

ABSTRACTS FROM THE INFORMATION SERVICE OF THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN MEN AND IDEAS

"Aid to Biological Abstracts is in harmony with a guiding policy which leads the Foundation to encourage in many ways a constant exchange of knowledge and suggestion among the various countries of the world. This commerce of ideas, unhampered by tariffs, is carried on through personal intercourse and printed page. Thus the Foundation stations representatives in foreign countries grants fellowships for graduate study, invites individuals and commissions to make study trips to countries other than their own, sends visiting professors abroad, distributes bulletins of information about medical education, supplies in emergencies scientific literature to medical libraries, and maintains a steady volume of international correspondence about public health medical education, nurse, training, and allied subjects.

"During the year 1925 the Foundation, through its own or other agencies, contributed to the maintenance of 842 fellowships, held by representatives from forty-four different countries. Of these fellowships, 365 were foreign, *i. e.*, their holders crossed national boundaries. Of the remainder, twenty-nine were held by Americans studying in the United States, 404 were resident fellowships for graduate study, and forty-four were emergency resident scholarships for certain temporary needs. As to geographical distribution, 408 fellowships were assigned to Europe, 241 to the Americas, and 193 to the Orient. In a general way the distribution reflected the co-operative activities of the Foundation for the fellowships are not regarded as an end in themselves but as means to constructive aid. They are granted only to selected individuals of unusual promise for special professional training in preparation for officially guaranteed administrative, research, or teaching positions in government or university services. The total sum spent upon fellowships in 1925 was \$792,655.

"International commissions and individual guests during 1925 included: eleven health officers from Canada, Trinidad, Porto Rico, Austria, Denmark, the Irish Free State, and Ceylon; eight represent-

atives of medical schools from Brazil, France, and Siam; and nine leaders in nurse training, from England, Canada, the United States, Rumania, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, and Austria. In addition, two visiting professors were sent to Peking Union Medical College. In connection with this subject of international intercourse it is pertinent to add that for a number of years the Foundation through the International Health Board, has contributed substantially to the interchanges of health officers which are organized by the Health Committee of the League of Nations. In 1925 under League auspices 128 medical officers from fifty-eight different countries participated in these interchanges and similar meetings. It thus appears that during the year nearly 600 specialists went from one country to another either wholly or chiefly with the aid of Foundation funds."

THE BY-PRODUCTS OF TEAM-WORK

"In this story of international co-operation in research, medical education, public health, the development of the biological sciences, the reader may have missed familiar allusions to mutual understanding, good will and world-wide-peace. The reticence is due to no lack of interest in these things but rather to the belief that they are by nature peculiarly elusive when directly and consciously pursued. Like culture, refinement, good taste, *esprit de corps*, they seem to be precious by-products rather than ends in themselves. Leaving to others the purposeful promotion of amity among the nations, the Rockefeller Foundation fixes attention upon common interest of all peoples, in the development of science and its application to health and welfare. By fostering intercourse among scientists through travel and print, by helping each nation to put its characteristic contributions at the service of all, by deepening the conviction that there are great causes in which all have equal concern, by helping to make co-operation and comradeship easy and habitual, the Rockefeller Foundation seeks in its chosen field to realize the purpose of its charter: the well-being of mankind throughout the world."