

The chemical and the histological work still remained to be done.

J. A. Ambler, of the Color Laboratory of the Department of Agriculture, with the approval of Dr. Ball, offered the resources of this laboratory to help in the work and undertake to make chemical analyses of samples that had already been tested by the Society of American Bacteriologists.

Drs. McClung, Harper and Hazen stated that some of the samples which were very satisfactory to bacteriologists did not give good results in cytological or histological staining, and agreed that considerable work was necessary to standardize the stains for this purpose. They offered to take steps to secure the active interest of their respective societies in this. It was pointed out that the zoologists had already appointed Dr. S. I. Kornhauser to assist in the work and that Dr. Victor C. Vaughan as chairman of the Division of Medicine had given assurance of the interest and support of that profession. Drs. Harper and McClung were appointed to act as a temporary committee with Dr. H. J. Conn on the organization of further plans including the nomination of a standing committee to the National Research Council. Such a committee has since been authorized to function under the Division of Biology and Agriculture, with the Division of Medicine cooperating, the membership of which is: H. J. Conn, Geneva, N. Y. (Chairman); S. I. Kornhauser, Denison University; L. W. Sharp, Cornell University; Frederick G. Novy, University of Michigan; F. B. Mallory, Boston City Hospital. The Chemical Foundation of New York City has agreed to support the undertaking, and has already deposited with the treasurer of the National Research Council \$500.

INTERNATIONALIZING SERA STANDARDS

COOPERATION of the foremost laboratories of the world, including the United States, for the unification of international standards of anti-toxic sera has been begun on a large scale by the League of Nations Health Committee. Two preparatory conferences have been held; the work has been divided amongst the various national laboratories, and the individual studies have been begun.

The United States has agreed to cooperate through the United States Public Health Service at Washington, and through the presence at the conference of Dr. Rupert Blue, assistant surgeon general, stationed at Paris. German scientific men, as well as Japanese, and representatives of all the greater European medical services will take part.

Up to the present there has been much confusion in the various national standards of measuring the strength of anti-toxic sera for diseases such as dysentery, tetanus, diphtheria, syphilis, etc. This has had two serious effects. Men of science have been handicapped in studying methods of treatment of various vital diseases abroad, because of the different standards of measuring the strength of the anti-toxic sera employed; secondly, as international trade in sera is increasing, it represents not only an inconvenience, but a positive danger to have their strengths listed at varying standards.

In order to obviate these difficulties, the Health Committee of the League of Nations began a series of studies last October, which resulted in an international conference at London in December, to prepare plans for the first joint experimental inquiry of the sort ever attempted. A program was adopted whereby the study of the effects of the various standards was divided according to diseases amongst the various laboratories represented. To the Hygienic Laboratory at Washington it was proposed to allocate the study of tetanus and diphtheria. As soon as these studies have been completed, they will be coordinated through the State Serum Institute at Copenhagen.

Other bodies which will cooperate in the work are the Medical Research Council of Great Britain, The Pasteur Institute of France, the State Institute of Italy, State Institute of Warsaw, Hygienic Institute of Basle, Pasteur Institute of Brussels, Kitasato Institute of Japan, as well as Austrian and German organizations.

RELIEF WORK OF BRITISH UNIVERSITIES

MAURICE DE BUNSEN, chairman of the universities' committee, writes in *Nature* concern-

ing the activities of the Imperial War Relief Fund, Universities' Committee. This committee, which was created at an inter-university conference which met at University College, London, on July 7, 1920, at the invitation of Lord Robert Cecil, and under the auspices of the Imperial War Relief Fund, has set before it the aim of presenting to the British universities the appeal of the universities in the war-stricken areas of Europe. Mr. de Bunsen writes:

During the first year of the existence of the Universities' Committee 32,000*l.* was raised in cooperation with every university in Great Britain and Ireland. The committee at the opening of this university year carefully considered the problem of the Central European universities at the present time, and decided that it would be absolutely necessary for us to maintain the relief work promoted by the committee in cooperation with universities all over the world throughout the coming year.

I may say briefly that the financial panic which has swept through Austria in particular during the last month has threatened the very existence of many distinguished men in universities of that country.

The Universities' Committee has also taken on the further responsibility of endeavoring to raise funds for the relief of men of learning and students in Russia. In careful consultation with Dr. Nansen, the committee is establishing those links in Russia which shall ensure a wise distribution of the funds subscribed. Dr. Nansen has issued a personal appeal to the universities of the world to help to save from extinction the rapidly diminishing numbers of men in Russia who have been able to go through the ordeal of suffering to which many of them have been subjected during the past few years.

In a letter to graduate members of the British universities on behalf of the men of learning of Austria an urgent appeal has been made over the following signatures of distinguished representatives of learning: William Bragg, Bryce, A. S. Eddington, Richard Gregory, Haldane of Cloan, Frederic G. Kenyon, Walter Lock, Donald Macalister, Charles J. Martin, Henry A. Miers, Gilbert Murray, E. Rutherford, M. E. Sadler, Arthur Schuster, Napier Shaw, A. E. Shipley, George Adam Smith, Ernest H. Starling, J. J. Thomson.

THE SOUTHWESTERN DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

THE second annual meeting will be held in Tucson, Arizona, from January 26 to 28. The University of Arizona has kindly offered the use of its buildings during this period. There will be four sections with chairmen as follows: Biological, Dr. Charles T. Vorhies, professor of biology of the University of Arizona; Physical science, Dr. V. M. Slipher, director of the Lowell Observatory of Flagstaff, Arizona; Social science, Dr. Edgar L. Hewett, director of the Archaeological museums at Sante Fe, N. M.; and the section on Education and Psychology, chairman to be selected.

The presidential address of Dr. A. E. Douglass will be delivered on the evening of the 26th., to be followed by a reception. On the evening of the 27th. the program will be under the auspices of the Arizona Archaeological Society. There will be illustrated lectures on the recent archaeological researches made in the Southwest. On the evening of the 28th. there will be a characteristic dance by the Yaqui Indians from Sonora.

There will be exhibits of southwestern animals, insects, plants and minerals. The new Stewart Observatory will be demonstrated under the direction of Dr. Douglass. The observatory is complete except for the 36-inch reflecting lens, the first casting of which failed owing to an electrical storm.

ELLIOTT C. PRENTISS,
Chairman of the Executive Committee.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

At the meetings held at Amherst, Dr. W. D. Mathews, of the American Museum of Natural History, was elected president of the American Paleontological Society, Dr. Waldemar Lindgren of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology president of the Society of Economic Geologists and Professor T. L. Walker of the University of Toronto president of the Mineralogical Society.

At the recent meeting of the American Psychological Association at Princeton, Professor Knight Dunlap, of the Johns Hopkins