GENERAL SCIENCE

Back to College

Grants of $2,500,000 to speed return of war scientists to college research and teaching. Program of Research Corporation to cover five years.

➤ SCIENTISTS who have been doing war research on atomic bombs, radar, jet propulsion, and many other weapons will have the chance to get back promptly to peacetime research and teaching in colleges and universities through $2,500,000 in grants offered by the non-profit Research Corporation of New York, which develops inventions assigned to it by public-spirited inventors.

The five-year program was announced by Dr. Joseph W. Barker, acting president, who has returned to his duties with the Corporation and with Columbia University from service as Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Navy.

It will result in 100 to 200 grants of $2,500 to $5,000 each year in order that talented young scientists, engaged for the most part in war research in uniform or as civilians, will be able to undertake at universities and colleges research of peacetime importance in pure science, especially chemistry, physics, mathematics and engineering.

The first grants will be made in a few weeks by a special committee of eminent scientists from industrial and university laboratories. The committee is composed of Acting President Barker who is also Dean of Engineering at Columbia University; Dr. Thomas H. Chilton, director of engineering for duPont; Dr. William D. Coolidge, X-ray consultant for General Electric Co.; Timothy E. Shea, manufacturing engineer of Western Electric Co.; Dr. Lloyd P. Smith, associate research director of Radio Corporation of America; Col. Stafford L. Warren, professor of medicine at the University of Rochester; and Dr. Robert R. Williams, inventor of the synthesis of vitamin B_1 and coordinator of research of Research Corporation.

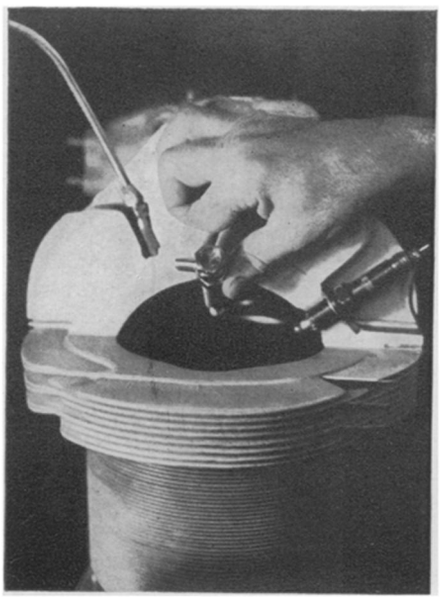
Grants will be made to the institutions, but awards will be based primarily upon the demonstrated ability of the men who will conduct the researches and contribute to the teaching program of the school.

"For the past four or five years," said Dr. Barker, "the Government, through the Office of Scientific Research and Development, the National Defense Research Council, the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force, has supported a vast research and development program into which has been drawn the great majority of the most competent university research men. Already the demobilization of these research projects is under way. When their war jobs are finished many of these talented young scientists should be going back to college laboratories and lecture rooms to train and inspire the next generation of science.

"War conditions have greatly disturbed our educational institutions by diversion of talented members of their faculties into war research, by drawing off faculty and students into military service, by utilizing educational facilities for military service training programs and by interrupting sources of financial support.

"Research budgets have been drastically curtailed, especially in the smaller institutions, which in many cases have not had opportunity to undertake Government research on a substantial scale. The financial strength of many institutions also has been impaired by the depression and the war conditions which followed. Now new burdens are thrust upon them as young men from the services return to resume their interrupted training.

"Research Corporation's program of special postwar grants will round out the plans that are being made for the most effective and most prompt return of the war-engaged scientists to peacetime fundamental and applied research," Dr. Barker explained. "The Rockefeller foundation has already announced a comprehensive plan of pre-doctoral fellowships which will return to college former graduate students who left their studies and researches for war research. Current government legislation and proposed bills being considered by Congress will aid the return to college of students whose scientific and technological education was interrupted by the war. Research Corporation grants will assist colleges and universities in building research-minded staffs which will help train the students returning to colleges from the war, as well as the future contingents of students from our secondary schools in future years."



B-29'S SUCCESS—In the new Bendix-Stromberg direct fuel injection system, which equipped the Superforts that dropped the atom bombs, the fuel is pumped under pressure directly into individual engine cylinders, entering via the stainless steel fuel lines and the nozzle shown at the upper left. Spark plug is at right. The technician's hand holds the fuel spray nozzle at the point where gasoline is sprayed into the cylinder.

The grants are made possible by the fact that during the war years research programs that would be normally supported by Research Corporation grants have been laid aside in order to free men and facilities for war research.

Research Corporation was begun in 1912 with the gift, through Dr. F. G. Cottrell, of patent rights on electrical precipitation, which is used for removing dust, fume and mists from industrial gases and from the atmosphere.

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GENERAL SCIENCE

AAAS to Hold Meeting In St. Louis in March

➤ AMERICAN scientists will get together for their first big general postwar meeting in St. Louis, on March 27 to 30, 1946, Dr. F. R. Moulton, permanent secretary of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, announced. A tremendous volume of scientific information, dammed up by war-imposed necessity for secrecy as well as by lack of opportunity to report either in print