

ENDOWMENTS OF NUFFIELD FOUNDATION

TEN models of a new type of reflecting microscope, designed by Dr. C. R. Burch of Bristol University, have been built with the aid of a grant made by the Nuffield Foundation. This interesting fact was recently published in the *British Medical Journal*. The new appliance will, in the main, be used for research on carcinogenetic substances. It differs from the old type of refraction microscope and refracting ultra-violet ray microscope, in that it has two aspheric surfaces instead of one.

Many millions of pounds have already been given by Lord Nuffield for philanthropic and scientific purposes, including a £ 2,000,000 (Rs. 2.66 crores) grant to Oxford University. In all, Lord Nuffield has made gifts totalling about £ 16,000,000 (Rs. 21.30 crores). The most important of these is perhaps the foundation which bears his name, the Nuffield foundation, which was established at the beginning of 1943 and endowed with Ordinary Stock Units of Morris Motors Ltd., of which Lord Nuffield is the founder, to the value of £ 10,000,000 (Rs. 13.31 crores).

THREE MAIN OBJECTS

The three main objects of the Foundation are :

- (a) The advancement of health and the prevention and relief of sickness...in particular...by medical research and teaching and by the organisation and development of medical and health services.
- (b) The advancement of social well-being, in particular, by scientific research and the organisation, development and improvement of technical and commercial education including the training of teachers and provision of scholarships and prizes.
- (c) The care and comfort of the aged poor.

It might be assumed that such foundations would be superfluous in Britain with her national health service and highly developed system of education, but as all these things have to be paid for out of the taxpayer's pocket, the money required for research purposes has to be handled very carefully. At times scientific research work meets with failure or gives results which have no immediate practical value. The financial risks involved in such work cannot be borne by the State and it is here that the Nuffield Foundation steps in by assisting prudent pioneer work, and at the same time working hand in hand with the Government departments concerned.

STUDY OF RHEUMATISM

During the first four years of its existence, the Foundation made grants totalling £ 1,182,820 (Rs. 1.57 crores). One of the main branches of medical research to benefit from the Nuffield Foundation was the study of chronic rheumatism. Statistics published by the Ministry of Health for the year 1922 showed that rheumatism was responsible for one-sixth of the cases of sickness arising among insured workers, that £ 2,000,000 (Rs. 2.63 crores) had to be paid out in sickness benefit and that there was a loss of 3,000,000 weeks of working time.

The new national health insurance, which covers the whole of Britain, estimates that one-third of the payments made will be in respect of chronic rheumatism. When the Ministry of Health recommended the setting up of the first Rheumatism Centre in 1945, the Foundation made a grant of £ 100,000 (Rs. 13.31 lakhs) to the University of Manchester for the establishment of a diagnostic and research centre at the Manchester Royal Infirmary.

A similar sum was given to the Institute of Child Health set up in 1944 by the University of London. Durham and Glasgow Universities each received £ 40,000 (Rs. 5.32 lakhs). Manchester University received £ 70,000 (Rs. 9.31 lakhs) for industrial health research. Durham specialised mainly in research on the health of coal-mining and ship-building workers. Finally, £ 150,000 (Rs. 19.96 lakhs) was paid out to encourage suitable persons to undertake an academic career in dentistry.

Natural Sciences, too, have not been forgotten; Birmingham and Glasgow Universities have received grants for research purposes in nuclear physics and radiation, while Birkbeck College, London, has set up a research laboratory on bio-molecular studies under Professor J. D. Bernal, F.R.S.

TRAVELLING FELLOWSHIPS

In all £ 35,000 (Rs. 4.65 lakhs) has been granted by the Foundation to the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy, to be devoted to a scheme of travelling fellowships and scholarships for teachers and, £ 40,000 (Rs. 5.32 lakhs) to a scheme of research. Similar amounts have been given to university laboratories and other scientific institutions for improvement of their equipment.

We cannot go into detail here regarding all the various branches of research encouraged by the Nuffield Foundation. It suffices to say that studies in the sphere of social science, political and economic planning, population problems, statistics and the law will all be encouraged, to say nothing of the generous grants devoted to the improvement of education and the accommodation and care of old people.