SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

PROGRESS IN PREPARATION OF INTERNATIONAL CRITICAL TABLES

INTERNATIONAL CRITICAL TABLES, organized under the auspices of the International Research Council, is a portion of the international scientific program, the responsibility for which has been assigned to the United States. The work is in charge of the board of trustees and the board of editors, appointed through joint action of the National Research Council, American Chemical Society and American Physical Society, with headquarters at the National Research Council, Washington, D. C.

The work of preparing the data for International Critical Tables is now actively under way. The material is being collected and critically evaluated by approximately 300 competent experts distributed among the following countries: United States, Canada, Great Britain, Belgium, France, Italy, Austria, Germany, Denmark, Switzerland, Holland, Australia and Japan.

The program covers all available information of value concerning all the properties and numerical characteristics of (a) pure substances, (b) physicochemical systems of definite composition, (c) many industrial materials, (d) many natural materials and (e) selected data for selected natural bodies or systems, such as the earth and its main physical subdivisions, the solar and stellar systems and certain biological organisms, including man. Publications of the world in all languages will be combed for data and much unpublished information is also being collected. In addition to the stupendous scope of the tables, hitherto unapproached by any similar publication, the volumes will contain many novel features of arrangement. Thus, for example, not only will it be possible to find readily all the properties of a given substance or material but it will also be possible in many cases to ascertain readily what substance or material of a given kind has a maximum, a minimum or a given value for any given property. This feature will be of great assistance in identifying a substance by means of its properties or in selecting a substance or material on the basis of a given property or combination of properties. The main descriptive material and the very complex index to the tables will be in four languages, English, French, German and Italian.

In order to assist the board of editors in connection with the work of the cooperating experts in foreign countries and in the collecting of information from these countries, ten corresponding editors have been appointed. These editors have greatly assisted the board in connection with the selection of competent cooperating experts. They have general charge of relations with the experts in their respective countries and also assist the board in securing data from their own and neighboring countries. Following is a list of these editors and their advisory committees:

THE BRITISH EMPIRE (excluding British North America). Dr. G. W. C. Kaye, National Physical Laboratory, Teddington, England. Advisory committee: Sir Robert Robertson, W. Rosenhain, J. E. Sears, T. E. Stanton, W. F. Higgins, A. W. Porter.

BRITISH NORTH AMERICA. Dr. Otto Maass, department of chemistry, McGill University. Advisory committee: J. W. Bain, R. J. Durley, A. L. Hughes, G. S. Whitby.

JAPAN (and eastern Asia). Professor Kotaro Honda, Iron and Steel Institute, Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan.

BELGIUM (and its dependencies). Professor M. Strauven, Liége, Belgium.

HOLLAND (and its dependencies). Dr. W. J. van Heteron, Utrecht, Holland. Advisory committee: Ernst Cohen, C. A. Crommelin, H. Baucke.

DENMARK (Norway and Sweden). Professor Dr. Niels Bjerrum, Copenhagen, K. Denmark. Advisory committee: Martin Knudsen, Carl Jacobsen.

FRANCE (Spain and Portugal). Dr. Charles Marie, Paris, France. Advisory committee: C. Moureu, A. Fabry, A. Guillet.

SWITZERLAND. Professor A. Berthoud, Neuchâtel, Switzerland. Advisory committee: Ch. E. Guye, H. Rupe, F. Schule.

AUSTRIA (central and southeastern Europe). Professor Dr. Rudolf Wegscheider, Vienna, Austria.

ITALY (and its dependencies). Professor Eicola Parravano, Istituto Chimico, R. Universita, Rome, Italy. Advisory committee: Ugo Bordoni, Luigi Rolla, Francesco Giordani.

THE NEW ENGINEERING BUILDINGS OF UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

ACCORDING to the London *Times* the new buildings of the faculty of engineering of University College, London, have just been completed, and will be formally opened in the near future.

Professor Simpson has designed the new wing to harmonize with the existing buildings and Professor Coker and his staff, aided by Sir Ernest Moir and Sir Alexander Kennedy, have given much care to the working out of suitable plans. The main engineering laboratory is equipped to show the best practice in heat engines and provision is made for experiment and advanced research; also for experiment in connection with the testing of materials.

