

The international character of the institute should also be fully recognized. Although located in America, its field of influence would extend equally to all other countries and it would develop a power for internationalism the value of which could hardly be exaggerated. It is a serious misfortune that, whereas there are thousands of organizations devoted to local history, or to such auxiliary branches as heraldry, genealogy and numismatics, there is nowhere a single one that is dedicated to the historical study of that which is *the greatest common good to all mankind*, the excellent institute in Leipzig being devoted exclusively to the history of medicine. It would place the New World in another light if there could be founded here, especially at this time, an institute which might in the near future become the cradle of new intellectual movement, of a new humanism.

There is already a gratifying interest in the project. Two or three of the finest libraries on the history of science and of its special branches are likely to be given to the institute if it is founded on the lines above set forth.

The following scholars have written to express their interest and sympathy and most of them have promised some kind of collaboration:

Joseph Sweetman Ames, Wilder Dwight Bancroft, Fr. Barry, Alexander Graham Bell, George David Birkhoff, Franz Boas, Marston Taylor Bogert, James Henry Breasted, George Lincoln Burr, Florian Cajori, William Wallace Campbell, Paul Carus, William Ernest Castle, James McKeen Cattell, William Bullock Clark, Frank Wigglesworth Clarke, Thomas Chrowder Chamberlin, Russell Henry Chittenden, William Thomas Councilman, Henry Crew, Harvey Cushing, Charles Benedict Davenport, William Morris Davis, Arthur Louis Day, John Dewey, Leonard Eugene Dickson, Henry Herbert Donaldson, Jesse Walter Fewkes, Edwin Brant Frost, Fielding Hudson Garrison, George Ellery Hale, Granville Stanley Hall, Charles Homer Haskins, Lawrence T. Henderson, T. William Francis Hillebrand, William Ernest Hocking, R. F. Alfred Hoernlé, William Henry Howell, Edward Vermilye Huntington, Ellsworth Huntington, Morris Jastrow, Jr., David Starr Jordan, Louis Charles Karpinski, Arnold Carl Klebs, George

Frederick Kunz, Berthold Laufer, William Libby, Frank Rattray Lillie, Ralph S. Lillie, William Albert Locy, Jacques Loeb, Graham Lusk, Percival Lowell [deceased], Franklin Paine Mall, George Herbert Mead, Samuel James Meltzer, Albert Abraham Michelson, Robert Andrews Millikan, Edward Caldwell Moore, Eliakim Hastings Moore, Ernest Carroll Moore, Arthur Amos Noyes, William Albert Noyes, William Fogg Osgood, George Howard Parker, Ralph Barton Perry, Edward Charles Pickering, Frederick Leslie Ransome, Theodore William Richards, David Riesman, James Harvey Robinson, Julius Sachs, William Thompson Sedgwick, Thomas Jefferson Jackson See, H. M. Sheffer, Paul Shorey, James Thomson Shotwell, David Eugene Smith, Edgar Fahs Smith, Edward Clark Streeter, Henry Osborn Taylor, Harry Walter Tyler, Victor Clarence Vaughan, Addison Emery Verrill, James Joseph Walsh, Arthur Gordon Webster, William Henry Welch, Edmund Beecher Wilson, James Haughton Woods.

In the matter of correspondence the undersigned will act for those interested in the movement until it is seen whether a more definite organization can be effected.

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SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

TECHNICAL AND MEDICAL EDUCATION IN RUSSIA

THE London *Times* states that one of the most striking features of recent educational reform in Russia has been the unusual activity of Count Ignatiev, the ex-minister of education. There has been great need of people of higher education in Russia in two departments especially, the technical and the medical. In November last Count Ignatiev brought before the Duma a scheme for a new university statute introducing far-reaching reforms. Meantime many new technical and medical schools are already being provided for. Ten new technical institutes of various types are in process of organization, and in this connection Count Ignatiev approached the municipalities and Zemstva concerned, with a view to sharing the expense. These technical institutes are to be opened especially in the eastern part of the empire, in Saratov, Vyatka,

