1940

George Edgar Vincent President of the RF from 1917 until 1929.

President in 1940: Raymond B. Fosdick

President’s Review

The year in brief

During 1940 the appropriations of The Rockefeller Foundation amounted to $9,854,497. The income of the Foundation from investments during the year was $7,605,342.81. This income was supplemented by a transfer of $1,150,000 from the principal fund.

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For an organization like The Rockefeller Foundation which over many years has tried to carry on its work regardless offlagsor boundary lines, these are unhappy days. To sit by and watch the disappearance or decadence or, worse, the per- version of institutions of learning which in earlier and better years we were privileged to assist is not an easy assignment. In the decade that followed the war these institutions gave high promise in public health, in medicine, and in the natural and social sciences.

Even more difficult is it to see the brilliant men with whose work we were associated — many of them on fellowships or with grants in aid from the Foundation — now driven from the posts for which they were trained, debarred from their laboratories, some of them fugitives, some in concentration camps, many of them separated from their families, or lost in foreign countries where they sought haven. To these scholars scattered in many lands, whose lives are now a sacrificial testimony to the principle of intellectual freedom, we in this protected hemisphere pay tribute of admiration and homage.

Among the disappointments which organizations like the Foundation have to face in times like these is the fact that it is no longer possible, under the regulations of the United States Treasury Department, to make payments on appropriations for work in the occupied areas of Europe.

This is not said in any criticism of the government regulations. They are undoubtedly essential in the present international situation. But the hardship which they impose is nonetheless real. They constitute one further bit of evidence, if further evidence is needed, of the breakdown in international solidarity which in the realm of scholarship, at least, had becomeavitalfactorof progress.

The development of the war has had the further effect of driving back several of the Foundation's outposts established in connection with its own operating program around the world.

INTO THE NIGHT

In the shadows that are deepening over Europe the lights of learning are fading one by one. The conception of knowledge as an international responsibility has vanished. The free flow of ideas across boundary lines between laboratories and universities has dried up. Everywhere the exigencies of the war have erased the possibility of intellectual and cultural life as that term was understood a few years ago.

As German forces have moved into one country after another a definite pattern has been followed in relation to the universities and other schools. Allowed at first to continue with their work, their teaching and student activities were closely supervised by the German authorities. The supervision involved an attempt to enforce a "cultural program" similar to that already im- posed by the Nazis on German institutions.