

(5) To direct the attention of scientific and technical investigators to the present importance of military and industrial problems in connection with the war, and to aid in the solution of these problems by organizing specific researches.

(6) To gather and collate scientific and technical information at home and abroad, in co-operation with Governmental and other agencies and to render such information available to duly accredited persons.

Under its war organization the National Research Council counted more than one hundred members. It had as officers a chairman, three vice-chairmen, a treasurer, an executive secretary, and two assistant secretaries. With these was associated an executive board. The Council worked through eight so-called *Divisions*. The chairmen and vice-chairmen of these divisions were members of the Council. This however was not the case with the great majority of the members of the Divisions.

The territories covered by the activities of the several Divisions are more or less vaguely suggested by their titles, as follows: (1) General Relations, (2) Military, (3) Engineering, (4) Physics, Mathematics, Astronomy and Geophysics, (5) Chemistry and Chemical Technology, (6) Geology and Geography, (7) Medicine and Related Sciences, (8) Agriculture, Botany, Forestry, Zoology and Fisheries. Under Division (1) are included foreign relations, relations with educational institutions, industrial research, reconstruction problems, etc. Division (2) includes the Research Information Service. This service has branches attached to the embassies in London, Paris and Rome. The appointment of a scientific attaché to an embassy is an innovation for which the National Research Council is responsible. The departure has however been amply justified and the office is likely to be made a permanent institution. One of the functions of a scientific attaché is to keep headquarters in Washington informed on all scientific developments which take place in the country to which his embassy is accredited. Another is to place American army and navy officers in his vicinity in a position to obtain any scientific information which they may require.

The National Research Council has utilized workers in all branches of science. The layman would hardly expect results of military value from an astronomer. Yet a remarkably expeditious method of reducing observations made in sound-ranging is due to a Princeton astronomer who has been working under the auspices of the National Research Council. Astronomers in the United States have also made important discoveries relating to the trajectories of projectiles and the dropping of bombs and an American astronomer is said to have perfected a new instrument which will be of great use to navigators whether on the sea or in the air.

Another surprise for the layman is to be found in the effective war service rendered by the psychologists. At the suggestion of the National Research Council a psychological examination of the troops was undertaken. This proved a great success and sufficed in many cases to determine in advance that it would be impossible to fit a man for a given post.

Until the close of hostilities the activities of the National Research Council were almost wholly absorbed by matters relating directly to the war. It is now re-organizing and has already adopted a new constitution under which, among other