

it should consider earnestly the effects upon medical practice, education and research of the modern prepayment schemes. A new Committee of Medicine and the Changing Order has been appointed to consider this question. Dr. Baehr also referred to the success of the new (twelfth) Microbiological Section of the Academy and to the great services performed by the Library, which is one of the largest in the world.

Dr. B. P. Watson, the incoming president, has spent most of his life as a teacher and thus becomes the head of an educational institution devoted to the needs of the medical profession, the layman and the community as a whole. He reminded his audience that present-day medicine is the result of a slow process of evolution, in which the scientific approach to medicine has played a part since "the beginnings of recorded time". This evolution is the result of the interplay between research workers, reactionaries opposed to change, extremists who wish to proceed too quickly and the backbone of the profession, composed of steady, experimental thinkers who await the results of experiments and give the individual and the community the best that the profession can offer. Dr. Watson felt that any plans for a compulsory national health insurance that could be instituted now would lower the quality of medical care provided and would give the individual medical practitioner a task that he could not perform with satisfaction either to himself or to his patients. The Academy recognizes the need for improvement in the distribution of medical care, so that everyone can have it, but it pleads for continuing study and development, so that the best medical service and better teaching and research may result. In the course of his address, Dr. Watson discussed medical education, emphasizing, as the Goodenough Report on British Medical Schools has done, the teaching of principles, the integration of details learnt and the infusion into the teaching of more of the philosophical thought bequeathed to us by the past and nowadays "forgotten in the hectic pursuit of each newly-discovered fact"

#### Forestry in Uganda : Report for 1947

THE annual report of the Forest Department of Uganda Protectorate for the year ended December 31, 1947, has recently been published (Entebbe : Govt. Printer, 1948 ; price 2s. 6d.). This report of 49 pages commences, as a number of recent forest reports from Africa have done, by a declaration of Government forest policy, which is on the familiar lines that have often been referred to in *Nature* in connexion with forestry notes. The forest policy during 1947 was considerably implemented as the report shows ; it was to some extent the result of the Development Plan for Uganda put forward by Dr. E. B. Worthington which was approved by the Legislative Council during the year. This plan provided for the Forest Department receiving the sum of £205,500 to be spent in the ten years 1947-56 on expansion and development schemes, and this sum was to be in addition to the ordinary normal recurrent expenditure. As the amounts to be spent from this allocation for work only included soft-wood timber plantations, fuel planting-schemes, and research and investigation, hardwood-timber planting schemes apparently are to be covered by normal recurrent expenditure. This appears to be a pity, since it would seem that the indigenous hardwoods of Uganda may be neglected. Anti-malaria plantations were formed,

at the request of the medical and health authorities, and the Department meant to clear-fell and replant them at intervals as an addition to the fuel supplies ; but the health authority has been against clear-felling, and the plantations will be managed on the selection felling basis. The reservation of more forest has been proceeding, but it is pointed out that the distribution of forest is not all that could be wished for, particularly in parts of the Eastern Province ; nor is it hoped to be able to make further reserves, and this leaves one with village forests as the alternative. It is noteworthy in this report that the importance of the savannah forest has now come to be understood. In fact, it is stated that the greater part of Uganda is covered by this type of forest growth, and it is from the savannah rather than from closed forest that the demands of people for forest produce are chiefly met. It is a welcome sign that the formerly neglected savannah or 'bush' is now coming into recognition and, even more, that it is to be classified as 'forest'.

#### Hormones and 'Drop' of Apple Fruits

THE abscission or dropping of apple and other fruits after fertilization is sometimes a valuable natural method of thinning the crop, but is often the source of much loss of fruit. L. C. Luckwill has studied the relation to this 'drop' of a hormone occurring in apple seeds (*J. Hort. Sci.*, 24, No. 1, 32 ; June 1948). He devised a quantitative method of measuring the hormone extract by treatment of tomato ovaries (*ibid.*, 19) and was able to show that the appearance of the hormone in the seed coincided with cessation of the post-blossom drop. In the variety Beauty of Bath, the hormone appeared 25-30 days after petal-fall. Seeds of nearly ripe apples had little hormone, and its disappearance corresponded with the occurrence of pre-harvest dropping of the fruit. Moreover, seeds from 'June-drop' fruitlets of two other varieties contained much less hormone than those of fruits which remained on the tree. This hormone can be extracted from the seeds with boiling water, and though it stimulates the development of tomato ovaries, it does not appear to initiate fruit growth in the apple. It does, in fact, appear to be concerned chiefly with the control of fruit drop.

#### Markle Foundation Scholarships in Medicine

UNDER the plan begun in 1948 by the John and Mary R. Markle Foundation to assist qualified men and women wishing to remain in academic medicine, thirteen men of science have been awarded grants of 5,000 dollars a year, for five years, to maintain them in the medical schools of the United States and Canada in which they now hold faculty appointments. So far, twenty-nine such awards have been made. The thirteen new recipients, their fields of interest, and place of present appointment are as follow : Dr. Francis P. Chinard (University of California and Johns Hopkins), clinical chemistry and physiology, at Johns Hopkins University ; Dr. Don W. Fawcett (Harvard), microscopic anatomy, at Harvard Medical School ; Dr. Allan V. N. Goodyer (Yale), internal medicine and cardiovascular disease, at Yale University ; Dr. John B. Graham (Cornell), pathology, at the University of North Carolina ; Dr. John D. Green (Oxford), anatomy and physiology, at Wayne University College of Medicine ; Dr. George Watson James, III (Washington and Lee University), internal medicine and physiology, at the Medical College of Virginia ; Dr. Ralph Jones, jun. (West Virginia