gauge of the extent of the catastrophe, the appropriation of the National Government of $15,000 for relief is enlightening as well as the subscriptions of various organizations and private individuals, none of which was large.

Since the initial damage in Narino, other portions of Colombia have been visited by the earth disturbance. About five in the morning of December 22, a severe shock was registered throughout central Colombia, including Bogota. No appreciable damage was done in the capital, but Gachala, Gacheta and Ubala, towns some forty miles northeast of Bogota, are reported largely demolished and much damage done in Medina. Strange to say, only seven persons were killed. Communication with this area was impeded by the obliteration of the Medina road and the destruction of telegraph lines. Slighter shocks followed up to the twenty-sixth of the month completing the damage. It is probable that the suffering is slight in this locality as the climate is warm.

Immediately upon learning of the full extent of the difficulty in Narino, I addressed a note of sympathy to the government. The American colony in Bogota followed generously with a subscription for the sufferers which was turned over to the Colombian Red Cross. To this testimony of friendship was added the message of condolence contained in the department's telegraphic instruction No. 35 of December 24, 4 p. m., which was immediately made known to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The generous offer of tentative assistance, proffered by the American Red Cross to the Colombian Red Cross, came as a happy final demonstration of the interest felt in the United States for the afflicted here.

SAMUEL H. PILES

AGRICULTURE IN THE TROPICS

THE Governor of Trinidad, Sir Samuel Wilson, laid the foundation-stone of the buildings and laboratories of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture at St. Augustine on January 14.

The London *Times* writes:

It is five years since Lord Milner, as Colonial Secretary, appointed a committee to consider the establishment of such an institution. After two years of careful inquiry the committee submitted its recommendations, and a scheme was drawn up to provide for the foundation of the college, which was opened in 1922. The first intention was to limit the scope of its activities to the West Indies themselves, and its actual title was "The West Indian Agricultural College." Gradually, however, its real value to the tropical dependencies of the Empire was realized, and last year it was decided to place it on a broad imperial basis.

Already there is evidence of the desire upon the part of the college authorities to lay their resources at the disposal of the Empire, and in the first number of *Tropical Agriculture*, the official journal of the college, there are instructive notes upon agricultural development not only in the West Indies, but in Ceylon, Sierra Leone, Gambia, Tanganyika and the Sudan. Four post-graduate students have already been sent to the college by the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation for special research work in genetics and plant breeding. Eighteen students are now taking the three-year course necessary to gain the diploma of the college.

Arrangements are in progress for the early erection of a complete sugar factory designed for teaching and experimental purposes. The machinery for this has been presented by the leading manufacturers of sugar machinery in the United Kingdom. The factory will be of a size sufficient to manufacture sugar on a small commercial scale and will, to a large extent, be operated by the students.

The appointments of the college are controlled by a governing body, on which Cambridge University is represented by Sir Arthur Shipley; the Secretary of State for the Colonies by Sir David Prain and Mr. E. R. Darnley; Glasgow University by Professor F. C. Bower; the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, by Captain A. W. Hill; and the Imperial College of Science and Technology by Professor J. B. Farmer. The principal is Sir Francis Watts, K.C.M.G., D.Sc.

Incorporated with the college is the Imperial Department of Agriculture. In this department special attention will be paid to research under the guidance of a staff which includes professors of zoology and entomology, mycology and bacteriology, botany, chemistry, agronomy and economics, and a sugar technologist.

DATA FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CRITICAL TABLES

THE editorial board of International Critical Tables will appreciate receiving from scientific investigators any numerical data which they are able and willing to furnish, which have not been published prior to January 1, 1924. All data are desired which characterize the behavior of any definite material, substance or system. For the purpose of this request, such data will be divided into two classes, as follows: Class I: data which constitute the only information of the kind available; Class II: data which, in the opinion of the investigator, substantiate, extend or improve upon existing information of the same kind.

In connection with data belonging to both classes, the following information should be given: (a) an exact definition of the material, substance or system to which the data apply; (b) the investigator's estimate of the accuracy of the values; (c) the name of the investigator or investigators responsible for the measurements; (d) the laboratory in which the investigations were carried out; (e) a brief statement of the experimental method used; (f) an exact statement of the units in which the data are expressed; and (g) any other supplementary information necessary for the complete characterization of the data.

