

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

attract men from fields other than pure chemistry, the purpose being to emphasize the application of colloid chemistry to all branches of science.

The institute is to have a director of research and a laboratory or business director. The research director will have a competent staff of assistants and associates so that several fields of colloid chemistry will be represented. The business director will attend to business details, thus leaving the time of the research director free for scientific work. Funds will be provided for a number of fellowships. Some of these will be for men who have received the doctorate degree, and others for graduate students who are working for that degree.

It is planned that the institute will be located at and operated in conjunction with one of the major universities where there already exists a proper scientific atmosphere, and where full cooperation between scientific departments and the institute will be assured.

The institute will be housed in a building specially constructed with the needs of colloid research in mind. The building will have some unique features not ordinarily found in chemistry buildings. In addition to offices, private laboratories, library, conference rooms, instrument shops, etc., it will have an abundance of special laboratories equipped for specialized studies, also rooms in which work of a more general character may be done.

To build such a building as the committee has in mind and to provide an endowment, the income from which will be used for operating expenses, a sum of about \$1,250,000 will be necessary. It is expected that the cooperating university will furnish the site for the building and a fund of approximately \$50,000 a year for maintenance, service, et cetera. The work of the fellows working for degrees will be credited in the graduate school of the cooperating university.

The plan has not only the endorsement but the active support of the National Research Council. It has also been approved by the National Academy of Sciences, the Council of the American Chemical Society, the Council of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, and a very large number of scientists throughout the country.

The Committee for the Chemistry of Colloids feels that in this plan it has an opportunity for practical philanthropy which is second to none at the present time. It is hoped that funds will soon be forthcoming to make this far-sighted plan an actuality.

The University of Wisconsin, because of its interest in Colloid Chemistry, has issued an attractive prospectus in behalf of the proposed institute, the publication of which was erroneously credited in a recent issue of this journal to New York University.

SIGMA XI AID TO RESEARCH

SIGMA XI Alumni have made available a sum of money to be used annually in the support of research. For the year 1925-26, the sum of \$2,000 will be awarded by a special committee consisting of Dr. W. R. Whitney, director of research at the General Electric Company; Professor E. L. Thorndike, of Columbia University, and Dr. John H. Northrup, of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research. This fund will be granted by the committee to selected workers who have shown devotion to science and who merit assistance in further research work. The aid granted will not be limited to any particular field of work, nor will it take any particular form. It may be awarded in the form of a fellowship or it may be given to purchase apparatus, to help in publication or to pay assistants.

Applications for aid from this fund should be made before May 1 to Dean Edward Ellery, Union College, Schenectady, N. Y. Applications should state the kind of assistance desired, the nature of the problem under study, or to be studied, and the place where the research is being done or is to be done. Applicants should present their educational and research experience, degrees received and titles of publications. There should also be a statement regarding the importance of the problem in his particular field from at least two individuals competent to express judgment.

Awards will be made by June 1, and will be available from August 1, 1925, to August, 1926.

THE PORTLAND MEETING OF THE PACIFIC DIVISION

THE 1925 meeting of the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and its affiliated societies will be held at Reed College, Portland, Ore., from June 17 to 20. The American Association as a whole will join with the Pacific Division in this meeting.

Another summer meeting of the association as a whole will occur jointly with the Southwestern Division, at Boulder, Colorado, from June 9 to 11. The dates for these two summer meetings are so arranged that members may attend both of them, with nearly a week intervening for travel.

The preliminary announcement of the Portland meeting is now in preparation and will be mailed to every member of the American Association about April 30. The Scientific Research Conference will be held at the noon luncheon on Wednesday, June 17. The names of those who will speak at this conference will be announced in due time. On Wednesday evening will be given the presidential address by Dr. C. E. Grunsky, and a public reception will follow.

There will be general sessions on Thursday and