

Once-Scorned Research Now Vital Function

By DR. ROBERT M. BERSI
 One hundred and six years ago, Yale gave the first American Ph.D.; but until the beginning of the First World War the majority of young Americans who aspired to be scholars or scientists went abroad to study, chiefly to Germany. There they learned about the vital significance of research, a function which American institutions of higher education had all but ignored until well after the Civil War.

Research has such fabulous prestige today that people generally believe that it has deep roots in American universities, but the fact is that

seaboard. As late as 1909, however, a scientist wrote about the University of Minnesota that "the regents generally regarded science as a private fad of a professor, like collecting etchings or playing the piano, and they rarely interfered with it so long as he did not ask for money."

TODAY, IN contrast, money for research flows into colleges and universities in such colossal quantities from foundations, government, and industry that research threatens to swamp the no-less-important teaching function.

Today, through fundamental research, our colleges and universities produce the bulk of the new basic knowledge needed for understanding the universe and man and for improving the standard of living. As I indicated earlier, the United States once lagged far behind in research productivity; but it now has a firm grip on first place in both the physical and biological sciences. During the first decade of this century, only one American won a Nobel prize in these fields; but during the half decade of 1951-56, Americans won eighteen, Britons six, and Germans four. The

United States has acquired more Nobel laureates in science since their inauguration, in fact, than any other nation and twelve times as many as Russia.

IN A RECENT article in Science, further, a member of the staff of the National Science

Foundation reports an extensive study of European biology and predicts that American leadership in that and other scientific subjects will continue because of our superior methods of university organization. Whether or not his judgment will stand the test of time, American in-

stitutions of higher education have made brilliant progress since the opening of Johns Hopkins University eighty-five years ago. It constitutes one of their most valuable assets and also helps account for their high reputation both nationally and internationally.



DR. R. M. BERSI

It did not begin to be recognized as significant, never mind essential, until the opening of Johns Hopkins University in 1876.

THAT SAME year the United States celebrated its first 100 years as a nation, and one of the writers of an article in a series reviewing the state of American affairs observed that the United States had not at that time a single scientist of first rank.

Another writer reported that only one American journal devoted to pure science had yet been established, and one of the few Harvard professors who undertook research told President Eliot (of Harvard) that he had to write up his findings in German for publication in a German chemical journal if he wanted them published at all. In short, research had low status and scant support in this country.

THE GREAT majority of American professors and administrators at the time agreed with Benjamin Jowett, the famous headmaster of Balliol College, Oxford, who scoffed: "Research! A mere excuse for idleness: it never achieved, and never will achieve, any results of the slightest value."

Johns Hopkins, Chicago, Stanford, and other newly-established universities combated this short-sighted point of view; and so did the older institutions on the eastern



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Top Lawyer To Retire

Erling J. Hovden, Los Angeles County public defender, today announced plans to retire May 1 after 37 years of service to the county. Hovden, who joined the public defender's staff in June, 1930, was appointed public defender in 1963 after serving 14 years as the chief deputy.

A native of Norway, he is a graduate of St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn., and received his law degree from Northwestern University.

Gets New Post

Irvin G. Pieper of Redondo Beach has been assigned as business development officer in the California Division, Business Development, of Crocker - Citizens National Bank. He has been assistant manager of the Sepulveda-Artesia Branch.

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| REGULAR CUT Rump Roast L.B. 68¢ | SOIL OR BRAISE Plate Beef L.B. 10¢ |
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| BONELESS Top Round or Cube Steak L.B. 98¢ | U.S.D.A. CHOICE LAMB SQUARE CUT Shoulder Roast L.B. 38¢ |
| TENDERAY BRAND BEEF Rib Steaks L.B. 79¢ | U.S.D.A. CHOICE Lamb Breast L.B. 10¢ |
| BROIL OR FRY Club Steak L.B. 89¢ | MIXTURE OF BEEF & LAMB Lamburger L.B. 38¢ |
| MEATY BEEF 7-Bone Roast L.B. 47¢ | U.S.D.A. CHOICE LAMB 7-BONE Shoulder Chops L.B. 58¢ |
| TENDERAY BRAND BEEF 0-Bone Roast L.B. 57¢ | 0-BONE CHOPS, LB. 99¢ FRESH THIGHS OR DRUMSTICKS Fryer Parts FRESH-FRYER BREASTS, LB. 89¢ |

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| MARKET BASKET Ham Loaf 1-LB. PKG. 59¢ |
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| MARSHBURN CRINKLE CUT Carrots 84-OZ. PKG. 29¢ | 1' |
| ROSE ROYAL FROZEN Cheese Pie 16-OZ. EACH 65¢ | 4' |
| SWANSON FROZEN BEEF, CHICKEN OR TURKEY Meat Pie 8-OZ. EACH 25¢ | 4' |
| ORE IDA FROZEN CRINKLE CUT POTATOES-OR French Fries 5-LB. BAG 97¢ | 2' |
| BANQUET FROZEN SLICED BEEF OR Sliced Turkey 8-OZ. BAG 32¢ | 1' |
| EGG FROZEN Waffles 5-OZ. PKG. 14¢ | 2' |
| INTERNATIONAL FROZEN BUTTERMILK Pancake Batter 16-OZ. CTN. 36¢ | 3' |
| KEANS FROZEN Strawberries 18-OZ. PKG. 27¢ | 3' |
| RICH'S FROZEN BAVARIAN CREAM PUFFS, PKG. OF 6 OR Chocolate Eclairs 54¢ | 5' |
| YAN DE KAMP FROZEN Cheese Enchiladas 2½-OZ. PKG. 35¢ | 4' |
| KOLD KUT FROZEN CREAMED CHICKEN OR Sirloin Tips 14-OZ. PKG. 63¢ | 2' |