Turkestan and Blagoveshchensk. Of the several new universities which are under consideration, the first to be opened will be those of Perm and Rostov-on-the-Don. The scheme for the University of Irkutsk is to be brought before the Duma in the autumn of 1917, and another university in the Far East is planned for either Vladivostok or Habarovsk. All the towns which have been chosen as new centers of education have already voted sums of money, larger or smaller, according to their wealth. Some of the old universities—viz., those of Odessa and Tomsk, have been allowed to increase the number of their students. Perhaps the most marked reforms are in medical education, since Russia is faced with a greater need for medical staff than any other country. A new degree of candidate of medical science has been founded which, together with eight months' hospital training, entitles the holder to practise. The holder of this degree occupies an intermediate place between the fully qualified doctor and the so-called *feldscher* or nurse (male or female), who is allowed to practise in the absence of a doctor. There are also schools for four more classes of medical staff—disinfectors, maternity nurses, nurses for nervous cases and masseurs. These reforms are already being set in motion, and are to be carried out in the course of the next three years.

DINNER IN MANILA TO VISITING SCIENTIFIC MEN

A CORRESPONDENT writes from Manila:

On February 5, 1917, Dr. John A. Brashear, the noted American maker of photographic lenses and silver-on-mirrors, Dr. A. Swasey, president of the firm that made the mounting of the big Cordoba, Lick, Yerkes, Victoria telescopes, and Dr. John R. Freeman, the American hydraulic engineer, were entertained at a lunch given in their honor at the Manila Hotel by prominent scientists and engineers of Manila. To meet in the far-off Philippine Islands so many friends, enthusiastic for astronomy and for the application of modern machinery and methods to engineering problems was a delightful surprise to the distinguished visitors. José Algué, director of the Weather Bureau, welcomed the guests and acted as toastmaster. The speaker of the occasion was a personal friend of Dr. J. A.

Brashear. Speaking of optical instruments made by Brashear, Rev. M. Selga, well known in America for his connection with the leading American observatories, made the following remark: "There is hardly any remarkable astronomical observatory in America that is not equipped either with a silver-on-mirror, or a lens, or a comet-seeker, or an alt-azimuth or a spectrograph constructed by Brashear. The 8" doublet of Swarthmore College Observatory, the 15" of the Dominion Observatory, Ottawa, Canada, the 18" of the Flower Observatory, Philadelphia, Pa., the 20" of Chabot Observatory, Oakland, California, the focus of the astronomical admiration of the visitors at the Panama-Pacific Exhibition, the unique 30" photographic refractor of the Allegheny Observatory are but few among the many high-grade refractors turned out by Brashear. You are all acquainted with the spectrographic investigations of the late Dr. Young, at Princeton, of Dr. G. H. Hale at Kenwood, paving the way for the advance of solar physics and the establishment of the Mt. Wilson Solar Observatory, of Dr. F. Schlesinger at the Allegheny Observatory with the Mellon and Porter spectrograph, of Dr. Frost with the Bruce, of Plaskett at Ottawa, of Dr. Slipper at Flagstaff, and specially of Dr. W. W. Campbell who with the Mills spectrograph has surveyed the northern and southern skies for the spectral characteristics of the stars. Now, one of the vital parts, either the prisms or the lenses, of these unparalleled spectrographs are from Brashear." The guests gathered around the table at 12 o'clock and the steamer was to take the scientific party from Manila to Hongkong at 3 P.M. Few minutes were left to Dr. Brashear to talk on the stars, to Dr. Swasey to give his views about the Far East and to Dr. Freeman to report on the past, present and future condition of the Panama landslides. The speeches were short, but they were a source of pleasure and delight to more than a hundred guests and will be long remembered.

THE KANSAS CITY MEETING OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

As has been already noted in SCIENCE the American Chemical Society will meet at Kansas City from April 10 to 14. The society and hotel headquarters will be at the Hotel Muehlebach. The final and complete program will be sent on or about April 3 to members requesting it. The program of general arrangements is as follows: