

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### AN INTERNATIONAL PHARMACEUTICAL CONFERENCE

THE Second International Conference on the Unification of Formulae of Heroic Medicaments will be held in Brussels, Belgium, during the week beginning September 21, 1925.

The first conference of this nature, also held in Brussels, was convened on September 15, 1902, the following countries being represented: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, India, Italy, Luxemburg, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States.

The agreements reached were incorporated into a treaty which was signed by the countries represented November 29, 1906. This country signed with the following reservation: "The Government of the United States of America does not assume, by virtue of its signature to this treaty, any other obligation than that of exercising its influence to bring the next edition of the Pharmacopoeia of the United States into harmony with said agreement."

The progress which has been made as a result of the labors of the first conference is most gratifying. The pharmacopoeias which have been revised since the treaty of 1906 became effective show, without exception, that an earnest endeavor has been made to comply with the requirements laid down by the conference. It was to be expected, however, that the agreements reached by this initial conference would require, as further knowledge was gained, revision from time to time, both in the nature of modifications and additions. It is for the purpose of making such changes and additions that the second conference has been called.

The countries that have signified their intention of participating in the second conference are Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Egypt, France, Finland, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Haiti, Hungary, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Roumania, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United States.

Dr. A. G. Dumez, of the Hygienic Laboratory at Washington, is the official delegate to this congress of the Army, Navy and the United States Public Health Service.

### THE PROPOSED SANCTUARY FOR WILD ANIMALS IN SOUTH AFRICA

A BILL for the permanent establishment of a great national park and sanctuary for wild animals will come before the Union Government of South Africa. Hopes are entertained that a final obstacle, the presence of some privately owned land within the scheduled area, will be overcome and that the Union, by

passing the bill, will create an asset of the highest commercial, popular and scientific value.

The Transvaal, in which the proposed park is situated, has the credit of being the first state in Africa to realize the importance of protecting wild life. In March, 1898, two years before the Conference of African Powers called by the late Lord Salisbury led to the establishment of reserves and sanctuaries in many parts of Africa, the Transvaal government had set apart a district on the Sabi River, between the Drakensberg Mountains and the Lebombo Hills, adjoining Portuguese East Africa, as a sanctuary in which it was forbidden to "hunt, shoot, seek or in any way to intimidate, to chase or to drive, or in any way disturb any game or birds in the game reserve."

The country is known as low veld or bush veld. From east to west it rises in height gradually from about 400 feet above sea level to about 2,000 feet. It is subtropical climatically, and consists of a series of undulating ridges and steep-cut water courses forest clad except below the 1,200-foot level, where it becomes savannah country with rocky outcrops, the home of troops of baboons. There are a few large perennial rivers flowing from west to east and a multitude of tributary water courses, most of them now as a result of the gradual desiccation of South Africa dry except during the rains.

In 1923, under pressure from the companies, the government excised the whole western area of the reserve, amounting to about 1,500,000 acres, between the Olifants River on the north and the Crocodile River on the south.

There remain about seventy farms within the area which are still private property, and it is the acquisition of these at a fair price that is the final obstacle to be overcome. If these are purchased and the remaining area of the original reserve permanently established by the Union Government as a national park and sanctuary, as contemplated by the bill, South Africa will gain possession of one of the greatest reserves in the world.

### THE GERMAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRY

AT the ninth annual general meeting of the Association of British Chemical Manufacturers recently held at the Chemical Society's Rooms, Burlington House, Piccadilly, W., D. Milne Watson, the chairman, said, according to a report in the *London Times*, that the chemical industry, though, fortunately, not to such a great degree as some other industries, was going through a serious time. He attributed the mitigation in their case to the organization which they had built up. During the year there had been closer cooperation between the dyestuffs industry and other branches