the program. The work of landing and putting together the machines has been satisfactorily performed, notwithstanding certain obstacles, due to the ice conditions, and during the opening days of May we shall probably have nothing to do but to wait for a fine weather forecast.

We do not know on which day we shall start, but the start will be made at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, because at that hour the sun will be moving across the sky in such a way that for the next 12 hours no shadow from the wings of the flying boat will fall upon the solar compass, as the sun will be moving northward in the sky, drawing nearer to our course to the Pole.

On the completion of the trials the *Farm* and *Hobby* will proceed to the north coast of Spitzbergen. The meteorologists in the *Farm* will advise us in the morning when a suitable day for our flight arrives. We shall start from here in the morning and fly to the ships, which will be either at the edge of the Polar ice, or by the ice in one of the fjords. I can not say which alternative we shall choose. On arriving at the place selected we shall prepare for the final start.

The distance from the starting place to the Pole is 687 miles, which we expect to cover in eight hours in still weather. At first, with the machines loaded to full capacity, we shall fly at 93 miles an hour. As the load decreases with the consumption of petrol we shall reduce speed in order to save the engines. On the return flight the speed will be rather under 87 miles an hour.

My intention is to land as soon as our observations indicate that we are above the Pole. We shall then take careful observations in order to discover how far we are from the Pole before making our final spurt, which will be made on ski if we find that we are still a considerable distance away. Should we fail to discover a suitable landing place fairly near the Pole, we shall drop the Norwegian flag which we are taking with us, and then shape our course for Spitzbergen. A return without landing will not prejudice the geographical results, for at the height of 1,000 feet, we shall command an area 125 miles in diameter.

THE BRITISH SCIENCE GUILD[1]

THE annual meeting of the British Science Guild was held in the Salters' Hall on April 21, the chair being taken by the Right Hon. Lord Askwith, president of the guild.

Reviewing the work of the guild, the chairman directed attention particularly to its coordinative functions, linking together the operations of many different bodies, and to its efforts to bridge the gulf between men of science and the general public. Reference was made to the issue of the revised edition of the Catalogue of British Scientific and Technical Books, which now contains more than 9,500 titles of books, and should prove most valuable to students, libraries and manufacturers. Methods of obtaining "science publicity" are being considered but this demands the cooperation of leading scientific and technical societies. A new feature has been the formation of six standing committees (National Security, Parliamentary, Health, Research and Industry, Finance and General Purposes).

An address emphasizing the need of increasing knowledge of science among the public, and the application of scientific method to public affairs, was delivered by Sir William Bragg, who pointed out the contrast between the marvelously rapid development of scientific data and the meager facilities for letting the public know what was being done on their behalf. The forty millions of people in the British Isles are living on the direct application of science, and they should know what science has done and what it might do in the future. It is unfortunate that scientific men, who spend their days in wresting information from Nature in the laboratory, have not as a rule the supplementary gift of conveying scientific information in a popular form. Publicity for science is needed. If, as it is hoped, a proper organization for publicity in scientific matters could be created, there should be at its head a scientific literary man, and behind it funds sufficient to tide over the first period of its existence.

Sir Arthur Newsholme, speaking as chairman of the health committee, said that the average life of a child born to-day is some 10 to 12 years longer than it was 30 to 40 years ago. This is due to a better knowledge of the laws of health. What should be investigated are the causes of evils rather than their alleviation—as illustrated by the millions of headache powders and similar nostrums sold. Attention has been directed by the health committee to two defects in the births and deaths registration bill now before Parliament. There is no valid verification of the fact of death, and the certificate of death should be regarded as confidential and lodged with the registrar and not handed to the nearest relative.

Major the Hon. H. Fletcher Moulton (chairman of the research and invention committee) pointed out that in regard to industry there is a gap similar to that remarked on by Sir William Bragg in connection with publicity. Manufacturers of Great Britain are sometimes blamed for not availing themselves more freely of the results of scientific researches. There is, however, a gulf between the man working in the laboratory and the business man. An intermediary, who could demonstrate to the latter how he would benefit from the application of science, is needed. It is in this intermediate stage that Germany has made such rapid progress.

UNPUBLISHED PREPARATIONS FOR "ORGANIC SYNTHESES"

THE suggestion has been made that "Organic Syntheses," an annual publication of satisfactory methods for the preparation of organic chemicals, can increase

[1] From *Nature*.

its scope of usefulness by making available directions for preparations which have been submitted for future volumes.

