

the changes to a slow reduction of factorial potency, culminating in complete factorial loss. While in by far the majority of forms of life the germ factors are static, may there not be others in which certain of the factors are increasing in potency and some in which they are dwindling?

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### SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

#### CENTRAL HEADQUARTERS FOR BRITISH CHEMISTS

At a dinner held in honor of Lord Moulton on July 21, Sir William Pope announced that a public appeal was about to be made for funds for the erection of central headquarters for British chemistry. According to a statement in *Nature* none of the chemical bodies has the accommodation for a meeting of more than two hundred persons, or adequate library space. The Chemical Society conducts its business at Burlington House, Piccadilly, in rooms provided by the government nearly fifty years ago, when the membership was about one fifth of what it is to-day. The Institute of Chemistry possesses a good building in Russell Square, completed during the first year of the war, but it is barely adequate for the present activities of the institute, which has to look to colleges for hospitality for any general meeting of unusual interest and for lectures. The Society of Chemical Industry and the Society of Public Analysts hold their meetings at the Chemical Society's rooms. Neither of these bodies nor any other which is concerned with chemistry, such as the British Association of Chemical Manufacturers, the Faraday Society, the Biochemical Society, and those devoted to the various branches of technology—brewing, dyes, glass, ceramics, iron and steel, non-ferrous metals, leather, concrete, petroleum, and so forth—possesses accommodation to compare with the spacious halls and headquarters of the Institutions of the Civil, the Mechanical, and the Electrical Engineers, and of the Royal Society of Medicine.

The appeal, which will be made by the Federal Council for Pure and Applied Chemistry, on which practically all the chemical interests of the country are represented, has the cordial support of Lord Moulton, who, as director-general of the explosives supplies, ministry of munitions repeatedly acknowledged the services rendered during the war by these scientific, technical, and industrial bodies.

The scheme, which aims at providing under one roof, so far as is practicable, a common meeting place, library, and editorial facilities for technical journals, is highly desirable, and indeed imperative, as a matter of supreme importance to the welfare of the whole country in relation to questions of defence and the maintenance and development of all branches of industry and commerce which depend on the applications of chemistry. The sum required for building is estimated at £250,000; a similar sum is required for establishing a chemical library and to provide for the compilation and production of works of reference in the English language.

#### FORESTRY EDUCATION

THE British Empire Forestry Conference, which met in London during July adopted the following resolutions on forestry education, which the delegates are to bring to the notice of their respective governments:

It should be a primary duty of forest authorities throughout the empire to establish systematic schemes of forest education. It has been found, for climatic and other reasons, that it would not be possible for each part of the empire to establish a complete scheme of forestry education of its own, and therefore it is essential that those parts of the empire which are willing and able to establish complete systems should, as far as possible, frame such schemes with a view to combining for meeting the needs of those parts which can only themselves make a partial provision for their requirements. Part of this subject has been dealt with by a committee, whose report, which refers mainly to the higher training of forest officers, is approved by the conference. The main principles embodied in this report are as follows:

1. That one institution for training forest officers be established in the United Kingdom.
2. That students be selected from graduates hav-