

THE EASTERN NEW YORK SECTION OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

DR. MARTIN H. FISCHER, of the General Hospital of Cincinnati, addressed the regular meeting of the Eastern New York Section of the American Chemical Society, held in the research laboratory of the General Electric Company at Schenectady on March 14. His subject was "Lyophilic colloids in theory and in practice." Following his lecture in Schenectady, he spoke in Albany before the Medical College of that city on "Nephritis and oedema."

Dr. Fischer's theory, offered in place of the osmotic pressure theory to account for the life absorption processes taking place within the living organism, brought forth lively discussion. His manner of presenting his arguments, livened by frequent references to the osmotic theory, which served as interludes in the serious nature of his talk, kept his audience at strict attention. And in conclusion, his very simple demonstrations of the alkalinity of some of the strongest acids when in concentrated form, clinched his arguments and brought his lecture to a very successful conclusion. His many demonstrations, in fact, were a strictly integral part of his lecture.

On Tuesday, March 31, at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, in Troy, Dr. Zay Jeffries will address the Eastern New York Section on "Aluminium." This is an appropriate topic for such a speaker, in view of his connection with the Aluminium Company of America. The policy of scheduling lectures of more general interest on week nights, with the highly scientific lectures on Saturday morning at the General Electric Company, has resulted in an increase in the attendance at both varieties of lectures, since the members and their guests now know the nature of the lecture scheduled. This radical change in the policy of the section has proved its worth also in another direction. T. A. Wilson, the secretary of the section, reports a greatly increased enrollment of associate members, since both classes of audiences are appealed to, and a noticeable increase in the full-member enrollment has resulted because of the appeal to the scientific membership of the community.

Dr. Charles A. Kraus, of Brown University, will be the speaker at the meeting to be held at Schenectady on Saturday, April 4. His subject will be "The amphoteric nature of the elements."

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN COLLOID CHEMISTRY

(From a correspondent)

OF all the proposed plans for intensive research yet formulated in this country, probably none has been received with more enthusiasm than has the plan formulated by the Committee on the Chemistry

of Colloids of the National Research Council for a National Institute for Research in Colloid Chemistry. It is now generally realized by scientific men that a knowledge of this phase of chemistry is absolutely essential to the development of medicine, the biological sciences, agriculture and many industries. The demand for men trained in colloid chemistry is growing at a rapid rate and this demand is not now being met because of the lack of training facilities and research centers devoted to the study of this subject in America.

The Colloid Committee of the National Research Council has worked out in great detail a plan for an institute devoted to intensive study in this field. This institute will serve several useful purposes. A strong research center of this kind will serve as a stimulus to all workers in the field, wherever they may be. The knowledge that the facilities provided at the institute will be available to any qualified worker, and that the cooperation of the staff may be had for the asking will have a most beneficial effect on all colloid workers.

The institute will serve as a training school for research workers and the men so trained will supply the demand for teachers and research workers elsewhere. No existing agency can possibly give the intensive and thorough training that such an institute can give. The plan contemplates that from twenty-five to forty men will constantly be in training to meet the demands of the universities and the industries.

The institute will be to the colloid workers of the country what Woods Hole is to those working in the biological sciences—a place where intensive study may be combined with healthful recreation in the summer months. Special apparatus will be available at all times to properly qualified research men, and particularly for the benefit of those who desire to avail themselves of the facilities of the institute for short periods of time, either in the summer or during the year, it is planned that a number of rooms will be fitted up with special equipment, always complete to the last detail, so that one coming to the institute will be able to begin work on his problem at once. Much valuable time will thus be saved, and more progress will be made.

During the summer season, at which time workers from other institutions will be most likely to attend, there will be special lectures given by recognized leaders in colloid chemistry. Three or four specialists in different fields of colloid chemistry will be brought to the institute each summer to give special lectures and to supervise research in their chosen fields. These special lectures will be of such character as to