The following is a list of some of the preparations which are now being checked by the editors. Those who wish a copy of directions for some of the listed preparations can procure the same by writing to Henry Gilman, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa.

Acetamidine	1-Methyl-2-pyridone
Acrolein	Myristic acid
Benzal pinacolone	Naphthaldehyde
Benzylaniline	Phenyl isothiocyanate
m-Bromobenzyl chloride	sym-Phthalyl chloride
o-Bromotoluene	Propionaldehyde
α-Cyano-β-phenylacrylic acid	Pyromellitic acid
Cyclohexyl-bromopropene	Pyrrol carboxylic acid
Furoic acid	Thiophosgene
Hydroxylamine base	Thymoquinone
p-Iododimethylaniline	o-Toluamide
p-Iodoguaiacol	m-Tolylene diamine
Mandelic acid	Viscose

THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

GROUND was to be broken on May 7 for the first of the new buildings for the School of Medicine of the University of Chicago. At 2 p. m. trustees and faculty members of the university, including Rush Medical College, gathered on the site, between 59th and 58th Streets, and Ellis and Drexel Avenues, for an informal ceremony. Dr. Frank Billings officiated at the giant scoop with which the first sod was turned. Among those invited to be present were members of the firm of Coolidge and Hodgdon, the architects, and William Adams, the general contractor.

There will be constructed as fast as possible buildings to cost more than $4,500,000, realizing in steel and stone a project which has been developing for ten years, and has been discussed for longer than that. Departments for medical education will be united with a great hospital structure and dispensary, the whole furnishing opportunities for research and instruction much greater than has been possible in Chicago heretofore.

The units, with their purpose, location and cost, will be as follows:

The Albert Merritt Billings Memorial Hospital. Will house more than 200 patients; it is to be built facing south on 59th street, overlooking the Midway Plaisance, between Ellis and Drexel avenues; this building will express all modern conceptions in hospital planning, for the most efficient care of the sick and for the teaching of medicine and surgery; the cost will be about $2,000,000.

The Epstein Dispensary. This will have an entrance from 59th street; it will be equipped for the care of a large number of ambulatory patients; cost, about $200,000; it is the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Max Epstein.

The Medical Building. To be built immediately north of, and adjoining the hospital and dispensary, on the west side of a large court; to cost about $450,000.

The Surgical Building. To be erected on the east side of the court, north of and adjoining the hospital; to cost about $400,000.

The Pathology Building. To be built at the north of the court; between and adjoining the surgical and medical buildings; will house laboratories and lecture rooms for the present university department of pathology; to cost about $650,000.

The Physiology Building. To be erected in the same block, but fronting on 58th street; will house the present university laboratories and lecture rooms for physiology; to cost about $425,000.

The Building for Physiological Chemistry and Pharmacology. Will adjoin the building for physiology, and be connected with it above the first story; to continue the present university work in physiological chemistry and pharmacology; to cost about $425,000.

The large area of land set aside includes space adequate for the erection, when funds become available, of buildings to be devoted to special branches of medical research, such as psychiatry and obstetrics. The buildings for surgery and medicine are given a central location with the hospital so that those for the special branches may be constructed in the unoccupied space from time to time and the whole plan be logically developed.

The staff of directors of the different branches of the School of Medicine has been completed by the appointment of Dr. D. B. Phemister, of Rush Medical College, as professor of surgery. Dr. Franklin C. McLean is professor of medicine and Dr. Ralph B. Seem director of the hospital. The department of pathology is headed by Dr. Ludwig Hektoen; the Otho S. A. Sprague Institute by Dr. H. Gideon Wells; the department of physiology by Dr. A. J. Carlson, and the department of physiological chemistry and pharmacology by Dr. F. C. Koch.

AWARD OF THE THOMPSON GOLD MEDAL OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

THE Thompson gold medal awarded by the National Academy of Sciences for distinguished service in the sciences of geology and paleontology has been given this year, by unanimous vote of the academy, to Dr. John M. Clarke, of Albany. The medal was presented at the annual dinner of the academy on April 29, Vice-president Dr. John C. Merriam presiding, who introduced Dr. Charles D. Walcott, chairman of the Thompson committee, by whom the medal was, in the absence of Dr. Clarke, presented to Dr.