

revenue and tariff matters until after the treaty of peace had been acted upon.

During the hearings on the bill the Tariff Commission prepared a report entitled *Information concerning scientific instruments*, which has been recently published. The report brings together a large number of opinions and arguments concerning the tariff on scientific supplies, received from various sections of the Bureau of Standards, from manufacturers and instruments of all kinds and from universities and organizations.

Two distinct questions are involved: (1) Should Congress repeal the privilege, now granted to institutions of learning, of importing supplies free of duty? (2) Should the present rates be increased and imported articles now on the free list be taxed?

The opinions quoted are not analyzed in the report, but the following brief outline will indicate that those interested are still far from being in agreement. (Definite recommendations only are counted.)

1. Of eleven university professors quoted, one favors and ten oppose repeal of the duty-free clause. Of twelve opinions from the Bureau of Standards, five favor and seven oppose repeal. Of seven manufacturers quoted on this subject six favor and one opposes repeal. The Council of the American Chemical Society is quoted in favor of repeal of the duty-free clause, "for a reasonable period of years, at least."

2. Opinions on the subject of the imposition and increase of tariff rates on scientific supplies are quoted as follows: Ten manufacturers, all in favor of higher tariff; eleven sections of the Bureau of Standards, seven in favor and four against. The commission believes that "the extremely diverse nature of the products falling under such a general designation as 'scientific instruments' renders general statements concerning the entire group of little value for the purpose of deciding on any rates of duty related to the competitive conditions which affect individual instruments."

The report also discusses in a general way the status of the domestic industry, imports and exports, tariff history, competitive conditions and war developments.

#### THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

THERE was formally opened at the New York Botanical Garden on November 8 a new Central Display Greenhouse, the gift of Daniel and Murray Guggenheimer, erected at a cost of \$100,000. The gift includes, besides the main house, an adjoining orchid house. The main building is approximately 140 feet long, forty-five feet wide and thirty-five feet high. Among its new features is the glass, which is frosted, thus doing away with the use of screens, previously considered necessary in glasshouses, although more or less of a disfigurement, as they become quickly defaced. The new building has an open concrete floored center, where lectures are to be given.

The central display house will contain plants from South Africa, the southern part of Japan, from South America and from some of the southern states in this country. A special exhibition of plants and flowers was shown. The Horticultural Society of New York held a large flower show in the new greenhouse which is now open to the public. It is on the eastern end of the grounds, near the Allerton Avenue subway station, and will aid in distributing the crowds visiting the gardens, the other group of greenhouses being at the western end of the grounds.

W. Gilman Thompson, president of the board of directors of the garden, opened the exercises and told of the educational work of the garden, a part of which will now be done in the new building. The gift of the greenhouse, he said, with the exception of one by Mrs. Russell Sage, was the largest ever made to the garden. Dr. N. L. Britton, director of the Botanical Garden, and Dr. D. T. MacDougal, director of botanical research, Carnegie Institution of Washington, formerly assistant director made addresses.

#### GIFT TO THE ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

ANNOUNCEMENT is made that Mr. John D. Rockefeller has added \$10,000,000 to his previous endowment of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research. This gift, the largest made by Mr. Rockefeller at one time to the institution, is to meet rapidly growing needs in its many lines of research and in

making new knowledge available in the protection of the public health and in the improved treatment of disease and injury.

By this increase in the endowment, new lines of research will be sustained in biology, chemistry and physics, upon which medical science so largely rests, as well as in medicine itself, as will the study of many practical problems directly relating to diseases in men and animals which are already under way.

The local activities of the Rockefeller Institute in New York are chiefly carried on in the great laboratories and the hospital, which stand high on the bluff facing the East River, between East 64th and 67th Streets, a part of the old Schermerhorn Farm of an earlier day.

Near Princeton, N. J., the institute has a large farm, where it maintains a department of animal pathology. The laboratories and various accessory buildings here are devoted to research on the diseases of animals and effective methods for their prevention and cure, as well as to the study of the bearing of animal diseases upon the health and economic interests of man.

The scientific staff of the Rockefeller Institute numbers sixty-five, most of them highly trained and of large experience in the subjects to which they are exclusively devoted. The institute further employs 310 persons in its technical and general service. It is to the perpetual maintenance of such a group of men and women, with adequate facilities and suitable conditions for their successful work, for the general welfare, that the gifts of Mr. Rockefeller to the institute are devoted.

The scientific staff consists of members, associate members, associates and assistants. The members are:

Simon Flexner, pathology and bacteriology; director of the Laboratories.

Rufus Cole, medicine; director of the Hospital; physician to the Hospital.

Theobald Smith, director of the department of animal pathology.

Alexis Carrel, experimental surgery.

P. A. Levene, chemistry.

Jacques Loeb, experimental biology.

S. J. Meltzer, physiology and pharmacology.

Hideo Noguchi, pathology and bacteriology.

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

CHARLES HENRY HITCHCOCK, for forty years professor of geology at Dartmouth College, died on November 6, at Honolulu, aged eighty-three years.

MR. RICHARD B. MOORE, until recently stationed at the Bureau of Mines' experiment station at Golden, Colorado, has been appointed chief chemist of the bureau, to succeed Dr. C. L. Parsons.

THE degree of doctor of philosophy has been conferred upon Dr. Bohumil Shimek, professor of physiological botany in the State University of Iowa, by the University of Prague in appreciation of his scientific work. Dr. Shimek lectured in Prague in 1914.

VILHJALMUR STEFANSSON has been awarded the La Roquette Gold Medal of the Geographical Society of Paris, in recognition of the discoveries made by the Canadian Arctic Expedition under his command during the years 1913-18.

THE Royal Institute of Venice has awarded the Querini-Stampalia prize to Professor G. D. Birkhoff, of Harvard University, for his papers on "The restricted problem of three bodies," and "Dynamical systems with two degrees of freedom."

PROFESSORS P. BOUTROUX and J. H. M. Wedderburn returned from military service to Princeton University at the opening of the present academic year.

WE learn from *Nature* that Mr. Francis Jeffrey Bell, who has just retired from the Natural History Museum under the age-limit, entered the service of the trustees in 1878, when the zoological department was still at Bloomsbury and Professor Owen the superintendent. Mr. Bell is emeritus professor of comparative anatomy in King's College, London, and he served for many years as one of the secretaries of the Royal Microscopical Society, the *Journal* of which he also edited. In 1898 he acted as general secretary of the International Congress of Zoology.

PROFESSOR S. H. VINES proposes to retire from the Sherardian professorship of botany