

angles, so to speak, to the administrative organization, which would bring the collective judgment of experts to bear upon the choice of scientific problems and upon the adoption of adequate methods for their solution and which would not be in any sense antagonistic to the official organization.

Much progress has already been made in this direction. For example The American Society of Animal Production has formulated a valuable set of standard methods for the conduct of feeding experiments, while the very effective work of the War Board of the American Society of Phytopathologists is familiar to us all and still another illustration is the Association of Southern Agricultural Workers. But the most significant and comprehensive achievement in the organization of American research is one which has been prominently before the scientific public and with which we are all familiar, viz; the National Research Council. From the point of view advocated in this paper its organization is peculiarly significant because it was effected by the voluntary initiative of the investigators themselves and because, therefore, it is thoroughly democratic in form and has been careful both in its initiation and development to conserve the individuality of the research men. The past successes of this wise combination of organization and individualism demonstrate its essential soundness and constitute the best guarantee of its future achievements.

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### SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

#### CONFERENCE OF BRITISH RESEARCH ASSOCIATIONS

A CONFERENCE of research associations—the second of a series—organized by the British Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, was held according to *Nature* on December 12 in the lecture-theater of the Institution of Civil Engineers. The Right Hon. A. J. Balfour, Lord President of the Council, appropriately presided, the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research

being a committee of the Privy Council. Mr. Balfour, who was warmly greeted on his first public appearance in his capacity of head of the department, delivered a short introductory address on the national need for scientific research, especially in its application to industry. Three points emphasized by Mr. Balfour were that, though man does not live by bread alone, the amelioration of the material lot of mankind can come only through progress in scientific knowledge; that we must not imitate, but follow the example of the Germans in realizing a helpful and close alliance between science and industry; and that in the prosecution of this aim the paramount interests of pure science must not be overlooked. Papers were afterwards read by Major H. J. W. Bliss, director of the British Research Association for the Woollen and Worsted Industries, on "Research Associations and Consulting Work and the Collection and Indexing of Information," and by Dr. W. Lawrence Balls on "The Equipment of Research Laboratories." There was a general discussion on the subject-matter of the two papers, from which it was clear that, although there is a large common measure of agreement among the different associations, there is also enough variety of circumstance and character to make it desirable for each association to work out its own salvation in many problems of organization and method. It is the intention of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research to continue periodically these conferences of research associations. As the department, in fostering the associations, is engaged in a novel adventure in government enterprise, the research associations have to set sail on uncharted seas, without maps or precedent experience to guide them, and these periodical conferences must be of great help to them in mapping out their courses and taking their soundings.

#### THE MEDICAL STRIKE IN SPAIN

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association states that the town of Jerez de la Frontera, which has a world reputation on account of its famous wines, has just witnessed the first general strike of physicians. This

strike originated because the municipal authorities, disregarding all statutory provisions and trusting to political influence, failed to keep their pledges, and the salaries due the employees finally amounted to 1,000,000 pesetas (about \$200,000). When the physicians became tired of seeing that, in this period of better compensation for labor, they were the only ones who could bring home the wages they had earned, they unanimously decided to go out on strike. The mayor and the members of the town council were very indignant at this action, their arguments running somewhat as follows: "It is very strange that the physicians should be so rebellious, and especially now, when the town council has just spent several thousand dollars for celebrations and bull fights, thus showing our desire to please the people and attract foreigners. The physicians do not bear in mind the fact that we can not pay their salaries, since to do so would be to show partiality in their favor; in a place where no one is paid, it is an imposition to ask for money. If we have spent so much for festivals it has been only because the bull fighters and actors would not have come otherwise; but every one understands that if we could have got out of paying them, we would not have paid them either." These reasons did not influence the physicians, who suspended all official relations with the municipal authorities, and who, while continuing their care of the poor, refused to submit any reports, would not sign any official certificates, or attend the municipal dispensaries, and let public opinion and the government decide the matter. At first the local authorities threatened the physicians, at whose head was Dr. Aranda, one of the most prominent surgeons of Andalusia. The physicians proved adamant against all kinds of pressure that was brought to bear on them for over a month. At last the government decided to enforce the law; it dismissed the municipal council and appointed new counselors so as to help solve the situation. The result has been that the physicians will immediately receive one half of the amount due them, and the balance very shortly. This is the first medical strike that ever took place in Spain. It has received

support not only in the country in general, but also at the hands of the government.

#### RESOLUTIONS OF THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

THE attention of the Anthropological Society of Washington having been called to an open letter published in *The Nation* of December 20 by Dr. Franz Boas under the title "Scientists as Spies," and after said article was read and duly considered, the following resolution was adopted and ordered to be submitted to the American Anthropological Association at its meeting in Boston; to Section H of the American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting in St. Louis; and to the Archeological Institute of America at its meeting in Pittsburgh, with a request that suitable action be taken by these associations. Also, that a copy of this resolution be sent to *The Nation* and SCIENCE, with a request for its publication.

*Resolved:* That the article in question unjustly criticizes the President of the United States and attacks the fundamental principles of American democracy;

That the reflections contained in the article fall on all American anthropologists who have been anywhere outside the limits of the United States during the last five years;

That the information thus given is liable to have future serious effects on the work of all anthropologists outside the boundaries of the United States; and

That the accusation, given such prominent publicity and issuing from such a source, will doubtless receive wide attention and is liable to prejudice foreign governments against all scientific men coming from this country to their respective territories, particularly if under government auspices; therefore

*Be it resolved,* that in the opinion of the council of the Anthropological Society of Washington, the publication of the article in question was unwarranted and will prove decidedly injurious to the interests of American scientists in general; that the author has shown himself inconsiderate to the best interests of his American colleagues who may be obliged to carry on research in foreign countries; and that his action, therefore, deserves our emphatic disapproval.