

For the past two years he has been connected with the U. S. Bureau of Standards in Washington, D. C., as associate physicist. The members of the new bureau will devote their time almost exclusively to research. At first the work will be entirely of a theoretical nature, but it is expected that as progress is made the study of a certain number of practical questions will be undertaken.

ZOOLOGICAL FIELD LABORATORY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

THE University of Kentucky announces the establishment of a Zoological Field Laboratory near Quicksand in Breathitt County, Kentucky, which will be opened to students in the summer of 1925, as a part of the development of the recently acquired Robinson Mountain Lands.

The field laboratory consists of about five hundred acres of typical mountain country which shows almost perfect primeval conditions in native fauna and flora. It is extremely rugged, well timbered and watered, with attractive topographical features and unusual biologic resources. It is very rich in the number of species of insects, snakes, birds and mammals represented. Several mountain streams flow into the Kentucky River and Quicksand Creek on two sides of the laboratory so that exceptional facilities are offered for the study of aquatic life. The property includes some of the most picturesque of Kentucky mountain scenery. Suitable buildings and equipments will be provided for field laboratory work.

Through the courtesy of the College of Agriculture, students at the Field Laboratory will have the privilege of doing collecting, exploring and research over nearly fifteen thousand acres of closely adjacent mountain land in Breathitt, Perry and Knott Counties, including some of the roughest and least inhabited portions of the state. Part of the field laboratory will be set aside as a bird sanctuary.

The Zoological Field Laboratory will offer opportunity for research work in ornithology, entomology, herpetology and ecology at all seasons of the year, and for regular class instruction during the summer session. It will be under the direction of Dr. W. D. Funkhouser and Dr. W. R. Allen, of the department of zoology of the University of Kentucky.

CONFERENCE ON THE INGREDIENTS OF BACTERIOLOGICAL MEDIA

ON May 19, 1924, a conference was called at the Hotel Astor, New York City, to discuss the steps necessary in order to secure standardization of the raw materials of bacteriological media, such as peptones, agar, gelatin and so forth. The conference

was called by the Society of American Bacteriologists through its committee on bacteriological technic; but representatives of various other organizations were invited. Those represented were: American Chemical Society, American Public Health Association, American Water Works Association, Dairy Science Association, the Dairy Inspectors' Association, the Society of American Bacteriologists, also two of the large public health laboratories, namely, the Hygienic Laboratory of the U. S. Public Health Service, and the Research Laboratories of the N. Y. City Board of Health.

The meeting was called to order by the chairman of the committee on bacteriological technic of the Society of American Bacteriologists who, by general consent, took the chair. He pointed out briefly the need of standardization in the field to be considered by the conference, but showed that much investigation would have to precede such standardization, and that this investigation would require the cooperation of all the organizations represented. The need of such cooperation was agreed to by all; but before taking up the means for bringing it about, considerable time was spent discussing the particular problems likely to be encountered in the work.

It was pointed out that the chief ingredients of culture media are: peptone, sugars, agar and gelatin. The need of standardization of sugars was recognized, but on account of the complexity of the problem and its smaller degree of urgency than in the case of some of the related problems, it was decided not to consider sugars at the present time, but to recognize them as a possible subject for similar investigation in the future. It was also pointed out that the problems in the case of agar and gelatin were likely to be fairly simple. For these reasons it was decided to give chief attention at present to peptone.

The various uses of peptone were considered: as a basis of media for the cultivation of miscellaneous bacteria; as the most important ingredient of the media used in counting water bacteria, and also milk bacteria; as one of the important constituents of media for studying fermentation; as the basis of the medium used in obtaining diphtheria toxin. It was suggested that each use might present a problem of its own and that it might be necessary to obtain a different type of peptone for each purpose; but it was generally hoped that one type might be found suitable for all purposes. It was decided that the only way to make progress would be to obtain various peptones of fairly definitely known composition and to learn which of them are best for which purposes by distributing them for testing among various bacteriologists. The matter of obtaining such batches of peptone was referred to the only manufacturer of

peptones present, a representative of Parke Davis and Co. He stated that his company kept a record of each batch of peptone made and would gladly furnish with each sample submitted the analysis of that batch as made in their laboratories. The opinion was expressed that the other manufacturers would probably be glad to do the same; but it was pointed out that different companies might make different kinds of analysis and it was suggested that one of the first tests of the contemplated investigation would be to standardize the type of analysis to which peptones should be submitted.

