

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

SIR ISAAC NEWTON'S BI-CENTENARY

THE History of Science Society, in collaboration with committees from The American Mathematical Society, Mathematical Association of America, American Astronomical Society and the American Physical Society, proposes to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the death of Sir Isaac Newton by an appropriate program at Columbia University, New York, November 25 and 26, 1927.

On this occasion it is planned to have addresses relating to the great contributions of Newton to the advancement of mathematics, astronomy and physics, and setting forth his interests in chemistry, chronology, theology and other branches of learning. It is also hoped that some reference will be made to Newton's early contribution to the advancement of science in the American Colonies—when Harvard and Yale Colleges were in their infancy. Each subject will be represented by at least two papers given by scholars of distinction.

It is proposed to have a large exhibition of Newtoniana, including the first edition of the Principia, and other related publications, also portraits, medals and autographed letters and documents, and such material as bears directly upon his life, achievements and contemporaries. Therefore it is hoped that those who have material of this nature will take pleasure in loaning it to the committee in charge of the exhibit; it is requested that those who can contribute will communicate as soon as possible with the secretary.

Similar commemorative programs have already been held on the anniversary date of Newton's death, namely, March 20, by various societies and universities of this country, and also in England. The History of Science Society will take the opportunity to honor Newton, at its regular annual meeting.

A full program of papers and speakers with other particulars will be published in *SCIENCE* during October.

The following individuals form the Program Committee:

For the History of Science Society—

Dr. David Eugene Smith (*chairman*), Columbia University.

Dr. Henry Crew, Northwestern University.

For the American Mathematical Society, and Mathematical Association of America—

Dr. B. C. Archibald, Brown University.

Dr. E. W. Brown, Yale University.

Dr. Florian Cajori, University of California.

For the American Astronomical Society—

Dr. E. W. Brown, Yale University.

For the American Physical Society—

Dr. Leigh Page.

FREDERICK E. BRASCH,

Secretary of the Committee

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

THE CENTENARY OF THE BIRTH OF LORD LISTER

THE centenary of the birth of Lord Lister, the pioneer in antiseptic surgery, occurs on April 5. The occasion is being widely celebrated in England. On April 4, the day before the reception in the great Hall of the British Medical Association of the official delegates to the Lister centenary, Sir St. Clair Thomson will give an address at the social evening of the Royal Society of Medicine on "The Centenary of Lister—Recollections by One of his House-surgeons."

The Lister memorial committee of the Canadian Medical Association aims to establish the fifth of April as Lister Day in medical schools, hospitals and health centers throughout the world.

A public meeting in celebration of Lord Lister's centenary is to be held in the McEwan Hall, Edinburgh, on Wednesday, July 20, at 8 p. m. The Right Honorable the Earl of Balfour has consented to take the chair, and short addresses will be delivered by Sir William Watson Cheyne, Bt., Professor Tuffier, of Paris; Professor Harvey Cushing, of Harvard University, and Dr. James Stewart, of Halifax, Nova Scotia.

The *British Medical Journal* states that throughout the week of the annual meeting of the British Medical Association a museum of Lister relics will be on view in the upper library of the old university. In this connection most generous assistance has been given by the director of the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum, London, and his staff, and the unique interest of the exhibits will largely be due to their cooperation.

A Lister memorial volume has been prepared, and with the consent of the council of the British Medical Association it will constitute the book of the meeting in so far as a copy will be presented to each member of the association who registers. The volume, edited by Dr. Logan Turner, contains a variety of contributions; a sketch of Lord Lister's life is given by his former house-surgeon, Sir George Beatson, of Glasgow. A series of short personal reminiscences has been written by Sir William Watson Cheyne, Dr. Rutherford Morison, Dr. Grasett, Dr. Baldwin, Dr. T. R. Ronaldson, the late Professor Francis Caird, Dr. Stewart (Halifax), Dr. Douglas (Cupar) and Mr. Hamilton Russell, of Melbourne. Two of Lister's scientific addresses and a series of letters of general interest are incorporated in the book. A number of

striking comments which he made at various times in relation to the germ theory and the antiseptic system, and, in fact, upon things in general, have been grouped in a chapter under the heading "Obiter dicta." A section of particular interest is that dealing with the lives of Lister's fellow residents in the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary during the summer of 1854, a group which included Beddoe, Christison and Kirk—men who won distinction in widely differing fields. This chapter has been contributed by Dr. Logan Turner. A chapter entitled "Surgery Prior to Lister's Time" is written by Mr. Alexander Miles, while an article on the influence of Lister's work on surgery is contributed by Professor Fraser; Professor Sharpey-Schafer deals with Lister's work as a physiologist. The volume, which will contain from 180 to 200 pages quarto, is illustrated, and, except in so far as reproduction of certain letters and published articles is concerned, the matter is original.

