

hooves every member of the society, if he wishes for a recovery of chemical activity in our country, not only to himself continue to support the work of the society through the period of depression, which is sure to be temporary, but also to see that every other reputable person in America interested in chemistry comes into the society to give it new life, new vigor and increased resources.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

AN INSTITUTE OF HYGIENE IN LONDON¹

It has been known for some time that the Rockefeller Foundation has been seriously considering the recommendation for the establishment of an Institute of Hygiene, contained in the report of the post-graduate medical committee published last May (the Athlone committee). The recommendation was that an Institute of State Medicine should be established in London with well equipped laboratories and an efficient staff. It was further recommended that the institute should also provide instruction in other directions, including courses in forensic medicine, toxicology and industrial medicine.

These recommendations were considered by an expert committee, with the minister of health as chairman. In view of the difficulty at present of financing the scheme, the whole case was put before the Rockefeller Foundation as one in which they might think it well to co-operate in the general interest of progress in public health.

The minister of health has announced that the Rockefeller Foundation have offered to provide a sum of two million dollars towards the cost of building and equipping an Institute or School of Hygiene in London, on the understanding that the British Government accept the responsibility of providing for the staffing and maintenance of the school when it is established. This generous offer has been accepted by the minister of health on behalf of the government.

Hygiene, like other departments of medicine, knows no boundaries. In that sense this fine gift is made for the benefit of international

medicine, but this country is grateful to the Rockefeller Foundation that it should have been selected. The Athlone committee estimated that the cost of maintaining an Institute of State Medicine would be about £10,000 a year. The scale on which the Rockefeller gift will make it possible to establish the Institute of Hygiene (it amounts at the present rate of exchange to over £400,000) will call for a larger expenditure for staff and maintenance; we have heard it estimated at £25,000 a year. Those familiar with the Athlone report will remember that it proposed to associate the institute with the University of London. This recommendation, it would appear, is not to be carried out, and the annual expenditure will therefore not come out of moneys at the disposal of the university grants committee, but will be found by a special vote of Parliament. The intention is, we believe, that the Institute of Hygiene shall be administered by a mixed committee, representing the various bodies interested, for it is to be remembered, that London already possesses certain important elements of an institute of hygiene.

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY IN STANDARDIZATION

At the request of the Honorable Herbert C. Hoover, secretary of commerce, the American Engineering Standards Committee has designated Mr. A. A. Stevenson, the retiring chairman of the committee, as a special representative to work with the department in the co-operation between its division of simplified practice and the American Engineering Standards Committee.

The division of simplified practice is a co-ordinating unit of the Department of Commerce assisting in those reductions of excessive variety and other simplifications which many industries are undertaking in order to decrease the cost of production and distribution of manufactured articles. The work of the division was organized in the latter part of 1921 and is now actively under way.

The American Engineering Standards Committee, which serves as a national clearing house for a broad field of engineering and

¹ From the *British Medical Journal*.