

JOINT AWARDS—On either side of the statuette of the Winged Victory of Samothrace, similar to those to be presented Nov. 15, are Dr. Arnall Patz and Dr. V. Everett Kinsey, left, and Dr. Karl Meyer and Dr. Francis O. Schmitt, right.

MEDICINE

Lasker Awards Given

► THE POLIO VACCINE, a way to save babies from a new cause of blindness, the "excellent medical services" now brought to the nation's miners and their families, and 50 years of safeguarding the purity of American food and drugs are among the achievements recognized by the 1956 Albert Lasker Awards of the American Public Health Association.

Less dramatic, perhaps, but with equal impact on the nation's health both now and in the future are the achievements in public health statesmanship and in research on connective tissues and the rheumatic diseases honored by Lasker Awards this year.

The public health statesmen honored with individual awards are Dr. Alan Gregg, Big Sur, Calif., a special award of \$2,500 presented only three times before, and Dr. William P. Shepard, second vice-president, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, New York, \$1,000. Both also get gold statuettes of the Winged Victory of Samothrace.

Dr. Jonas E. Salk of Pittsburgh gets an award of \$1,000 and the statuette for the polio vaccine he developed.

The discovery that oxygen given to newborn babies, especially the small and premature ones, was blinding them through the eye disease, retrolental fibroplasia, and coordination of a national cooperative study confirming the discovery, won a joint award for Dr. Arnall Patz of Baltimore and Dr. V. Everett Kinsey of the Kresge Eye Institute, Detroit.

The award to Dr. Patz calls attention to the imagination and persistence he brought to the problem and the fact that, although a physician in private practice and against open discouragement by an authority on diseases of the eye, he found time to explore the subject, using at first only his own resources.

Dr. Karl Meyer, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York, and Dr. Francis O. Schmitt, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass., share a joint award for their separate biochemical and physical studies of collagen and connective tissue giving new light on rheumatic diseases.

George P. Larrick, commissioner of Food and Drugs, will receive a group award for the U. S. Food and Drug Administra-

tion, recognizing a half century of public service in safeguarding the public.

A group award to the United Mine Workers of America Welfare and Retirement Fund will be received by Dr. Warren F. Draper, executive medical officer of the fund.

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PHYSICS

Scientific Heirloom Arrives at Smithsonian

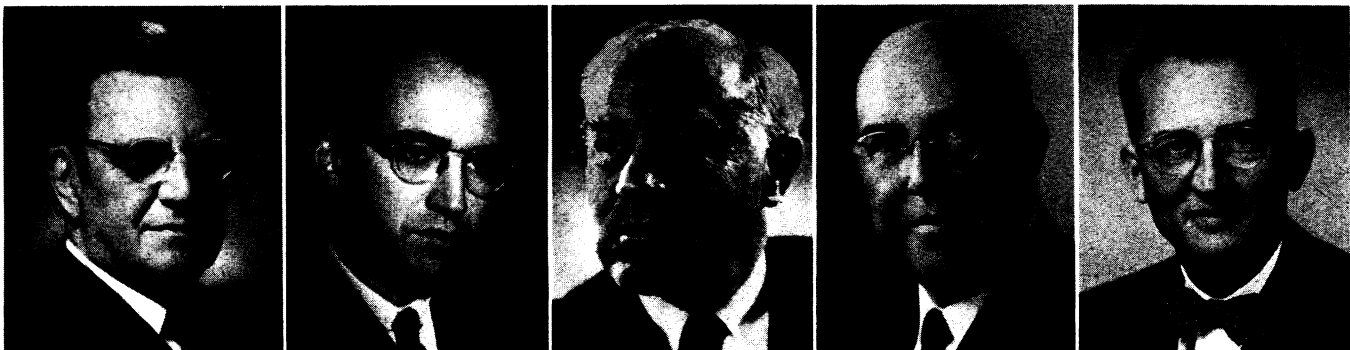
► ONE OF THE first X-ray tubes used by the discoverer of X-rays is now in the United States for exhibition at the Smithsonian Institution.

The tube was the third constructed by Wilhelm Konrad Roentgen, who discovered X-rays on Nov. 8, 1895. His first two tubes are at the Physical Institute in Wurzburg, Germany, and at the Deutsches Museum, Munich.

The third tube was purchased from a private owner in Germany and given to the Smithsonian Institution by General Electric Company's X-ray department in Milwaukee, Wis.

The scientific heirloom will be exhibited in the Smithsonian's Gallery of Medical History, Arts and Industries Building.

Science News Letter, October 6, 1956



LASKER WINNERS—Recognized this year for their achievements in the field of health are the United Mine Workers of America's medical program, the award to be accepted by Dr. Warren F. Draper; Dr. Jonas Salk; Dr. Alan Gregg; Dr. William P. Shepard, and the Food and Drug Administration of the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, the award to be accepted by George P. Larrick, commissioner, all shown in the usual order.