

opened on January 22, by Dr. M. T. MacEachern, of Chicago, who is in Australia surveying the hospitals. The new laboratory has nine rooms.

THE secretary of the British Department of Scientific and Industrial Research announces that the department has recently established a small research laboratory at Dudley House, Endell Street, in the vicinity of Covent Garden fruit and vegetable market. The laboratory will work in close connection with the Low Temperature Research Station, Cambridge, which is the headquarters of the fruit and vegetables section of the department's organization for food investigation. The object of the laboratory is to bring the station into closer contact with the trade in fruit and vegetables, and with the practical aspects of the problems of their transport and storage.

ABOUT \$35,000,000 is spent annually by American manufacturers in research work, and probably \$500,000,000 annually is saved as a result of such researches, according to estimates given by the United States Chamber of Commerce. Describing some of the principal research activities now in progress, the chamber said that the majority of trade associations were spending above \$20,000 each annually in cooperative research, while expenditures by large corporate units are much more. The National Canners' Association reported \$120,000 as its yearly research budget, while the Portland Cement and National Lime Associations each accounted for \$100,000. Large permanent investments in laboratories also were reported.

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association states that the new state serologic institute at Utrecht was recently dedicated. During the ceremonies, Professor Aldershoff gave an account of the activities of the institute, which consist in inducing antidiphtheritic immunization by the use of the toxin-antitoxin mixture; immunization against scarlet fever; the crusade against asthma, in which Dr. Pondman is engaged, by means of a polyvalent autovaccine; the preparation and study of pertussis vaccines, and the new findings of Calmette and Guérin concerning vaccination against tuberculosis with BCG. Following the dedicatory address, Minister Aalberse gave the history of the institute, which was founded originally as a private enterprise of Dr. Spronck, before it became the annex, that it now is, to the central laboratory and to the University of Utrecht.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

It is announced that more than \$8,000,000 have already been subscribed to the \$10,000,000 fund sought for building the University of Miami, Florida.

A CAMPAIGN is under way to raise \$5,000,000 for a new university in Kansas City to be known as the Lincoln and Lee University. The trustees contemplate breaking ground this fall, and the beginning of class work one year from that time.

DR. OSWALD VEBLEN, professor of mathematics, has been appointed the first incumbent of the Henry Burchard Fine professorship of mathematics at Princeton University. Dr. James W. Alexander and Dr. Tracey Yerkes, National Research Fellow at Princeton, have been made assistant professors in the same department.

DR. HENRY C. HARTMAN, professor of pathology at the University of Texas, has been appointed acting dean of the medical school, to succeed Dr. William Keiller, professor of anatomy, who has remained on duty since tendering his resignation a year ago.

ROBERT DE COURCY WARD, professor of climatology, and Dr. Ralph Barton Perry, professor of philosophy, have been appointed the professors from Harvard University for the year 1926-27 under the interchange agreement between Harvard University and the western colleges.

DR. W. F. SHENTON has resigned his position at the United States Naval Academy to become professor of mathematics and head of the department at the American University, Washington.

PROFESSOR E. T. BELL, now of the University of Washington, has been appointed to the staff of the department of mathematics of the California Institute of Technology.

DR. J. H. TAYLOR, of Princeton University, has been appointed assistant professor of mathematics at Lehigh University.

DR. B. P. WATSON, professor of midwifery and diseases of women at the University of Edinburgh, has accepted the chair of obstetrics and gynecology in Columbia University, and the directorship of the Sloane Hospital for Women.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE ISOLATION OF INSULIN

At a meeting held on January 20, 1926, of the Society of Experimental Biology and Medicine¹ a paper was presented on the isolation and analysis of a compound of insulin with Naphtolgelb S ("Flavimanic acid"). This preliminary paper, which was sent from Warsaw in December, 1925, to assure his priority in the field, can now be augmented by the following data.

¹ Proc. Soc. Exp. Biol. Med. 23, 281, 1926.

