

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

## THE IMPERIAL FORESTRY INSTITUTE AT OXFORD

THE current number of the *Empire Forestry Journal*, issued by the Empire Forestry Association, Imperial Institute, South Kensington, deals with the establishment at Oxford of an institute which will be known as the Imperial Forestry Institute. According to an abstract in the *London Times*, the question of establishing a central training institution was first discussed by the British Empire Forestry Conference in 1920. This conference felt that, owing to lack of funds and dissipation of effort, training in the higher branches of forestry for the needs of the Empire was nowhere so complete or efficient as was desirable, and therefore recommended the establishment in the United Kingdom of one institution which should undertake the higher training of forest officers, and should also be a center for research into the formation, tending and protection of forests. A committee was appointed to make recommendations regarding the location and organization of such an institution, but it was not until last year that the proposals were endorsed by the Imperial Economic Conference in London, and arrangements made for starting the institute in October, 1924.

The Imperial Forestry Institute will be a university institution, the professor of forestry being its director. It will be under the control of a board of governors, representing the university and government departments concerned, under the chairmanship of Lord Clinton, a forestry commissioner. The educational work of the institute will comprise (1) post-graduate training of probationers for the forest services and of other qualified persons; (2) training of research officers in special subjects, and (3) provision of courses for selected officers already serving.

It is intended that the institute shall maintain close touch with the various forestry training centers throughout the Empire. Thus, in the case of overseas training centers which have no direct means of giving practical instruction in the latest systems of management as practised on the Continent of Europe, it will be one of the functions of the institute to arrange for such practical instruction to be given by members of its own staff to students who have already completed their general course of training at their own universities or colleges. If, in any particular case, it can not undertake to give direct instruction, the institute may arrange that this should be given at some other place.

Although the institute is intended primarily to serve the needs of forestry in the British Empire, it will be open to qualified students of any nationality, provided that there is sufficient accommodation. Nor is it by any means intended that it should cater only

for the requirements of state forest services; the institute should, it is believed, be of special value in providing timber and wood-pulp firms with fully-trained employees. Students admitted to the institute may, in fact, be included under any of the following categories:

(a) Those possessing a degree in forestry, or a diploma or equivalent certificate of having satisfactorily completed an approved course of training in forestry, who have been selected as probationers for the higher branch of some forest service.

(b) Graduates with honors in science, who desire to become specialists in some branch of work connected with forestry.

(c) Forest officers deputed to attend courses with the view of bringing their professional knowledge up to date.

(d) Students of approved qualifications not included in the first three categories who are admitted on the recommendation of overseas governments.

(e) Students with a university training in forestry who may wish to attend the institute on their own account and at their own expense.

The courses of study will normally extend over one academic year. Temporary accommodation for the institute has been arranged, but a more suitable site and larger buildings will be necessary. The university has undertaken to contribute a sum not exceeding £300 a year to the Department of Forestry, in addition to its present contribution. The selection of Oxford has caused considerable misgiving at the other universities in Great Britain which confer degrees in forestry; but the governing council of the Forestry Association are confident that all concerned will unite to make the institute a complete success.

## ITHACA MEETING OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

THE sixty-eighth general meeting of the American Chemical Society was held at Ithaca, N. Y., from Monday, September 8, to Saturday, September 13, inclusive. The council meeting was held on the afternoon of the eighth; the general meeting on Tuesday morning, the ninth; the special meeting descriptive of the new Baker Laboratory on the afternoon of the ninth; general divisional meetings on Wednesday morning, the tenth; and special divisional meetings on Wednesday afternoon and Thursday.

On Tuesday evening the members enjoyed an evening of entertainment with a program chiefly drawn from local talent. It was, however, a program of unusual merit and high character.

On Tuesday morning the society was welcomed by President Livingston Farrand, and, after a short response by President Baekeland, the following general addresses were delivered: "Chemistry and civiliza-