After discussing these various points to be investigated the matter of organizing the work was considered. It was the general opinion that so far as possible no new organization should be created, but that existing organizations should be used. It was pointed out that every organized body represented at the meeting had some committee dealing with the subject under discussion, and that a coordinating committee representing each of these individual committees would be sufficient to insure the needed co-operation. Accordingly the motion was made that a coordinating committee be appointed composed of the chairmen (or their representatives) of the various committees now in existence whose functions cover the matter of bacteriological media, this coordinating committee to put into operation a cooperative investigation looking toward the standardization of the ingredients of bacteriological media; and that the chairman of the committee on bacteriological technique of the Society of American Bacteriologists serve as chairman of the coordinating committee. This motion was seconded and carried by a unanimous vote.

PRELIMINARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR ATTENDING THE TORONTO MEETING OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION

PRELIMINARY programs of the approaching Toronto meeting of the British Association (which will occur from August 6 to August 13) have been sent to all members of the American Association residing in the United States. These were sent out from the Washington office of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, under authorization received from the council at the Cincinnati meeting. The American Association is omitting its summer meeting this year because of the Toronto meeting of its sister organization and the British Association has cordially invited all American scientists to be present. It is hoped that many members of the association will be able to attend the great international gathering of scientists and friends of scientific progress.

The following notes will interest persons planning to go to the Toronto meeting from the United States. Reduced railway rates, on the certificate plan, have

been granted by the New England, Trunk Line, Central, Eastern Canadian and Western Canadian Passenger Associations. There will be advantageous round-trip excursion tickets available from regions not cared for by the special rates.

Persons intending to go to the meeting should consult their local railway agents, stating that they desire to attend the Toronto meeting of the British Association. If the special privilege is available from their station they should purchase a one-way, through ticket to Toronto and secure a certificate on the "standard certificate form." (A receipt is not needed.) On arrival in Toronto the certificate is to be presented in the reception room at the meeting. It will there be validated and *after validation* it will entitle the holder to purchase at the railway office a return ticket at one half the regular one-way rate.

If the special reduced rates are not available from your station you may purchase a round-trip ticket to some station from which you can secure the certificate privilege and then proceed as above. Or you may secure a round-trip to Toronto at excursion rates.

Persons traveling to Toronto on round-trip tickets to that place *should not neglect to report* this fact at the office in the reception room at the meeting, although there will be no certificates to be validated in such cases. Round-trip tickets are to be counted in making up the quota necessary for the special rates to those holding certificates.

We are informed that persons traveling to Toronto from the United States may have their baggage passed by the Canadian customs officers with little or no delay if they will state that they are going to attend the meeting of the British Association.

The honorary local secretaries for the Toronto meeting request that persons who plan to attend shall intimate this fact at the earliest possible time. Intimation blanks for this purpose were to accompany the preliminary programs sent to members of the American Association, but the shipment of blanks was delayed and it seemed best to send out the programs without them rather than to delay the sending until later, especially since the school and college year was about to close and many members might not have been reached if the sending had been further delayed. A supply of intimation blanks is available at the Washington office of the American Association and copies may be had on request. Intimation may be sent in without special blank, however. It should be addressed to the Honorary Local Secretaries, British Association, Room 50, Physics Building, University of Toronto, Toronto.

Intimation should include the name, titles and address of the sender. The fee for the meeting is \$5 (transferable ticket, \$6.50; student's ticket, \$2.50—the latter for students not over 23 years of age, at