

GENERAL SCIENCE

Foundation Board Named

The scientists who will mold the policy of the National Science Foundation have been named by President Truman. Sixteen states are represented.

► THE 24 board members of the National Science Foundation, appointed by President Truman to make national policy for scientific research and education and administer government grants, are representative of all sections of the nation and the broad fields of science, engineering and industry.

Among the membership are seven university presidents, heads of two big foundations, 11 deans, department heads, or professors of colleges, two industrial presidents. Sixteen states and the District of Columbia are represented on the board of 24.

Professionally, the board includes four biologists, four chemists, four educators, two engineers, one geologist, two industrialists, one mathematician, three medical scientists, and three physicists.

Two women are on the board and one of them, Dr. Cori, is the only Nobel prize winner in the group. The board includes two Negroes, one a chemist and the other a college president.

The members appointed are Dr. Sophie D. Aberle, special research director, University of New Mexico; Dr. Robert P. Barnes, head of the chemistry department, Howard University; Chester I. Barnard, president, Rockefeller Foundation; Dr. Detlev W. Bronk, president, The Johns Hopkins University; Dr. Gerty Theresa Cori, professor of biological chemistry, Washington University Medical School; Dr. James Bryant Conant, president, Harvard University; Dr. John W. Davis, president, West Virginia State College; Charles Dollard, president, Carnegie Corporation; Dr. Lee A. Dubridge, president, California Institute of Technology; Dr. Edwin B. Fred, president, University of Wisconsin; Dr. Paul M. Gross, dean of Duke University Graduate School; Dr. George D. Humphrey, president, University of Wyoming; Dr. O. W. Hyman, dean of medical school and vice-president, University of Tennessee; Dr. Robert F. Loeb, Bard professor of medical services, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, and Dr. Donald H. McLaughlin, president of Homestake Mining Co., San Francisco, Calif.

Others are Dr. Frederick A. Middlebush, president, University of Missouri; Edward L. Moreland, partner, Jackson and Moreland, Boston, Mass.; Dr. Joseph S. Morris, head of the physics department and vice-president of Tulane University; Dr. Harold Marston Morse, professor of mathematics, Princeton University; Dr. Andrey A. Potter, dean of engineering, Purdue University; Dr. James A. Reyniers, director of bacteriology

laboratories, Notre Dame University; Dr. Elvin C. Stakman, chief, division of plant pathology and botany, University of Minnesota; Charles Edward Wilson, president, General Electric Co., and Rev. Patrick Henry Yancey, professor of biology, Spring Hill College.

Science News Letter, November 11, 1950

MEDICINE

Sugar Handy Aid For A-Bomb Victims

► SUGAR can supply two medical aids to any future atom bomb victims, Dr. Robert C. Hockett, director of the Sugar Research Foundation, reported to the American Public Health Association meeting in St. Louis.

One of these is dextran, a water-white mucilaginous compound produced only from sugar by the action of certain bacteria. It could be used as a substitute for blood plasma and can be produced cheaply.

The second sugar aid to atom bomb victims described by Dr. Hockett is invert sugar. This is a liquid mixture of dextrose and levulose easily made from common sugar. In the ordinary process of digestion, the body converts sugar to invert sugar. But for patients who cannot eat and must be nourished by solutions injected into their veins, invert sugar is a "superior nutriment," Dr. Hockett said. Trials on patients show that the levulose fraction of sugar is apparently what causes improved metabolism and nourishment of the patients given this kind of sugar by veins.

Science News Letter, November 11, 1950

AERONAUTICS

JATO Rockets Use Smokeless Powder

► BOOSTER rockets, used to help get fighter planes quickly into the air from the decks of Navy carriers, need no longer cloud the vessel in smoke.

A new rocket, developed for the Navy by the Allegany Ballistics Laboratory, Cumberland, Md., uses smokeless powder for fuel. Although the new unit weighs considerably less than present types, it provides an equal amount of thrust.

Rockets used to provide extra power to planes at the takeoff are called JATO for short. The letters stand for "jet assisted take-off." They are used on carrier decks and short runways at airports to get planes

into the air more quickly than can be done by engines alone. The rockets are dropped when they have done their job.

Smokeless powder has been used for some time as a propellant charge for military and naval guns. This is said to be the first JATO to employ it. For its development, both Army and Air Force contributed funds. All three services plan to use the new rocket.

Science News Letter, November 11, 1950

DENTISTRY

Five Chemicals Seal Tiny Teeth Openings

► FIVE substances that can penetrate the entire structure of the teeth, going through enamel defects and decayed areas and plugging the tiny perforations known as lamellae, were reported by Dr. William Ward Wainwright of the University of Illinois College of Dentistry, Chicago, at the meeting in Atlantic City of the American Dental Association.

The five substances are: calcium chloride, silver nitrate, palladium chloride, sodium iodide and copper nitrate.

The extent to which the tiny perforations are plugged and the nature of the substance doing the plugging seems to have much to do with the incidence of tooth decay, it was pointed out.

"Certainly the vulnerability of the tooth



MAPS NEEDED—Robert L. Williams, Yale's newly appointed cartographer, makes a map in Yale's newly established Cartography Laboratory in the University Library. The laboratory, one of the few of its kind in U. S. educational institutions, has been set up to meet the increased demand for maps in classroom teaching.