

**Annual Report of the Social Science Research Council.**<sup>1</sup> The Social Science Research Council was organized in 1923 by concurrent action of national associations interested in social research. This group at first included the American Economic Association, the American Sociological Society, the American Political Science Association, and the American Statistical Association. During the year 1925 the membership of the Council was increased by the addition of representatives from the American Psychological Association, the American Anthropological Association, and the American Historical Association. Each organization has three representatives in the Council.

The seven organizations are now brought together for the purpose of promoting the interest of scientific research in the field of social inquiry, particularly in cases where problems overlap the boundaries of one or more of the special fields concerned. It is believed that with the seven thus united it will be possible to advance the prospects of social science by the study of methods of social research, by consideration of special problems, and by coördination of scattered types of inquiry otherwise independent and isolated.

During 1925 the Council appointed a special committee on problems and policy for the purpose of considering certain special questions already before the Council, as well as others, and of canvassing the general policy to be followed by the Council. This held a ten-days' session at Dartmouth College during the summer and considered at length the work of the Council in general and a number of specific problems in particular. As a result, the Council decided to organize a standing committee known as the problems and policy committee, to consist of six members chosen by the executive committee for a term of three years. Under the general direction of the Council, this committee will have power to devise and recommend research problems referred to it by the Council, and any other problems that the committee may see fit to recommend. The committee will ordinarily deal with each of the following aspects of the problems considered: (1) the practicability of the problem for scientific investigation; (2) adequateness and appropriateness of the technical plans and budget involved; (3) selection of personnel for the supervision of the problem. The committee will have power to appoint special advisory committees, of ordinarily not more than five, to consider the formulation of a problem, to analyze the problem into parts susceptible of scientific treatment,

<sup>1</sup> Presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, December 28, by Professor Charles E. Merriam, Chairman of the Council.

to study the character and scope of the investigations which seem desirable, and to suggest agencies whose coöperation can profitably be enlisted in the work.

This committee now consists of the following members: Professor A. B. Hall, University of Wisconsin, chairman; Professor Edwin F. Gay, Harvard University; Mr. Shelby M. Harrison, Russell Sage Foundation; Professor Clark Wissler, Yale University; Dr. H. G. Moulton, Institute of Economics, and Professor R. S. Woodworth, Columbia University.

The committee has recommended, and the Council has approved, the setting up of committees on research in the fields of (1) alcoholism, (2) the negro problem, (3) the study of crime, (4) agricultural economics, and (5) *certain significant phases of social and industrial relationships*. On recommendation of the committee, the Council at its last meeting also adopted the following general policies in respect to research: (1) ordinarily it will be the policy of the Council not to undertake investigation directly, other than preliminary studies; (2) ordinarily the Council will deal only with such problems as involve two or more disciplines; and (3) generally it will be the policy of the Council to serve only as a clearing house in matters of research in the social science field. Furthermore it was determined by the Council to undertake the gathering of pertinent information concerning research projects, personnel, and funds and endowments available for research. It was understood that the Council would coöperate with any other agencies interested or engaged in similar enterprises in overlapping fields.

It is hoped that the administration of the Council's projects and problems will be covered by adequate financial arrangements for this purpose. During the year 1925 a grant was made to the Council by the Russell Sage Foundation for the expenses of general administration, but a new budget is being prepared covering the work of the Council and the problems committee which it is hoped may be favorably acted upon in the near future.

During 1925 funds were made available to the Council for the purpose of awarding fellowships to advanced students desiring to carry on social research in the field of the social sciences broadly construed. Speaking generally, these fellowships correspond to those awarded by the National Research Council. Evidence of exceptional ability in research must be presented by each applicant, together with a definite outline of a project giving promise of scientific accomplishments. The terms of the fellowship may range from several months to as much as two years, depending

upon the character and requirements of the problem. The work of the fellows is subject to the supervision of the Council's committee on fellowships, of which Professor Wesley C. Mitchell, of Columbia University, is chairman and Professor F. S. Chapin, of the University of Minnesota, secretary. A substantial fund to cover these fellowships for a period of five years has been set aside by the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial. In 1925 the sum of \$49,000 was available for the purpose.

During the past year the committee on human migration, of which Dean Edith Abbot is chairman, continued the development of its projects. One unit of the plan was undertaken by the National Bureau of Economic Research, under whose general direction Professor Harry Jerome, of the University of Wisconsin, was engaged in the study of the relation of the mechanization of industry to migration. This project was continued during the year 1925-26 and will be completed by July 1, 1926.