A purified insulin preparation gives with flavianic acid a compound of constant composition. This compound was converted into insulin flavianate-pierate, then into pierate, hydrochloride and finally pure insulin. The composition of all these five compounds, which can be recrystallized and are often obtained in a form of spherulites, shows a chemical composition on analysis which agrees one with each other. It can be reasonably assumed, therefore, that the insulin obtained in this way represents a chemical entity. The most simple empirical formula for insulin obtained from dozens of analyses is $C_{69}H_{102}O_{22}N_{18}S$, and the molecular weight therefore is equal to 1,565. The structure of the compound will probably be one of a polypeptide composed of about fifteen aminoacids. It must be conceded, however, that dealing with such high molecular substances the analytical results agree almost as well with the formula $C_{74}H_{114}N_{20}O_{24}S$, with a molecular weight of about 1,700. It is of little importance at the present time to know which of the two formulas is right, as the synthesis of the substance appears to be far off. The convulsive dose for rabbits of pure insulin obtained in this way is about 0.08 mg and therefore the old clinical unit equals 0.026 mg. On heating pure insulin a crystalline sublimate appears which is now being investigated.

The practical benefit of the work presented here is greater uniformity of action of insulin compared with the usual insulin makes and the possibility of standardization of insulin by weighing the substance without the use of animals. The method has been also applied with success for preparation of insulin directly from pancreas without the use of alcohol. Results so far obtained yielded an insulin preparation with a clinical unit equal to 0.06 mg and it is very probable that pure insulin can be obtained in this way. The method is being applied to the isolation of other hormones of similar structure to insulin.

CASIMIR FUNK

STATE SCHOOL OF HYGIENE,
WARSAW, POLAND

MOUNT JORDAN

I NOTICE in the press that a peak in the King's Kern Divide in the High Sierras in Tulare County has been named Mount Jordan. Some thirty years ago a peak farther north, the second highest in the state, one of a series called the Palisades, was called Mount Jordan, by Professor Bolton Coit Brown, of Stanford University. This name went on the maps until Dr. John N. LeConte, in making a map of the region, discovered that the early Whitney Survey had called the mountain in a general way the North

Palisade, not exactly as the name of a peak but as that of a mountain ridge. The Lieutenant Wheeler Survey which followed gave this particular crest of the mountain the name of North Palisade. The stream at the foot of the mountain flowing into the San Joaquin, I believe, is still called Jordan Creek.

Some years after, a number of us from Stanford climbed one of the high peaks of the King's Kern Divide and named it Stanford University Peak, or in short Mount Stanford. Adjoining this is a very rocky point early called Gregory's Monument, and a third peak of some 12,000 feet has remained unnamed. Dr. John N. LeConte and Mr. Francis P. Farquhar, a mountaineer prominent in the Sierra Club and chairman of the committee on names, have named this peak Mount Jordan, having the name put on the maps of the U. S. Geological Survey. Mr. Farquhar observes: "We feel that you will be particularly pleased at the selection of a peak in the region where you spent some time in 1899 and which was the inspiration for your admirable book on the Kings-Kern Divide."

I can stand it if the mountain can and I feel honored to be connected anywhere with one of the giants of the Sierras.

DAVID STARR JORDAN

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

THE PRICE OF HONOR

It may be of interest to American scientific men to see the correspondence concerning an honor which it has been proposed to confer upon some of them.

Ph.D.

ACCADEMIA INTERNAZIONALE DI LETTERE E SCIENZE
Napoli Italia

The Vice-President
for the Americas

5, Place Vendome
Paris, France
28 Dec. 1925

My dear Colleague:

In view of your widely appreciated academic services I have taken the liberty of submitting your name for the distinction of membership in the Academy of Letters and Sciences at Naples, a body of eminent persons, originally started by forty-six "founder-academicians," almost all professors in the Royal University of Naples. Professor Dr. Pietro Amoroso, Duke of Rijeka, the President-General, advises me that your possible candidature will prove acceptable to the Academic Senate.

It may interest you to learn that Woodrow Wilson formally accepted honorary membership in the Academy. Thomas A. Edison, as well as Chancellor E. E. Brown of New York University, and President N. M. Butler of Columbia University, are among the distinguished American members.

Kindly inform me whether you will accept election, in which case your diploma and the academic medal will be posted to you directly from Naples, registered.