

## INDIVIDUAL WHITE AWARDS

ANDERSON, BLACK, CALDWELL, HARRIS, HUMPHREY, KNIFFIN, and MISS PORTER were immediate unanimous awards in the white group.

Miss Porter is the ideal candidate - the most completely acceptable that has ever appeared before this Committee. Her record as a student is almost fantastic. While it is true that her undergraduate record at the University of Alabama was marred by three B grades out of an otherwise straight series of twenty A's, her graduate year was A in two courses and AA in all the others. The university explained that it had no means in its regular marking system of showing the competence of this student and hence had resorted to the double A as indicating that she excelled anything in their experience. Her project was definite and clear-cut. Her endorsers ranged with equal enthusiasm from Secretary Wallace to tenant families with whom she has been working in Mississippi. Her age, 30, is the exact optimum for fellowship grants. With all these attainments, Miss Porter is not a wizened shrew, but a most attractive young woman. When we reached her name, the Committee rose in a body and salaamed.

Several candidates this year raised sharply the question: "What is a Southerner?" FOREMAN, FRANKLIN, and LOEMKER were born in the North. They have, however, made their careers in the South and are working on distinctly southern problems. We put the question to their southern colleagues and received the unanimous answer that these men are regarded as Southerners and are among the present important assets of the South. Each of these men is so high in his field and in his influence that we felt we would be injuring our own program if we excluded them on any technicality.

EASTERBY is an example of a man who has been doing fine work for years with inadequate support at a minor institution. A pillar of sound

scholarship and race tolerance, we hope the fellowship may enable this man to take a position more in keeping with his abilities.

HART is a brilliant biology teacher at the normal college that the Fund has been working with at Carrollton, Georgia. As a pure scientist his record is not as high as some others, but he has a gift of making science live for undergraduates and prospective teachers. Since the teaching of science is in the doldrums in many schools and junior colleges, we are glad to recognize a man who gives his students some understanding of the scientific spirit and who may be able to devise methods whereby the teaching of biology can be made more generally the living topic it deserves to be.

KING and MOONEY are youngsters. Their records are brilliant and the men with whom they have worked rate them so high that after the most careful sifting the Committee was convinced that they were good bets.

SHANNON is the first white appointment in the fine arts. The Guggenheim art jury gave him top rating for the promise he has already shown in his paintings of southern Negro types.

## SOME NON-AWARDS

It is impossible in most cases to state categorically the reasons for not giving awards. It is usually a case of relative rather than absolute values. Decisions in most cases are made not only after personal interviews but even more largely on the basis of the testimony of professors or others with whom the candidates have done their chief work. One or two instances of exceedingly promising candidates who did not receive awards show the kind of considerations that enter into decisions, although these cases are probably more in the nature of exceptions than of the rule.

A brilliant young psychologist at Tuskegee was finally rejected because of testimony as to the difficulties in his personality and adjustments. In spite of his unusual scholastic record, the Committee felt the investment would not be sound because of personal considerations.

A number of preachers were very sympathetically considered. In the end no awards were made in this field, partly because we could not think of any kind of further study that would be really helpful to these men. If they simply took additional theology, their public influence would certainly not be improved. On the other hand, if they were given an opportunity for general study in history or the sciences - which would probably be the best thing for their personal development - they might easily be ruined as preachers.

In the field of education we have run into much the same difficulty. Additional formal courses at such places as Teachers College are certainly of little avail. Where we have found people such as Baker of last year's list, who were prepared to do some special thing such as the writing of school texts in science, we have been glad to give opportunities.

Also where people who really had a grasp of what education was all about needed either additional study or some special experience, we have been ready to make that available, though we have usually done this through the rural school funds rather than through the formal fellowships, as, for example, the special experience of Mrs. Duncan in the racial situation in New Mexico and specific instruction in methods of teaching reading to several students at Iowa and Chicago.

There were a number of exceedingly promising candidates in mathematics and the social sciences who were eliminated simply because others in these fields stood so much higher in every way. In fact, non-awards in general are not a reflection upon the persons concerned so much as a tribute to the successful competitors.