

BOOK REVIEW

The Furtherance of Medical Research.

By ALAN GREGG, M.D., Director for the Medical Sciences, Rockefeller Foundation. Price, cloth, \$2.00. Pp. 129. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1941.

This material was prepared for a series of lectures delivered at Yale University under the Terry Foundation to encourage "Lectures on Religion in the Light of Science and Philosophy." The author has had wide experience with the direction and support of Medical Research and is well recognized for his sympathetic and farseeing attitude toward the medical research worker as well as toward the many sources of financial support for universities and laboratories. For all those who seek financial aid for research as well as for those who contemplate offering such aid, in whatever guise, this little book is packed with valuable suggestions and advice.

The chapter heads read: I. Medical Research Described. II. Universities and Foundations. III. The Medical Research Worker.

Two appendices offer an outline of a properly prepared request for research grants and another for presenting a Proposal for a Capital Grant for Building a Research Institute.

The author specifies the gifts of the good investigator in the following order: 1. *Observation*; accompanied by record making which is a stimulus to accuracy, validity and usefulness of observation. 2. *Study*; 3. *Comparison*; 4. *Analysis*; 5. *Classification*, and 6. Inductive Reasoning and formulation of *Conclusions*. He says, "Experiment is first to test a theory—only later to prove it."

He suggests that Specialists' Societies should nominate Research Councils to be intrusted with the expenditure of funds collected by public subscription (a plan already in operation in the Academy of Pediatrics). In this connection, he makes a suggestion worth much consideration by anesthetists—the collection of an extra 5 per cent with private fees, this amount to be set aside as a research fund by the physician, or by the department in which he works. It occurs to the reviewer that this 5 per cent donated by the patient might, with good effect, be matched with a similar amount of each fee, donated by the physician.

In order to secure financial support for research, it is necessary to convince the layman of the *value* of such undertakings. The author emphasizes the order of interest of the layman in a research project; namely, 1. Its meaning to me; 2. Conclusions; 3. A good summary of the work; 4. Findings in detail; 5. What methods were used; 6. What selection of phenomena was subjected to study. Thus, by presenting a project to laymen in what would be a logical order to the research worker himself (the reverse of that listed above), he might fail completely in enlisting interest because of his method of approach.

The sympathetic understanding of the viewpoint of the philanthropist, the Foundation, and the individual research worker shown throughout the book is most gratifying. While driving past a beautiful new Masonic Temple in the company with one of the prominent officials of the local Masonic Order, your reviewer chanced to re-

mark upon the satisfaction in accomplishment which his companion must feel in the completion of this magnificent edifice. His reply was, "When any organization reaches the point where it can erect a monument to itself, it has been my experience that it has passed its period of usefulness." In similar vein, the author quotes Thorvald Madson's conundrum, "What is the title of

the last publication of every great scientist—in any country, in any language?" and the answer, "A Description of My New Laboratory."

Whether the interest of the anesthetist is only in the products of research or in the work itself, he will find this book of Alan Gregg's both stimulating and informative.

RALPH M. WATERS, M.D.

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