For advanced and post-graduate students, in addition to a laboratory there are available a number of small rooms suitable for research work. Other provision includes an additional electrical laboratory, a large lecture room and a laboratory for the department of municipal engineering. In the basement a

considerable area will be available for the Hawksley hydraulic laboratory. There are well-lighted drawing offices for students on the second floor.

One of the most interesting of the rooms is that devoted to the study and measurement of sound, especially in connection with wireless, cables and telephony, over which Professor J. A. Fleming presides. By means of a delicate instrument it is made apparent that the whole of London is vibrating, a fact due, according to Professor Fleming, to the tube railways.

The reconstruction and reequipment of the engineering buildings has so far cost the authorities of the college £53,500, of which £10,000 has been contributed by the London County Council and £10,000 by Lord Cowdray.

Modern work in industrial chemistry is so intimately connected with engineering that it is proposed to erect, with the aid of a grant of £25,000 from the Ramsay memorial fund, a chemical engineering building to house the equipment and lecture-rooms and give other special accommodation required for this purpose. The department has already made a promising start, and is intended to form a connecting link between the schools of chemistry under the direction of Professor Collie, F.R.S., and Professor Donnan, F.R.S., and the engineering school.

THE SECTION OF PSYCHOLOGY OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION

OVERSEA members of the British Association for the Advancement of Science coming to the Toronto meeting, beginning August 6, include the following:

President of Section J—W. McDougall, professor of psychology, Harvard University. Late reader in mental philosophy, Oxford. In his presidential address he will deal with "Purposive action as a fundamental conception in psychology," and will deliver a lecture on "Human heredity and national (or racial) outlook."

Vice-President—Cyril Burt, of the department of education, London County Council. Speaks on "Tests for scholarship and promotion."

Recorder—L. Wynn-Jones, Harrogate.

Secretary—R. J. Bartlett.

Secretary—Shepherd Dawson, Glasgow.

F. A. Aveling, reader in psychology, University of London. General secretary of the British Psychological Society. Will speak on the "Standpoint of psychology."

F. C. Bartlett, professor of experimental psychology, Cambridge.

William Brown, Wilde reader in mental philosophy, Oxford.

H. Wildon Carr, professor of philosophy, University of London, editor of proceedings of Aristotelean Society.

J. Drever, reader and lecturer in psychology, University of Edinburgh, will speak on "Psychological theories of laughter."

J. C. Flügel, senior lecturer in philosophy and psychology, University College, London, will discuss "Feeling and emotion in daily life."

B. Hart, physician in psychological medicine and lecturer in psychiatry in University College Hospital Medical School, London.

Dr. J. T. MacCurdy, formerly of Toronto and Cornell, now of Cambridge.

C. S. Myers, director of the National Institute of Industrial Psychology, editor of the *British Journal of Psychology*, presents a paper on the "Conception of fatigue," in the joint discussion between physiology and psychology sections dealing with "Physiological factors of muscular efficiency in industry."

T. H. Pear, professor of psychology in the University of Manchester.

C. E. Spearman, Grote professor of mind and logic, University of London.

SCHOOL OF HYGIENE IN THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

ON May 20, the International Health Board of the Rockefeller Foundation approved of a proposal to assist financially in the creation and endowment of a school of hygiene in the University of Toronto; and the following day the Rockefeller Foundation pledged $650,000 to the governors of the University of Toronto, for this purpose. The governors of the university have accepted the proposals and the above-mentioned sum will be utilized to provide a building to cost not more than $400,000; the remaining $250,000 will be used for the endowment of the school. While final details of organization remain to be perfected, the school will include the departments of hygiene and preventive medicine and public health nursing and the Connaught laboratories. The operating or public-service divisions (namely the antitoxin and insulin) of the Connaught laboratories will be merged and constitute a public service section in the school.

The endowment will be added to by the inclusion of the resources of these laboratories, namely the Connaught laboratories research fund. The governors of the university have agreed to maintain the building and continue to sustain the budgets appropriated for 1924–25, for the maintenance of the teaching departments of hygiene and preventive medicine and public health nursing.

APPOINTMENTS AT THE ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE

THE board of scientific directors of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research announces the election of Dr. Francis Gilman Blake as a member of the board of scientific directors to succeed Dr. Hermann M. Biggs, deceased.

The following promotions and appointments are announced: