

died suddenly on July 29, 1926, while on a vacation trip at Long Beach, California. His death followed an operation for acute appendicitis.

Dr. Lyman was born in Lee Center, Illinois, October 17, 1866. He was graduated from Beloit College in 1888 and took his master's degree from the same institution in 1891. At the close of his graduate work at Johns Hopkins he was an instructor for one year at the University of Chicago. He then taught chemistry at Portland (Oregon) Academy until he became head of the department of chemistry at Pomona College in 1909.

Dr. Lyman was married in 1897 to Ethel Anna Skinner. He is survived by his wife and three children. His younger and only brother, Dr. George R. Lyman, late dean of the college of agriculture at the University of West Virginia, died recently, thus bringing a double loss to the aged parents who survive them.

Dr. Lyman's special research problems were in the field of sulphonphthaleins and the ethers and esters of p-nitrobenzyl alcohol. He was joint author with William Conger Morgan of two preparatory school text-books, "Chemistry, an Elementary Text-book" and "Chemistry, an Elementary Text-book with Laboratory Manual." He also had nearly completed the manuscript of a text-book of organic chemistry.

Dr. Lyman was a brilliant and inspiring teacher and under his guidance a strong department of chemistry was developed at Pomona College. To his students he was a wise counsellor and a good friend. To those like myself who had the privilege of working with him in the department he was always the soul of kindness and sympathetic understanding. His keen sense of justice and his good judgment, seasoned with a humor which always took the sting out of criticism, made him admired and deeply respected by his students and colleagues and the members of the community in which he held honorable place. He has gone for a time, but his spirit lives in the hearts of the many to whom he has given a helping hand.

EDWARD P. BARTLETT

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### THE PRESENT STATE OF SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE OF CANCER

At the close of the conference on cancer held last week at Lake Mohonk, N. Y., more than a hundred specialists from various countries joined in the following statement:

Although the present state of knowledge of cancer is not sufficient to permit of the formulation of such procedures for the suppression of this malady as have

been successfully employed for the control of infectious diseases, there is enough well-established fact and sound working opinion concerning the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer to save many lives, if this information is carried properly into effect.

Although the causation of cancer is not completely understood, it may be accepted that for all practical purposes cancer is not to be looked upon as contagious or infectious.

Cancer itself is not hereditary, although a certain predisposition or susceptibility to cancer is apparently transmissible through inheritance. This does not signify that because one's parent or parents or other members of the family have suffered from cancer, cancer will necessarily appear in other persons of the same or succeeding generations.

The control of cancer, so far as this subject can be understood at the present time, depends upon the employment of measures of personal hygiene and certain preventive and curative measures, the success of which depends upon the intelligent cooperation of patient and physician.

Persons who have cancer must apply to competent physicians at a sufficiently early stage in the disease in order to have a fair chance of cure. This applies to all forms of cancer. In some forms early treatment affords the only possibility of cure.

Cancer in some parts of the body can be discovered in a very early stage, and if these cases are treated properly the prospect for a permanent cure is good.

The cure of cancer depends upon discovering the growth before it has done irreparable injury to a vital part of the body and before it has spread to other parts. Therefore, efforts should be made to improve the methods of diagnosis in these various locations and the treatment of the cancers so discovered.

The public must be taught the earliest danger signals of cancer which can be recognized by persons without a special knowledge of the subject and induced to seek competent medical attention when any of these indications are believed to be present.

Practitioners of medicine must keep abreast of the latest advances in the knowledge of cancer and learn signs of cancer in order to diagnose as many as possible of the cases of cancer which come to them.

Surgeons and radiologists must make constant progress in the refined methods of technic which are necessary for the diagnosis and proper treatment not only of ordinary cases but of the more obscure difficult ones.

There is much that medical men can do in the prevention of cancer, in the detection of early cases, in the referring of patients to institutions and physicians who can make the proper diagnosis and apply proper treatment, when the physicians themselves are unable to accomplish these results. The more efficient the family doctor is the more ready he is to share responsibility with a specialist.

