

THE CONFERENCE ON BITUMINOUS COAL

THE Conference on Bituminous Coal to be held at the Carnegie Institute of Technology in Pittsburgh has been definitely scheduled for November 15 to November 19.

The purpose of the meeting, according to Dr. Thomas S. Baker, president of the Carnegie Institute of Technology, is to bring together the men of all countries who have done notable work in the study of more scientific and rational utilization of soft coal. Listed for discussion are such questions as the manufacture of substitutes for gasoline from coal; the complete gasification of coal; high temperature and low temperature carbonization; by-products; smokeless fuel; pulverized coal; hydro-electric power versus steam power, etc.

As a result of a visit to Europe this past summer by Dr. Baker, several distinguished scientists and fuel technologists in Europe have accepted his invitations to attend the congress. German representatives will include privy councilor Professor Franz Fischer, director of the Institute for Coal Research at Mulheim-Ruhr, and Dr. Friedrich Bergius, of Heidelberg. England will be represented by Dr. C. H. Lander, director of fuel research of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research; Dr. R. Lessing, prominent fuel technologist, and Geoffrey Gill, engineer and specialist in the manufacture of gas. From France will come General Georges Patart, who was in charge of the manufacture of explosives during the war and who is the inventor of a process for making methyl alcohol from coal. In addition, there will be a representative from the Office National des Combustibles Liquides. Besides these, a number of European specialists who have done work in the development of certain processes are expected to attend.

American engineers, scientific men and fuel technologists who have been doing important research work in the chemistry of coal and other problems will have a large share in the program.

Among the members of the advisory board assisting in the development of the conference plans are Andrew W. Mellon, secretary of the United States Treasury; John Hays Hammond, engineer and inventor; Otto H. Kahn, banker; Charles M. Schwab, steel manufacturer; Samuel Insull, public utility leader; E. M. Herr, president of the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company, and Dr. Frank B. Jewett, vice-president of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company and director of research of the Bell Telephone Research Laboratories.

THE MOHONK CANCER SYMPOSIUM

At a dinner to the foreign guests held in New York at the end of the symposium held at Mohonk from

September 20 to 24, and attended by about 250 physicians, Sir John Bland-Sutton declared that the meeting would make medical history. He spoke in part as follows:

We have had a very strenuous week, and I will say in all my experiences in congresses and association meetings I have never been to one in which there was a more complete absence of acrimony and so much work was accomplished. The zeal which led so many investigators, surgeons and physicians to cross the Atlantic and come from all parts of the American continent is creditable, and the earnestness they displayed in the conference is beyond all praise. In fact, they were so earnest in their discussions that they even continued them on the hotel porches and in the dining room. This meeting is certain to make medical history.

Dr. Wendell Phillips, president of the American Medical Association, said:

This meeting has done much to stabilize the knowledge that we have of cancer, and it will clarify the opinions, not only of medical men, but of the public. In this respect it will accomplish what no other meeting has done before. It is a great thing to preach up the right rather than to preach down the wrong, and those who have been at Mohonk have been preaching up the right.

Dr. Welch said:

The great note struck at the Mohonk symposium was the tremendous importance of the cancer question and the appalling problems which it presents. There was never a time when the disease presented problems of such magnitude. The general public and the medical profession must be aroused to the vital importance of efforts to control cancer. However inadequate our knowledge is to-day, it is an obligation of the profession to the general community that every effort be made to control this scourge. The community must be taught that all types of cancer are not certainly and inevitably fatal if they are recognized and properly treated at an early stage. Emphasis was placed upon the importance of research work, the need of further additions to our knowledge on the one hand, and equally, upon the necessity of applying our existing information for the saving of human lives and suffering. There is no disease to which larger additions have been made to our knowledge than cancer, but because this knowledge does not reach the public which we are most anxious to reach, this seems trivial. The many papers and discussions will be published and make a volume which will be an epochal contribution to our knowledge of cancer.

Among the European specialists present were: Dr. Raffaele Bastianelli, professor of surgery at the University of Rome; Dr. Leon Berard, professor of surgery at the University of Lyons; Sir John Bland-Sutton, Bt., president of the Royal College of Surgeons, vice-chairman of the British Empire Cancer