

(b) when the need for financial assistance is demonstrated; and (c) when a definite plan for future work has been presented. Every applicant will be required to submit (1) a careful statement of the proposed plan of work; (2) such parts as are already completed; (3) a statement of the ultimate scope and object of the study; (4) a statement of the sum of money desired; (5) the date when the applicant expects to be free to continue his work; (6) the probable date of completion; (7) the applicant's professional record, including men under whom he has worked, and their endorsement of his application; and (8) a record of other prior pending applications for aid from this or other agencies. Applications should be sent to the office of the Council, 50 East 42nd Street, New York City. The next meeting of the Council's committee on grants-in-aid is scheduled for the middle of June.

Encyclopaedia of the Social Sciences. The following report is based upon printed reports of progress prepared by the editor-in-chief, Professor E. R. A. Seligman, and the assistant editor, Dr. Alvin S. Johnson, for the board of directors at its first meeting on December 15, 1927. It will be recalled that the enterprise, as outlined by Professor Seligman, following the meetings of a joint committee which was and is composed of three representatives of each of the participating associations (formerly seven and now ten), involves the publication of about ten volumes at an estimated expenditure of \$600,000, and with a time limit of between five and seven years. The editor-in-chief has personally raised practically all of the money needed, and in May, 1927, the joint committee held a meeting in New York, at which plans were definitely approved and steps taken for organization of the staff and board of directors. The staff includes Dr. Alvin S. Johnson as assistant editor, Dr. Alexander Goldenweiser as associate, and Miss Mary E. Gleason as secretary. For legal advice, the firm of Sullivan and Cromwell, New York, was retained, and the enterprise has been incorporated as Encyclopaedia of Social Sciences, Inc. The board of directors is composed of twenty-one members, eight lay and thirteen academic, the American Political Science Association being represented by Professor John A. Fairlie. The remaining members of the corporation are the members of the former joint committee, on which the three representatives of the Political Science Association are Professors Fairlie and William B. Munro and Mr. J. H. Logan. On the board of advisory editors Drs. Charles A. Beard and Frank J. Goodnow are responsible for political science.

The uses of the encyclopaedia are conceived as threefold: (1) to provide a synopsis for the scholar of the progress that has been made in the various fields of social science; (2) to furnish an assemblage or repository of facts and principles for the use of the legislator, the editor, the business man, and all who are interested in keeping informed on recent investigation and accomplishment; and (3) to constitute a center of authoritative information for the creation of sound public opinion on the major questions which lie at the foundation of future progress and world development.

Though the work is primarily American, and in management distinctively so, the most distinguished scholars of the whole world will be asked to participate. To this end, Professor Seligman interviewed European scholars in the more important universities from Oslo to Florence in the summer of 1927. The heartiness of the coöperation offered him was an explicit recognition that this project would be of signal importance to the progress of the social sciences throughout the world.

The work thus far done by the assistant editor and his staff has resulted in certain definite plans of procedure. A list of topics for the entire encyclopaedia has been assembled and tentative plans made for the treatment and for the space valuation of each topic. It has become clear, through the actual analysis of material, that the present divisions between the social sciences lose their distinctness and rigidity. The assistant editor predicts that when the encyclopaedia is written no one will be able to determine what proportion of the total space has gone to each science. The content of the work and the method of dealing with such allied fields as art, philology, and religion remain to be definitely worked out; but the approach is through the topics to be included rather than the branches of knowledge into which they might be expected to fall. Compactly organized topics are planned, instead of extended discussions of whole phases of a subject; and the typical article will be brief, ranging perhaps from 500 to 5,000 words. To give unity, an extended introduction is proposed, which will include, among other topics related to the plan and purpose of the publication, (1) a history of the social sciences, analyzing by periods from the time of the Greeks the chief content, the institutional situation, the general movement of thought, and the methods employed; (2) an analysis of terminology, historical and comparative; and (3) a rigorously selected bibliography.

As an alternative to having the bulk of the work done by the staff,

or, on the other hand, to assigning it in large sections to editorial contributors who would be expected to sublet the actual composition of the several articles to others, the plan is to make assignments directly from the central office. The method is a laborious one, but it is believed that it will tend to render the whole enterprise more truly coöperative and to secure better collaboration of the authors in thinking through the relations of the sciences and the evolution of social scientific ideas, and in other phases of the undertaking in which joint effort is essential. The expectation is that assignments will have been made for the first two volumes early in 1928, and the appearance of the first volume is forecast for the spring of 1929, a little less than two years from the time of the actual inception of the enterprise.

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Social Science Abstracts. The Social Science Research Council announces plans for the publication of a new monthly journal to be known as *Social Science Abstracts*. These plans are the result of five years of study by a committee of the Council which has canvassed the situation with respect to the needs, resources, and purposes to be served by a comprehensive abstract service in the social sciences. A substantial subsidy has been provided for a period of ten years, until the journal has become self-supporting through subscriptions.

In its report to the Council at Hanover, New Hampshire, in August, 1927, the Committee on Social Science Abstracts stated the need for abstracts in the following paragraphs:

“The founding of the Social Science Research Council is itself a recognition of the fact that leaders in the social sciences are convinced that research in these disciplines is greatly in need of stimulation and direction, and further, that the scholars in these fields should be brought closer together for the consideration and solution of common problems. On the other hand, the deliberations of the Committee on Social Science Abstracts, and much of the information gathered by it, clearly bring out the fact that one great obstacle to the doing of truly scientific research in these fields lies in the tremendous mass of the materials to be considered and in the relative, if not quite complete, lack of appropriate tools for attacking it. There are so many books, pamphlets, and reports constantly being published and so many periodicals, both scientific and semi-scientific, steadily pouring from printing houses both here and abroad, that it is physically impossible for any