

Fellowships

Fellowships (a) for Negroes and (b) for white Southerners are being administered in accordance with the policies recommended by the special committee on fellowships and approved by the trustees last autumn. A relatively small sum (\$26,375) was expended on fellowships during the past year since the new program was just getting started. It is expected that approximately \$100,000 a year can be used effectively in fellowships for the ablest and most promising individuals in the two groups designated.

Under present procedure, awards are made once a year by a special committee consisting of Dr. W. W. Alexander, Dr. Charles S. Johnson, Mr. Henry Allen Moe of the Guggenheim Foundation, and the President of the Fund. Raymond Paty, fellowship director for the Fund, meets with the committee but does not vote on the selections. The committee last year, in addition to many hours of individual reading of applications and personal interviewing of candidates, devoted two sessions, comprising a total of three full days in Chicago, to the selection of forty-nine fellows, thirty of them Negroes and nineteen white Southerners. The final choices were made from some two hundred candidates who had been sorted out by preliminary examination from eight hundred and fifty qualified applicants.

Within the general terms laid down by the trustees, candidates were selected on their individual merits as evidenced by their records in scholarship, the appraisal of men who had been closely associated with their work, and any other indications that could be ob-

tained as to their ability and promise. Before awards were made every candidate who was being favorably considered was interviewed either by the fellowship director or by a member of the committee. In most cases the successful candidates had been seen personally by at least three members of the group. Mr. Moe, from his long and successful experience in directing the Guggenheim fellowships, was exceedingly helpful in suggesting procedures and in formulating standards for judging the candidates. He helped also by submitting the records of many of the candidates, especially in music and the arts, to the advisers who aid in the choice of Guggenheim fellows. Mr. Alexander and Mr. Johnson are peculiarly useful members of the committee because of the encyclopedic knowledge they have of southern institutions and southern scholars, both white and colored.

The awards for the current year, announced at the end of April, were the subject of much favorable comment in the news and editorial columns of southern papers. The fact that the same high standards were applied in the selection of Negro candidates as in the choice of white fellows was a matter of surprise to many commentators and may be a means of calling attention to recent achievements by Negroes. A good deal of interracial interest arose in the course of the selection of candidates and the planning of their studies.

Announcement of the list of fellows was sent to each of the trustees immediately after the final awards were made by the committee. This was followed with a detailed memorandum by Mr. Paty of the procedures which had been followed in administering the fellowship program.

List of awards for the current year are given on following pages. Discussion of these awards by the trustees will be helpful in guiding future policy.