For the data belonging to class II, such additional

data should be furnished as will enable the expert in charge of this class of data to evaluate critically the new in comparison with the older data. Manuscript or corrected page proofs should be furnished where possible.

Any data belonging to class I, received prior to January 1, 1925, and any data belonging to class II, received before July 1, 1924, will be in time for inclusion in International Critical Tables, and the source of all data so included will be indicated by "Private Communication from, etc." or in such other manner as the author may prefer; unless a literature reference becomes available before going to press. Data determined by members of the staff of a research laboratory should be forwarded through the director of the laboratory. All data should be sent to International Critical Tables, National Research Council, Washington, D. C.

MARTIN JOHNSON AFRICAN CORPORATION

PRESIDENT HENRY FAIRFIELD OSBORN of the American Museum of Natural History has announced the ratification by the Board of Trustees of an agreement between the museum and the Martin Johnson African Corporation. The directors of this corporation are Daniel E. Pomeroy, A. Perry Osborn, F. Trubee Davison, Carl E. Akeley, John H. Prentice, H. Morton Merriman, Lewis L. Delafield, Jr., Dexter C. Hawkins and Robert E. Lee, all of whom are well known for their public activities.

President Osborn stated that, according to the terms of the agreement, Mr. Johnson would direct his energies and efforts to secure a truthful photographic portrayal of all phases of African life. In order that the record which he obtains become a correct and dependable chronicle of the peoples and animal life still existent on that continent, he has placed himself and his work under the direct scientific supervision of the authorities of the American museum, which will become the permanent depository of all the motion picture films, negatives and other physical material which Mr. Johnson secures during the five years of which the expedition will continue.

The acquirement of these records, together with all other photographic negatives and films which Mr. Johnson has secured during his twenty-six years of travel in the South Seas, Australia, Egypt, Africa and other places, and which he has recently donated to the museum, will form an unprecedented series of scientific and educational value. Mr. Johnson, together with Mrs. Johnson, left for Africa in December, taking with them one of the most complete photographic outfits that ever went into the field for a similar undertaking. Mr. Johnson is an expert photographer and is as much at home in the laboratory as he is behind the camera. The photographic experience which he previously acquired in the tropics gives him a distinct knowledge of the difficult twists and quirks necessary to secure good results, and promises a quality of production unexcelled in the history of motion-picture photography.

EMINENT AMERICAN CHEMISTS[1]

FROM time to time there have come to us requests for sources of portraits of eminent American chemists prepared for framing and suitable for decorating laboratories, lecture rooms, and the halls of educational institutions. Diligent search having shown that very few Americans had been included in such collections of portraits as had been made by publishers, we persuaded our associate editor to undertake the preparation of such a collection, calling upon a number of men to assist in compiling a list of those to be included in the first series. This work has been completed and, if advance subscriptions warrant, a set of thirty-three portraits, beautifully done on the best grade of paper, will be available in a loose-leaf binder, these portraits being interleaved with short sketches of the work of each of the subjects. The portraits themselves are 4½x6½ inches on sheets 8½x10 inches. Announcements will be made soon as to prices and other details. We give below the list of the men included in this set and believe that if a larger number of people become interested in the personalities which have so greatly contributed to the advancement of chemistry, a historical and cultural background will be established which can not fail to make our science still more attractive.

Baekeland, L. H.	Langmuir, Irving
Bancroft, W. D.	Lewis, G. N.
Boltwood, B. B.	Mallett, J. W.
Booth, J. C.	Morley, E. W.
Chandler, C. F.	Noyes, A. A.
Chittenden, Russell H.	Noyes, W. A.
Clarke, F. W.	Priestley, Joseph
Cottrell, F. G.	Remsen, Ira
Cooke, Josiah P.	Richards, T. W.
Franklin, E. C.	Rumford, Count
Gibbs, J. Willard	Silliman, Benjamin, the Elder
Gibbs, Wolcott	Smith, Edgar Fahs
Gomberg, Moses	Smith, J. Lawrence
Hare, Robert	Stieglitz, Julius
Hillebrand, W. F.	Van Slyke, Donald D.
Hunt, T. Sterry	Whitney, W. R.
	Wiley, H. W.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. FREDERIC A. LUCAS, after serving for twelve years as director of the American Museum of Natural History, has become honorary director, and will act

[1] From *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry.*