Dentists can help in the control of cancer by informing themselves about advance in the known cases

of cancer of the buccal cavity, especially with relation to the irritations produced by teeth but the condition of the bone dental plates. They can also help by referring cases of cancer which they discover to physicians skilled in the treatment of cancer in this location. It may be doubted whether some dentists fully realize the help which can be obtained from X-ray photographs which reveal not only the state of the teeth but the conditions of the bone surrounding them.

Medical students should be taught about cancer by the aid of actual demonstration of cancer patients, and this to a sufficient extent to give them a good working knowledge of the subject.

The most reliable forms of treatment and, in fact, the only ones thus far justified by experience and observation depend upon surgery, radium and X-rays.

Emphasis should be placed upon the value of the dissemination of the definite, useful and practical knowledge about cancer, and this knowledge should not be confused nor hidden by what is merely theoretical and experimental.

Efforts towards the control of cancer should be made in two principal directions, the promotion of research in order to increase the existing knowledge of the subject, and the practical employment of the information which is at hand.

Even with our present knowledge many lives could be saved which are sacrificed to unnecessary delays.

A proposal by Claude Regaud, director of the Pasteur Laboratory of the Radium Institute, Paris, for the establishment of an international federation of cancer control societies and a bibliographic index was referred to the various organizations for study and further consideration.

## THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF SOIL SCIENCE

IN accordance with the decision of the Fourth International Conference of Soil Science that met in Rome in May, 1924, the First Congress of the International Association of Soil Science, then organized, will convene on June 13, 1927, in Washington, D. C. The congress will be followed by a field excursion to visit the various important soil belts in the country. Opportunity will also be given to the delegates to acquaint themselves with various agricultural industries, some of the leading agricultural experiment stations and in general with the agricultural resources of the United States.

The association is made up of the following six international commissions:

### I. *Commission on Soil Physics*

Chairman—Dr. V. Novak, Chef de l'Institut Pédologique, Kvetna 19, Brno, Czechoslovakia.

### II. *Commission on Soil Chemistry*

Chairman—Professor Dr. A. deSigmond, Technische Hochschule, Szent-Gallerter, 4, Budapest, Hungary.

### III. *Commission on Soil Bacteriology*

Chairman—Professor Dr. Julius Stocklasa, Professor an der Böhmischen, Technischen Hochschule und Direktor der Staatlichen Versuchsstation, Vinohrady, Prague, Czechoslovakia.

### IV. *Commission on Soil Fertility*

Chairman—Professor Dr. E. A. Mitscherlich, Pflanzenbau-Institute der Universität, Tragheimerkirchenstrasse 83, Königsberg, Germany.

### V. *Commission on Nomenclature, Classification and Cartography*

Chairman—Professor C. F. Marbut, Bureau of Soils, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

#### *Sub-Commission on the preparation of the Cartography of Europe*

Professor Dr. H. Stremme, Mineralogisch-Geologisch Institut der Technischen Hochschule, Neptunstrasse 14, Danzig, Germany.

### VI. *Commission on the Application of Soil Science to Land Cultivation*

Chairman—Dr. J. Girsberger, Kultur-Ingenieur des Kantons Zürich, Kaspar Escherhaus, Zürich, Switzerland.

The American representatives of these commissions are:

I. Dr. C. Davis, Bureau of Soils, Washington, D. C.

II. Dr. M. M. McCool, East Lansing, Michigan.

III. Dr. S. A. Waksman, New Brunswick, N. J.

IV. Professor D. R. Hoagland, Berkeley, California.

V. Dr. C. F. Marbut, Bureau of Soils, Washington, D. C.

VI. Dr. S. H. McCrory, Bureau of Agricultural Engineering, Washington, D. C.

Each commission is now working on the preparation of its own program. Some of the sessions will be devoted to the congress as a whole or to combined meetings of more than one commission, while a number of sessions (5 to 8) will be devoted to the special sessions of each commission.

The program of each commission will consist of papers presented by invitation by outstanding investigators in the respective fields, and of papers presented by various workers in the different branches of soil science, by members or non-members of the association. Titles of the papers to be presented and brief abstracts in English, French and German should be sent on or before December 1, either to the respective chairman or to the American representative of the commission, where the paper is to be presented, or to the president of the association, who will have the paper forwarded to the chairman of the corresponding commission.

This congress will bring together in this country, for the first time in its history, all those that are in-