



**"CONTRA-PROP"**—Two propellers which rotate in opposite directions are used on the \$12,000-torpedoes of the U. S. Navy to keep them from rolling over and disturbing depth control. The picture on the cover of this *SCIENCE NEWS LETTER* shows a worker machining an airflask for a submarine torpedo. Official U. S. Navy photographs.

## GENERAL SCIENCE

## War Studies Aided By Fund's Appropriations

► THE PROBLEM of helping men rejected or discharged from the Army because of psychiatric disability, search for new germ-fighting substances from molds or fungi like penicillin, and post-graduate study of health and medicine by students from Latin America are among the projects aided by the Commonwealth Fund during its twenty-fifth year just concluded, it is announced with release of the Fund's annual report.

Appropriations for the year totalled \$1,503,124.35. This, like the Fund's income for the year, was the smallest for many years. Chief change in the distribution of the Fund's gifts was a marked shrinkage in appropriations for the division of rural hospitals, due to necessary postponement of hospital building.

The man who comes back to civilian life with battle injuries, the report points out, finds ready sympathy and attention from the public. Less happy is the lot of the man rejected or discharged from the Army because of emotional and mental difficulties. Yet he is in no less need of prompt and skilful help. This thought prompted the Fund to aid the New York

City Committee on Mental Hygiene which is making a systematic study of the problem in this city, and the Payne Whitney Clinic of the New York Hospital where an experiment in treatment and rehabilitation is being carried on.

The problem as a whole is too big to be met by private efforts but the Fund hopes that these two different studies may furnish valuable guide service for future action on the problem.

Looking to the future, the Fund in its report issues a word of warning and advice to the small voluntary hospitals, many of which in rural areas have been aided by the Fund. The war has enabled so many to pay for services they usually

cannot afford that some of these hospitals find themselves "willy-nilly, operating in the black."

They are warned to guard against the possibility that "present prosperity may dry up the future sources of giving" and advised, among other things, "to refrain from greedy rate increases" and to plow their present surpluses back wherever possible into the improvement of physical and professional sources.

"Even with payrolls and farm prices at present levels," the advice concludes, "there are far too many country people in need of hospital care who are not getting it."

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## Books of the Week

► THE ORGANIZATION for a balanced economy of the small nations occupying the Danube Basin is covered in a timely book entitled *THE DANUBE BASIN AND THE GERMAN ECONOMIC SPHERE* by Antonin Bash. The author shows that Germany's New Order could not solve the problem, but such an organization must be reached in a world setting. (*Columbia Univ. Press, \$3.50*).

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► A READABLE BOOK for the layman who wants information about electrical and other energy used in American homes and industries. M. M. Samuels, who is now with the U. S. Rural Electrification Administration, is the author of *POWER UNLEASHED*. He is an electrical engineer and a scientist of high standing. (*Dorset House, \$3.50*).

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### Just Off Press

*CHILDBIRTH WITHOUT FEAR: The Principles and Practice of Natural Childbirth*—Grantly Dick Read—*Harper*, 259 p., \$2.75.

*CROSS SECTIONS OF NEW WORLD PREHISTORY: A Brief Report on the Work of the Institute of Andean Research, 1941-1942*—Wm. Duncan Strong—*Smithsonian*, 46 p., illus., 70c, paper, Misc. Pub., Vol. 104, No. 2.

*DIESEL LOCOMOTIVES: Electrical Equipment*—John Draney—*Amer. Tech. Soc.*, 388 p., illus., \$3.75.

*FIGHTING FITNESS: A Premilitary Training Guide*—C. Ward Crampton—*Whittlesey House*, 251 p., illus., \$2.

*THE FUNDAMENTALS OF PERSONAL HYGIENE: Including Their Practical Application to Healthful Living*—Walter W. Krueger—*Saunders*, 315 p., illus., \$1.75, 4th ed. rev.

*THE GIRL MECHANIC'S MANUAL*—Daniel J. Brimm, Jr., and Ernst Scheifele—*Putnam*, 166 p., illus., \$1.75.

*HOW TO SURVIVE ON LAND AND SEA*—Issued by the Aviation Training Division, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, United States Navy—*United States Naval Inst.*, 264 p., illus., \$2.

*INTRODUCING AFRICA*—Carveth Wells—*Putnam's Sons*, 243 p., \$2.50.

*JOINT PROGRESS REPORT ON RESERVOIR EFFICIENCY AND WELL SPACING*—Committees on Reservoir Development of Standard Oil Co. and Humble Oil & Refining Co., 77 p., illus., free.

*KOREA FOR THE KOREANS: Some Facts Worth Knowing and a Reading List*—*Amer. Council Inst. of Pacific Relations*, 30 p., 15c.

*THE PERMEABILITY OF NATURAL MEMBRANES*—Hugh Davson and J. F. Danielli—*Macmillan*, 361 p., illus., \$4.75.

*PROCEEDINGS OF THE INDIANA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE*—P. D. Edwards, ed.—*Indiana Academy of Science*, 229 p., illus., \$3., Vol. 52.

*SWEDEN: A Wartime Survey*—Edited and Pub. in Sweden—*Amer.-Swedish News Exch.*, 250 p., illus., \$2.

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