from teaching the arts of peace to instructing in the art of war. With his characteristic energy, Professor Van Ingen began preparing himself, the younger instructors and the graduate students of his department to do efficiently what it seemed most probable that they would first be called upon to do—give instruction in map-reading and interpretation to undergraduates and alumni of the university who were desirous of fitting themselves for commissions in the army. When the university actually began the training of these men, therefore, he was placed in charge of that branch of instruction. When the government asked the university to set up a school of military aeronautics for the preliminary training of candidates for commissions in the Air Service, he was chosen to be president of the academic board of the school, responsible for all the instruction given except the military drill. He organized the school and remained as its academic head until the end of the war. It was under the tremendous strain of this work that his health broke down. He suffered a nervous collapse, and later contracted a serious case of influenza, from the after-effects of which he never recovered.

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PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH SCHOOL OF ANTHROPOLOGY[1]

AFTER nearly two years' effort, the Australian National Research Council has succeeded in its project for establishing a Commonwelth School of Anthropology, to be attached to the University of Sydney. In December 1923 the Commonwealth government expressed approval of a scheme submitted to it; in the following year, however, an officer selected by the British government to advise Australia in the matter of administration of territories, reported very strongly against the proposal to use such a school for the training of officials. In consequence, government interest flagged. Renewed efforts, supported by the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science and the universities, were made in September, and, largely as the result of a visit from Professor Elliot Smith, who brought unofficial word of warm American sympathy, the prime minister promised to provide £1,000 per annum towards the expenses of a chair. The estimated yearly requirement being £2,500, the respective states were then asked to contribute the balance of £1,500 between them on a population basis. New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania agreed to provide their shares, and South Australia is practically certain to fall into line; Western Australia remains uncertain. The Research Council, therefore, has now asked the senate of the University of Sydney to consider the immediate appointment of a professor and the general arrangements for the new school. In doing so, it has laid emphasis on the following points: (*a*) The main work of the chair both in teaching and research should be in the field of social anthropology rather than on the physical or anatomical side, though provision should be made for this also. (*b*) In view of the training of students for government service in Papua and the Mandated Territories, and for specialized work in the Pacific, the professor chosen should have had actual field experience. (*c*) Though the routine work of the new chair will be under the control of the University of Sydney, it is urged that a permanent advisory committee, containing representatives of the commonwealth, states and research council, should be appointed, to assist in the organization of field research.

[1] From *Nature*.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH UNDER THE GOVERNMENT

REPRESENTATIVES of technical and scientific bureaus of the government met in the Interior Building on June 17 to formulate plans for the conduct of scientific research in the government service. General H. C. Smither, chief coordinator of the Budget Bureau, presided. The object of these conferences is to have frank, open discussion of the problems confronting the scientific worker, to the end that better cooperation and less duplication may result. According to a report in *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry,* the government activities represented were:

Department of Agriculture
- Bureau of Chemistry, W. W. Skinner
- Fixed Nitrogen Research Laboratory, F. G. Cottrell

Department of Commerce
- Bureau of Standards, G. K. Burgess
- Bureau of Mines, D. A. Lyon

Department of the Interior
- Geological Survey, W. C. Mendenhall

Navy Department
- Bureau of Engineering, M. A. Libbey
- Bureau of Ordnance, A. C. Stott
- Bureau of Navigation, E. T. Pollock and W. C. Asserson
- Naval Research Laboratory, Paul Foley
- Bureau of Aeronautics, R. M. Parsons
- National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, G. W. Lewis

Smithsonian Institution
- A. Wetmore

Treasury Department
- Public Health Service, H. S. Cumming and G. W. McCoy

War Department
Office of Engineers, P. B. Fleming
Ordnance, J. E. Munroe
Air Service, W. R. Davis and R. L. Walsh
Signal Office, P. S. Edwards
Chemical Warfare Service, C. R. Alley

The importance of maintaining a high morale among the scientific force and its bearing on the results achieved was emphasized. Two factors influence the morale generally—reclassification and appropriations. These factors create an uncertainty about tenure of office on the one hand and permanence of activities on the other. It was the sense of the conference that morale among the scientific personnel must be strengthened and that adequate provisions for promotion of both financial and honorary nature, as well as the stabilization of research by safeguarding it against the effects of retrenchment, would go far towards accomplishing this end. Dr. Cottrell suggested the advisability of having some agency set up as a trustee of accumulated funds. Contingent assets to the government might be used for such a cause. He then cited the patent situation as an illustration and pointed out that a simple article might be turned out which might have tremendous returns, whereas a serum of great importance to the human race would yield little financial return. He suggested that profits from the exploitation of the one might be used in the production of the other. He called attention to the fact that the proposed patent bill had a clause providing for the creation of an organization to handle profits from patents and distribute them in rewarding inventors. In other words, it is his idea that we should look forward to the time when a fund derived from revenue will go a long way towards making fundamental research self-sustaining. He was asked to put his ideas in tangible form for presentation at the next meeting of the conference.

General Smither appointed the following committee to study the manner of stabilizing the sinews of research in the government service with relation to the appropriation of money by the congress: Surgeon General H. S. Cumming, *chairman,* G. K. Burgess, F. G. Cottrell and George Otis Smith.

The matter of medical aides in the scientific units of the government service was next discussed. It was the consensus of opinion that some provision should be made for adequate medical attendance at government bureaus where work of a general hazardous nature is being conducted. Surgeon General Cumming was asked to devise some plan whereby ways and means may be found, either by legislative enactment or otherwise, to give him the authority to assign medical aides to such bureaus.

The next conference will be called in September.

THE BRUSSELS MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF RESEARCH

AT the General Assembly of the International Council of Research held at Brussels, July 7 to 9, 1925, the agenda consisted principally of propositions submitted by Denmark, Holland and Switzerland to amend certain statutes of the International Research Council. The effect of the original statutes was the exclusion of the Central Powers. Article I (1) based membership in the new organizations upon the Resolution of London (Oct., 1918), namely: "Les nouvelles Associations reconnues utiles au progrès des sciences et de leurs applications seront établies, dès maintenant, par les Nations en guerre avec les Empires Centraux, avec le concours éventuel des Neutres." Article III (3) names the countries originally admitted or admissible. The proposition to let down the bars was presented on the part of Holland by Professor Lorentz.

The delegates from the United States were Vernon Kellogg, *chairman,* W. W. Campbell and Charles E. St. John, who had been instructed by the National Research Council to favor and to work openly for making its councils and unions international in fact as well as in name. The vote upon one proposition is instructive and very illuminating as it illustrates the extent to which political rather than scientific considerations controlled.

YES—10 NATIONS

	Weight
Denmark	1
Great Britain	5
Holland	2
Italy	5
Japan	5
Norway	1
South Africa	1
Sweden	2
Switzerland	1
United States	5
	28

NO—6 NATIONS

	Weight
France	5
Belgium	2
Czecho-Slovakia	3
Egypt	1
Morocco	1
Poland	4
	16

NOT PRESENT

	Weight
Australia	2
Brazil	5
Canada	2
Chili	1
Greece	1