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NRC
Research Instit. of
Chem & Physics200
NRC
1919Notes - RF - Physics and Chemistry

Meeting of December 5, 1917: *** 6. (from forecast of policy) "National efficiency will be tested by intense competition after the war. The Foundation's Health Work will be an important contribution. It has been suggested that an Institute of Physics and Chemistry might be made a source of enormous National value. Modern industry depends upon the development of the physical and chemical sciences. Merely 'practical' research tends to defeat itself. The cultivation of pure science is essential to the best practical results. The officers are planning to investigate this proposal with the utmost care."

NOTE: A "Proposal for the Endowment of Research in Physics and Chemistry" on NRC stationery - undated and unsigned, filed 1918, presents the arguments used from the beginning and a fully developed plan for co-operation of Educational institutions, RF and NRC (reads like James R. Angell's writing). See Note below

Meeting of February 27, 1918: *** "(Inquiries are being made of a group of the leading chemists and physicians as to the need of a new and separate research institution, the existing research resources of the country, the possibilities of developing Government research laboratories, of industrial corporation cooperation, etc.)"

Meeting of February 26, 1919: The "creation of an independent Institute of Research in Physics and Chemistry with its own personnel, plant and endowment" was offered for consideration as against "utilization of a small group of existing universities which are best equipped for research." (the latter alternative included organization of work by a board to be appointed by NRC and a system of Research Fellowships).

NOTE: James R. Angell, Chairman, NRC in 1919

The Foundation's appropriation(s) and pledges totaling \$500,000 for fellowships were made April 9, 1919.

At an Executive Committee meeting held June 16, 1919, \$20,000 was appropriated to the National Research Council for the Division of Physical Sciences, for traveling and other expenses of a sub-committee during 1919. The objective was correlation and stimulation of research. On December 3, 1919, a second \$20,000 was appropriated; and December 1, 1920, a final \$15,000 was given, to "1) extend the work of a few of the particularly successful committees; 2) to form more committees (in particular in borderland problems, such as those in Bio-physics); 3) make possible a thorough test of the usefulness of this method of correlating work on common or allied research problems."