result as final; some people had suggested that the shift might be veiled by a systematic outward movement of the photosphere, but as Dr. St. John made measures both at the sun's center and limbs, that suggestion was not tenable. Professor Eddington admitted that the failure threw doubt on the validity of some of the steps which led Einstein to his gravitational result; but he contended that the two other successes indicated that the result was right, even if reached by a wrong method.

There was some discussion on Professor Lindemann's method of photographing stars in daylight by the use of red screens. However, the eclipse method seems more trustworthy, and the Astronomer Royal expressed the hope that the eclipse of 1922 might be observed with equatorials. The star-field is not so rich as in the late eclipse, but with longer exposure much fainter stars could be recorded. The eclipse-track crosses the Maldive Islands and Australia, and is therefore fairly accessible.

A. C. D. Crommelin

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

INVESTIGATIONS ON INFLUENZA

The Metropolitan Life Insurance Company has provided resources to carry on investigations into the cause, mode of transmission and treatment of influenza and its complications.

A commission has been appointed consisting of Dr. G. W. McCoy, director of the hygienic laboratory, U. S. Public Health Service; Dr. W. H. Park, director of the research laboratory, New York City Department of Health; Dr. Lee K. Frankel, third vice-president of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company; Dr. A. S. Knight, medical director of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company; Dr. M. J. Rosenau, chairman, professor of preventive medicine and hygiene, Harvard Medical School. Later, Professor E. O. Jordan, of the University of Chicago, and Dr. W. H. Frost, of the U. S. Public Health Service, were invited to join in the work.

Work has already been begun in Washington, New York, Boston and Chicago and may be extended to other places as occasion arises. In this way correlation and cooperation are effected. The object of the commission is primarily to study the cause, mode of spread and treatment of influenza and its complications. Studies are now being made upon the prophylactic value of vaccines against influenza, common colds and pneumonia, properly controlled. Laboratory researches are being conducted to determine the cause of these infections, and a special study is being made of the bacterial flora of the upper respiratory tract in health and disease. Special consideration is being given to the possibility of a filterable virus being the cause of any of these infections. Cooperation and suggestions have been invited from health officers and others interested.

PROBLEMS OF FOOD AND NUTRITION

The National Research Council has formed a special committee on Food and Nutrition Problems, composed of a group of the most eminent physiological chemists and nutrition experts of the country. The members are: Carl Alsberg, chief, bureau of chemistry, Department of Agriculture; H. P. Armsby, director of the institute of animal nutrition, Pennsylvania State College; Isabel Bevier, director of department of home economics, University of Illinois; E. B. Forbes, chief, department of nutrition, Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station; W. H. Jordan, director, N. Y. Agricultural Experiment Station; Graham Lusk, professor of physiology, Cornell University Medical College; C. F. Langworthy, chief of office of home economics, Department of Agriculture; E. V. McCollum, professor of biochemistry, School of Public Health and Hygiene, Johns Hopkins University; L. B Mendel, professor of physiological chemistry, Yale University; J. R. Murlin, professor of physiology and director of the department of vital economics, University of Rochester; R. A. Pearson, president of the Iowa State Agricultural College; H. C. Sherman, professor of food chemistry, Columbia University; A. E. Taylor, Rush professor