

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE PITTSBURGH MEETING OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

(American Chemical Society News Service)

FROM an industrial standpoint the meeting of the American Chemical Society in Pittsburgh from September 4 to 8 will be one of the most important scientific gatherings ever held in this country. It will be of particular interest and value to the automobile industry. Among the important inventions which will be publicly described for the first time is a new zinc oxide, much smaller in particle size than any zinc oxide heretofore made, the work of Frank G. Breyer, chief of research for a New Jersey zinc concern. This pigment used in the tread of automobile tires gives almost twice the wear of tires containing ordinary zinc oxide.

Dr. Thomas Midgley, Jr., and T. A. Boyd, of Dayton, Ohio, will give a demonstration in Carnegie Hall of how various fuels detonate and explain how "knocking" may be reduced by the use of various compounds. Their work is of great importance, inasmuch as it probably will be the basis, in the future, of building automobiles of much greater power and increased efficiency in the use of fuel.

Nearly all the sixty-four local sections of the society, located in nearly all the states, will be represented at the meeting. From 1,500 to 2,000 chemists are expected to attend.

Dr. Charles L. Parsons, secretary of the society, who has just returned from Europe, where he attended the International Conference of Pure and Applied Chemistry, held at Lyons, France, the last week in June, says that European scientists are watching American research work with great interest, but that very few, if any, will attend the Pittsburgh meeting, as economic conditions, particularly on the continent, make it almost impossible for European chemists to travel. They, however, are keeping in close touch with American chemical progress through the literature of the society.

As an instance of the respect of European chemists for American procedure and methods, Dr. Parsons pointed out that the Commission on Nomenclature of Mineral Chemicals decided that the "Formula Index" printed in *Chemical*

Abstracts, one of the publications of the American Chemical Society, be the standard for scientific purposes the world over. Likewise, the abbreviations used in *Chemical Abstracts* were adopted as the standard by the Commission on Chemical Periodicals.

The chief address of the Pittsburgh meeting will be by Dr. Edwin E. Slosson, author of "Creative Chemistry," on "The constructive chemist." Dr. Slosson, who was for many years literary editor of *The Independent*, is now editor of *Science Service*, Washington.

Information received by the American Chemical Society indicates a tremendous increase, since the war, of interest in chemistry as a result of the work being done to explain in "every-day" language some of the achievements of this science. These results seem to be directly due to efforts of Dr. Edgar F. Smith, president of the society, to get American chemists to speak before clubs of men and women, social and business, throughout the country, and through the writings of such men as Dr. Slosson, Ellwood Hendrick, of New York, and others.

At the Pittsburgh meeting further steps to advance improved methods of teaching chemistry, from the high schools up, will be taken by the Section of Chemical Education, of which Dr. Smith is chairman.

EXHIBIT OF OPTICAL INSTRUMENTS

ARRANGEMENTS are now being completed for the exhibit of optical instruments and apparatus to be held at the National Bureau of Standards, Washington, in connection with the annual meeting of the Optical Society of America, October 26 to 28, 1922.

The leading manufacturers of optical equipment have already signified their intention of participating. However, the exhibit will not be limited to standard commercial types. Individuals and research laboratories are also invited to exhibit special research apparatus. Brief descriptions of instruments and their purposes supplied by the exhibitors will be printed in the program and published later in the minutes of the meeting in the *Journal* of the Optical Society. The exhibit of new apparatus will thus constitute just as definite a