The residences which Lister occupied while in Edinburgh have hitherto been undistinguished by any memorial inscription. The committee considered the present a suitable opportunity to remedy what may have seemed to many an omission. With the generous consent of the proprietors concerned, short indicatory inscriptions are being placed upon the wall of 11, Rutland Street, and 9, Charlotte Square.

A donation of £25 was received by the committee, the donor desiring that this sum should be awarded as a prize for the best essay submitted on the subject "The Influence of Lister on Surgery." To the original prize the committee has added a gold medal, and this award is open to students and graduates of not more than one year's standing of any medical school in the British Empire. It is intended that the award of the prize and medal shall be made by Lord Balfour at the Lister centenary meeting on July 20.

YALE-IN-CHINA

THE trustees of Yale-in-China have issued a statement announcing the resignation of President Edward H. Hume, to take effect in July. They report:

The trustees and Dr. Hume have long felt that executive control of the colleges at Changsha should pass into Chinese hands as early as possible. With this thought in mind every encouragement was given to the creation of a Chinese board of managers for the Medical College, the new board taking complete control in the spring of 1925, when Dr. F. C. Yen, a distinguished Chinese medical graduate of Yale University, became principal.

In order to make Chinese leadership effective in the College of Arts and Sciences as well, a policy in which the trustees and Dr. Hume are fully in accord, the resignation of President Hume was offered to the board of trustees on June 24, 1926, and was accepted in October. Negotiations for a Chinese successor were in progress, and

it was hoped that announcement of an election could be made at the same time as that of Dr. Hume's resignation. The unfortunate events of the past few months have interrupted these efforts, but it is hoped to renew them as soon as practicable.

President Hume was called from a post with the United States Public Health Service in Bombay to lay the foundations of the medical work at Changsha in 1905. Until 1910 he was the only medical member of the staff, being joined in the latter year by Dr. F. C. Yen.

On October 18, 1915, the corner-stone of the new hospital at Yale-in-China was laid by Professor William H. Welch, of the Johns Hopkins Medical School, the building being opened to patients in February, 1918. Dr. Hume continued as dean of the Medical College and professor of medicine from 1914 to 1923, when he was elected president of the colleges of Yale-in-China.

In accepting President Hume's resignation, the trustees placed on record their appreciation of his conspicuous service during the past twenty-two years, in a special resolution:

Dr. Hume was among the first to put into effect a policy of partnership with the Chinese in medical education. Through his efforts he has been instrumental in developing one of the outstanding medical schools in the Far East. With a remarkable knowledge of the Chinese language and eloquence in using it, he has won for Yale-in-China many needed friendships. His Christian character, his strong faith, and ceaseless activity have kindled the enthusiasm of his colleagues and other workers throughout China.

ORGANIZATION OF A LOUISIANA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

A LOUISIANA Academy of Sciences was recently organized by Dr. I. Maizlish, head of the physics department at Centenary College, Shreveport, La. The object of the organization is to unite the scientists of the state, to foster scientific development and to encourage scientific research. The organization meeting was held conjointly with that of the Louisiana-Mississippi Section of the Mathematical Association of America at Centenary College, March 5, 1927. Those attending the meeting were very enthusiastic about the academy.

The officers elected are as follows:

President: Dr. I. Maizlish, Centenary College, Shreveport, La.

Vice-President: Dr. H. L. Smith, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, La.

Secretary: Professor Geo. Williamson, Louisiana State Normal College, Natchitoches, La.

Treasurer: Mr. F. M. Witherspoon, care of Louisiana Oil Refining Corporation, Shreveport, La.