

GENERAL SCIENCE

Science Cutbacks Opposed

► ONE OF THE NATION'S top scientific organizations, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, officially announced its opposition to upcoming government limitations on scientific research grants.

The resolution came at the Association's 132nd annual meeting in Berkeley, Calif.

At the same time, the AAAS council announced concern over the threat posed to scientific inquiry by the war in Viet Nam.

"... we bear a special responsibility as scientists to point out the large costs of war for the continued vigor of scientific research. Like all scholarship, the sciences cannot fully flourish, and may be badly damaged, in a society which gives an increasing share of its resources to military purposes."

Prolongation of the war endangers not only the lives of millions but the "humanitarian values and goals which we are striving to maintain," stated the AAAS.

The council resolved to "investigate the status and consequences of decreased Federal support for training and research in the fields of science and health" and to convey this information to the public.

"At a time when national commitments are growing greater than available resources, there must clearly be some means of assigning priorities to the various objectives on which our resources may be expended. Some difficult choices must be made by the nation as a whole."

"As scientists we bear the special responsibility of providing some of the information on which such choices must be based. Particularly relevant is information as to how different allocations of tangible and intellectual resources might affect scientific research. This information must be made available to aid the public and those who bear final responsibility for decisions regarding allocation of the nation's resources."

• Science News Letter, 89:36 January 15, 1966

MEDICINE

Note Medicare Deadline

► THE EMPLOYED PERSON of 65 should sign up for Medicare by March 31, 1966, at the same time holding on to his group policy or whatever is now providing his medical security.

He must go in person to his local Social Security offices to apply for the new plan.

How the \$3.00 per month medical insurance will function is being worked out by physicians and the American Medical Association as well as by Blue Shield and other carriers.

Those over 65 years of age who are now receiving Social Security checks have been notified of what to expect both from Medicare's Hospital Insurance and the optional \$3.00 Medical Insurance. But persons who are not under Social Security and those still employed who have not applied for Social Security should investigate their rights as soon as possible.

The AMA News is carrying a series of question and answer columns to clarify the role of the physician in the Medicare program. Questions are invited from physicians, and answers will be prepared by members of the AMA Legislative Department in cooperation with AMA advisory committees.

Here is a typical question answered in the current AMA News:

Question: What are the two ways available to the physician for being compensated for his services?

Answer: There are two billing procedures . . . under the supplementary medical insurance program. He may elect to deal only with his patient. He would send bills in the usual manner, looking solely to the patient for payment of his fee. It would be up to the patient to present a receipted bill, pay the \$50.00 annual deductible amount required, and then seek reimbursement from

the carrier for 80% of the "usual and customary fee."

The second procedure is for the physician to "accept an assignment of the patient's interest." Under this arrangement the doctor would seek satisfaction of that assignment from the carrier of 80% of his usual and customary fee. The remaining 20% must be recovered from the patient, as well as the first \$50.00 in the current year. The amount the doctor receives from the carrier will be based on its determination of what is "usual and customary."

As the program begins to work, it is hoped that a minimum of paper work and rules will be required.

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MEDICINE

Medicare Will Increase Demand for Technicians

► MEDICARE and other Government health programs will probably increase the demand for properly trained medical laboratory technicians, the National Committee for Careers in Medical Technology predicted in its current annual report.

Three organizations work together in this committee to maintain high standards for the training of laboratory personnel: the American Society of Clinical Pathologists, the American Society of Medical Technologists and the College of American Pathologists.

Physicians and patients are assured through adequate training that when samples of blood or other material for testing in laboratories are sent to a pathologist, correct reports are returned.

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Questions

ARCHAEOLOGY—Approximately how old is the gray stone artifact recently found in Illinois? p. 41.

ASTRONOMY—How many new star clusters have been discovered in the Large Magellanic Cloud? p. 37.

BIOCHEMISTRY—How does human insulin differ from sheep insulin? p. 35.

TECHNOLOGY—What new device allows those unable to speak to produce sounds resembling human speech? p. 40.

In response to what request did Nicholas Appert, a French confectioner, create the first tin can? p. 42.

ZOOLOGY—What response to population density does the opossum shrimp exhibit? p. 45.

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