The committee also undertook a statistical study of the basic movements in migration in recent times, under the direction of Professor Walter F. Willecox, of Cornell University. In coöperation with the National Research Council's committee on human migration (of which Professor Stratton is chairman), a comprehensive plan is now being worked out, and it is hoped that the plan may be completed within a short time and its execution vigorously pushed forward. The coöperation of the committees from the two councils offers an excellent example of the possibilities, and also the difficulties, of bringing about successful coöperation between those interested in the social implications of natural science and those interested in social science.

The committee on international news and communication, of which Mr. Walter S. Rogers is chairman, continued the development of its program during the year 1925. An interesting offshoot of the work of this committee is the establishment in 1925 of an Institute of Current World Events, a foundation which will make possible a detailed study of and reporting on current social events in a wide range of nations. This foundation, of which Mr. Rogers is director, will undertake to develop personnel for the purpose of studying questions of news and public opinion in different parts of the world and of reporting their findings in the United States by means of articles, addresses, and discussions. This project is now just beginning, but is already financed on a scale sufficiently broad and generous to make it possible to test out its possibilities. While this result was not anticipated when the Council

created the committee, it illustrates the possibilities of indirect development in collateral fields.

The committee on indexing and digesting of the session laws of the various states, of which Professor Joseph P. Chamberlin, of Columbia University, is chairman, has continued its activities during 1925 and has made substantial progress. An appropriate bill has been carefully drawn and the whole question will come before the House judiciary committee during the coming winter. It is hoped that it will be possible to make progress with the financing of this very significant project. Through the efforts of the committee, the support of a large number of organizations has been secured, and there is every reason to believe that the work of the committee will be successful in the near future. This project, if carried through, would constitute an achievement of very great significance in the practical study of American legislation.

The committee on social science abstracts, of which Professor F. S. Chapin, of the University of Minnesota, is chairman, is still engaged in the development and financing of its plan. The committee's activities during the year 1925 include: (1) The preparation of sample abstracts of social science articles drawn from the fields of anthropology, economics, political science, and sociology. This material will be published in the form of a dummy for distribution among members of the social science societies in order to ascertain the interest in a possible Journal of Social Science Abstracts and to determine what support may be obtained in the form of individual subscriptions for such a publication. (2) Promising contacts have been established with several publishing houses regarding the publication of such a journal as soon as a budget and editorial arrangements can be worked out. With assurances of some subscriptions and a moderate endowment, the committee believes that a publishing house will be found willing to undertake the publishing of this journal. (3) The committee has also undertaken to obtain a subvention to establish the journal.

The committee on the survey of social science agencies, of which Professor Horace Secrist, of Northwestern University, is chairman, has continued its consideration of the plan for a study of social research agencies, with special reference to the technical methods employed, and with the hope both of developing closer coordination of social research projects and of aiding in the evolution of more scientific approach to social problems. This committee, one of the first organized by the Council, has been reconstructed this year and is prepared to pursue its objectives more effectively.

On the whole, the Council has made substantial progress in 1925, both in the direction of more effective organization and in dealing with specific types of problems. It is the hope of the members of the Council that it may be increasingly useful to students of social science and that the various constituent organizations and their respective members may find it helpful in the organization and development of technical social research. The Council is in an experimental state, and suggestions for making undertakings and methods more valuable to the social sciences or to those interested in the social implications of natural science are welcomed.

**Annual Report of the American Council of Learned Societies.<sup>1</sup>** The activities of the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) fall into two general categories, according as they have to do with (1) international coöperation arising chiefly out of the Council's membership in the Union Académique Internationale (UAI) and (2) the development of relations between the constituent societies and the promotion of their interests and the advancement of the humanistic and social sciences in the United States.

Activities which are of at least incidental concern to political scientists include: (1) the preparation of a dictionary of medieval latin, and also of a dictionary of late mediaeval British latin; (2) the setting up of a committee on intellectual coöperation (chairman, R. A. Milliken); (3) new arrangements for the distribution of American learned publications abroad; (4) annual conferences of secretaries of the constituent societies, held in New York at the expense of the ACLS; (5) the establishment of *Speculum*, a journal of medieval studies; and (6) assistance to the American Library Association in preparing its annual catalogue of books recommended for purchase by public libraries.

Activities of larger or more direct concern include:

*Dictionary of American Biography.* The committee on management, J. Franklin Jameson, Carnegie Institution of Washington, chairman, has selected Professor Allen Johnson, of Yale University, to be general editor, and he will assume active charge in February, 1926. Meanwhile,

<sup>1</sup> Composed of two representatives each of the American Political Science Association and eleven other societies devoted to humanistic and social studies, as follows: American Philosophical Society, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, American Antiquarian Society, American Oriental Society, American Philosophical Association, Archaeological Institute of America, Modern Language Association, American Philological Association, American Historical Association, American Economic Association, and American Sociological Society.