

It is not necessary here to refer to Pasteur's services to the world in the subjects of bacteriology and immunology. Suffice it to say that they have saved to France alone many times the cost of the Franco-Prussian war of 1870. And this transforming work of Pasteur may be contrasted with an early statement of Liebig, expressed in 1845, "As to the opinion which explains putrefaction of animal substances by the presence of microscopic animalecules, it may be compared to that of a child who would explain the rapidity of the Rhine by attributing it to the violent movements of the numerous mill-wheels at Mayence."

Finally, let it be remembered that Pasteur was a deeply religious man. On Armistice Day, 1918, the London crowd at first instinctively surged to Buckingham Palace, where lives the king, and then instinctively to St. Paul's Cathedral. Pasteur puts it thus: "The idea of God is a form of the idea of the Infinite. As long as the mystery of the Infinite weighs on human thought, temples will be erected for the worship of the Infinite, whether God is called Brahma, Allah, Jehovah or Jesus; and on the pavement of those temples men will be seen kneeling, prostrated, annihilated in the thought of the Infinite."

He himself lived a life closely approaching the infinitely valuable.

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## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### THE PAN-PACIFIC SCIENCE CONGRESS

ON the representations of the Australian National Research Council, it has been decided to hold the next Pan-Pacific Science Congress in Australia in 1923. The meeting will commence at Melbourne on August 13 and terminate at Sydney on September 3. The event will be an important one in the history of Australian and Pacific science. The commonwealth government through its prime minister, Mr. W. M. Hughes, has decided to extend its support to the meeting, and has agreed to provide the sum of £5,000 towards the cost. Invitations to send representatives have been issued by the commonwealth government to the various countries bordering the Pacific or having interests therein, while the Australian National

Research Council is inviting a large number of leading scientific men who are interested in Pacific matters to attend and take part in the proceedings.

The first Pan-Pacific Science Congress was held in Honolulu in August, 1920, and the work accomplished on that occasion served to show the great value and importance of such meetings between representatives in and around the Pacific. It is proposed that these congresses so successfully inaugurated at Honolulu should be continued triennially. In addition to the benefit arising from the interchange of scientific thought, a mingling of leaders of science will tend to the bringing about of a better understanding between the peoples of the Pacific.

Among the office bearers are the following:

*Australian National Research Council:* Professor Orme Masson, The University, Melbourne, *president*; R. H. Cambage, Royal Society, Sydney, *honorary secretary-treasurer*; Professor A. C. D. Rivett, The University, Melbourne, *joint honorary secretary*.

*Pan-Pacific Committee:* Professor Sir Edgeworth David, The University, Sydney, *chairman*; E. C. Andrews, Mines Department, Sydney, *honorary secretary*.

The tentative list of subjects for papers and discussion is as follows:

A. *Agriculture and Veterinary Science:* Soil problems, climate in relation to crops, plant pathology and plant breeding. Diseases of livestock in the Pacific region: Methods of eradication and control.

B. *Anthropology and Ethnology:* Polynesian and Melanesian races, Australian aborigines, totems, languages, folk-lore, anatomy.

C. *Biology:* General plant distribution in the Pacific; floras of island groups and of individual islands. Insects harmful to the planter and farmer. Role of insects in transmitting disease and the control of weed pests. The distribution of animals. Fisheries.

D. *Geography and Oceanography:* Marine currents, continental shelves, charting in the Pacific.

E. *Geology:* Coral reefs, glaciation, structure of the Pacific region, Carboniferous and Permian problem, correlation of Cretaceous and Kainozoic sediments in Pacific, mineral resources, vulcanology, geological surveys.

F. *Hygiene and Climatology:* Mining hygiene, ventilation, dust prevention. Tropical diseases,

hookworm, malaria. Climate in its relation to human efficiency.

G. *Physics*: Isostasy, arc of meridian in Australia, longitude by wireless, weather cycles and weather forecasting.

### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF PHYTOPATHOLOGY AND ECONOMIC ENTOMOLOGY

ANNOUNCEMENTS have recently been received in this country inviting plant pathologists and entomologists to attend an International Conference of Phytopathology and Economic Entomology in Holland during June, 1923. Arrangements for this conference are in charge of a committee composed of Professor Dr. H. M. Quanjer, Professor Dr. Johanna Westerdijk, N. van Poeteren, T. A. C. Schoevers, J. Hudig, Dr. E. van Slogteren, G. Kruseman, J. C. Dorst, J. G. Hazeloop, E. H. Krelage and J. H. van Straaten van Nes.

The committee invites those who wish to read papers or bring up for discussion urgent questions on plant diseases or insect pests. The titles and short abstracts of the papers or questions for discussion should be sent in advance to the secretary, Mr. T. A. C. Schoevers, Villapark 8, Wageningen. The official language of the conference will be English, but papers can be read and discussion held in either English, French or German.

The conference will be held from June 25 to June 30, 1923, and participants are invited to arrive at Wageningen on Sunday, June 24. The following program has been arranged:

Monday, June 25: Presidential address of welcome and lecture on plant diseases as seen from the standpoint of general pathology. Demonstration of experiments, especially on potato diseases. In the afternoon and evening addresses, papers and discussions.

Tuesday, June 26: Address by Mr. van Poeteren on organization and methods of the Dutch Phytopathological Service. Discussion on international laws and requirements. In the afternoon demonstrations of some methods of control of pests and diseases as practiced in Holland, *e. g.*, the furrowing-wheel to destroy leather-jackets, control of American gooseberry mildew, of smut and stripe in grain crops, etc. Evening meeting: Addresses, papers and discussions.

Wednesday, June 27, and Thursday, June 28: Trips through the country. To prevent congestion of the program, participants are requested

to subdivide into those interested in agriculture and those interested in horticulture. On Wednesday morning the first group will travel by rail to Friesland, where farms and selection-fields of potatoes are to be visited; next day Groningen Agricultural Experiment Station, address of Mr. Hudig on diseases of crops on alkaline and sour soils, and visit to Mr. Hudig's experiments. Visit to the Experimental Farm of the Groningen Seed Growers' Association.

The second group will visit first the nurseries of Boskoop and Aalsmeer, situated in a typical Dutch country region below sea level; thereafter visit to the bulb-growing districts near Haarlem. Dr. v. Slogteren will address the company and give a demonstration on modern methods of combatting some bulb diseases, *e. g.*, eelworm. This trip will end with a visit to the early potato districts of North Holland, where selection is practiced.

It would be possible to form a third group for visiting other centers of culture, such as the Westland, the most important district growing vegetables and fruit under glass; afterwards the orchards in North Holland and the early potato fields in the same district might be visited.

Friday, June 29: Meeting of Baarn; address of Professor Westerdijk on the cultivation of parasitic fungi and demonstration of research work. Afternoon devoted to discussions and inspection of the international collection of fungicures. This meeting will be continued during the evening for addresses, papers and discussions, and to Saturday morning, if desired.

Saturday, June 30: In the afternoon of that day the conference will leave for the Hague, for an informal meeting at the office of the minister of agriculture. Thereafter the committee will entertain all participants at dinner in the bathing resort Scheveningen.

All scientific men planning to attend the conference should notify Secretary Schoevers in order that proper arrangements may be made for transportation and entertainment.

### APPALACHIAN FIELD TRIP

MEMBERS of the Department of Geology in the Mississippi Agricultural and Mechanical College in the late summer of 1922 completed an Appalachian field trip in two automobile trucks, touring parts of eight states and covering more than 2,000 miles in direct travel.

From the college to Tuscaloosa, the whole of the Cretaceous was crossed. At various places from Birmingham, through Anniston, Gadsden,