorial media. *Current Affairs* and *Map Review* will probably first appear this month.

The war-time promotion of discussion groups has shown the necessity to give group leaders some basic training in the art of chairmanship. In the Services, particularly, many thousands of men and women, in short courses, have been taught the rudiments of discussion group leadership. These concentrated courses produced impressive results, and the Bureau proposes to organise courses on similar lines; a leaflet about them will appear in due course. Besides reference facilities at its London headquarters, the Bureau proposes to have a team of resident advisers to give callers guidance and direction in problems likely to harass the amateur leader of a discussion group. Travelling advisers will carry out similar functions throughout the country. The management of the Bureau's affairs has been initially assigned by

the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust to a provisional committee made up partly from the Trustees and partly from people of standing in British education. The chairman is Mr. P. R. Morris, vice-chancellor of the University of Bristol, and the members include Mr. E. Salter Davies, Sir George Dyson, Lord Elgin, Mrs. Walter Elliott, Mr. W. O. Lester Smith, Mrs. Barbara Wootton, Sir Robert Wood and Mr. J. Wilkie. The director of the Bureau is Mr. W. E. Williams, who created the Army Bureau of Current Affairs in 1941 and remained its only director until 1946. Anyone interested in this significant new experiment in adult education may obtain further particulars from the Director at 117 Piccadilly, London, W.1.

### Road Research Board

THE Lord President of the Council announced in the House of Commons on April 1 that the Road Research Board of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research has been re-constituted under the chairmanship of Sir Frank Smith, and that the terms of reference of the Board have been extended to enable it to deal more specifically with problems of road safety and traffic flow as well as with problems of road construction and maintenance. The change is to meet the relevant recommendations of the report of the Select Committee of the House of Lords on the Prevention of Road Accidents (the Alness Committee). The constitution of the Board is as follows: Sir Frank Smith (*chairman*), former secretary of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research; Major H. E. Aldington, chief engineer (roads), Ministry of Transport; Prof. J. D. Bernal, professor of physics at Birkbeck College, University of London; Mr. J. L. Beckett, city surveyor, Leicester; Mr. R. V. Birch, on the board of several road transport companies; Mr. E. J. Buckton, consulting engineer of Rendel, Palmer and Tritton, consulting chartered civil engineers; Sir George Burt, engineer and contractor, John Mowlem and Co. Ltd., chairman of the Building Research Board, D.S.I.R.; Prof. J. H. Jones, professor of economics, University of Leeds; Mr. E. J. Powell, county surveyor, Glamorgan; Mr. J. Davidson Pratt, director and secretary, Association of British Chemical Manufacturers, chairman of the Road Tar Research Committee, D.S.I.R.; Mr. J. H. M. Richards, borough engineer, Hornsey; Mr. E. C. Ruffle, of Morris Commercial Cars Ltd.; Sir Alker Tripp, assistant commissioner of the Metropolitan Police; Col. T. U. Wilson, county surveyor, Lanarkshire. Assessors have also been appointed to the Board to represent the Ministry of Transport and other Government departments concerned with the work of the Board. The Board is charged with recommending a programme of research, advising on its execution and reporting each year on the work done. The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research will be responsible for conducting the researches.

### Veterinary Education in Great Britain

IT was stated in the House of Commons on April 1 that the Government welcomes, in principle, the recommendations made by the Loveday Committee on Veterinary Education in Great Britain and by the Chancellor Committee on Veterinary Practice by Unregistered Persons, and it is intended as soon as practicable to introduce legislation to authorize a university to confer degrees which shall entitle the holders to registration with the Royal College of