

tration building where the various offices and the library are located. Besides the above, there are a number of other buildings serving different purposes, such as insectaries, greenhouses and dwellings for the laborers. The insect collections of the institute are representative of the insect fauna of those regions. The same may be said for the mycological and other collections. The laboratories are well equipped with apparatus for general as well as specialized work in plant pathology and other allied botanical sciences.

Some of the problems upon which the institute has concentrated most of its attention are:

(1) A general survey of the various diseases of the most important crops of Greece. This survey will include diseases caused by parasites belonging either to the plant or animal kingdom, such as viruses, bacteria, fungi, higher plants, nematodes, insects and other animals.

(2) Determination of the meteorological and edaphic factors associated with the development and inhibition of such diseases.

(3) Development of resistant plant varieties by breeding or by introduction from other countries.

(4) Introduction of predaceous insects and nematodes and other such natural enemies for the control of the pests of the cultivated plants.

(5) Preparation, testing and distribution of suitable fungicides and insecticides.

(6) Popularization of phytopathological knowledge among the farmers by lectures and demonstration work.

The thing that was called to my attention in the letter particularly, and which I also want to emphasize in this connection, is the inadequate supply of scientific literature in the library. The founder and staff of the institute will greatly appreciate the efforts of all phytopathologists and entomologists throughout the world in helping them to make up for deficiencies in the pathological and entomological literature. Plant pathologists and entomologists wishing to do so may either send reprints of their publications or ask the librarians of their respective institutions to enter the name of the institute in the mailing list. The address of the institute is: Benacheion Phytopathological Institute, Athens, Greece.

C. P. SIDERIS

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

OPENING OF THE INSTITUTE OF OPTICS IN PARIS

THE Institute of Optics, Paris, of which Dr. Charles Fabry is director, was formally opened on March 17.

The opening was attended by the president of the French Republic, Monsieur Doumergue, the minister of public instruction, Monsieur Herriot, and a large

number of persons eminent in the political and scientific worlds of Paris. Among the three or four speeches those of the director and of Monsieur Herriot were notable. This institute grew out of an endeavor during war time to care for the design and construction of precise optical instruments. The institute was founded largely through the efforts of the Duc de Grammont, Professor Fabry and a few others in 1919 in a hired building. On March 17 the new and very adequate building was inaugurated, one towards which private funds, including some subscriptions from individuals in America, a portion of receipts of the Pasteur Day in 1924 and substantial contributions not only from French industrials but from governmental funds through the Ministries of Public Instruction and of Public Works, were forthcoming.

The institute consists of three subdivisions, covering fields of scientific research, not only in geometric optics, but in physical optics, a large testing laboratory equivalent to a section of the Bureau of Standards and a school for apprentices.

The founding of this institute marks a coming together of the large industrials and the most competent of the war scientists in their own field.

THE ORGANIZATION OF BRITISH SCIENTIFIC WORKERS

AN appeal has been sent from the National Union of Scientific Workers to all professionally qualified men of science and technicians in England, with the object of obtaining their views "on the possibility and desirability of building up a body fully representative of their broader interests." The appeal bears the signatures, with many others, of:

Dr. E. F. Armstrong, Sir William Bragg, Professor F. G. Donnan, Sir Richard Gregory, Sir Robert Hadfield, Lord Haldane, Sir Thomas Holland, Sir F. Gowland Hopkins, Sir Charles Parsons, Sir Horace Plunkett, Sir Humphrey Rolleston, Sir Charles Sherrington, Sir Arthur Shipley and Mr. H. G. Wells.

Following is the text of the appeal:

The National Union of Scientific Workers was founded in 1918 (1) to promote the cause of science in our national life, and (2) to improve the status of the scientific worker. The union, during its eight years of life, has a number of achievements to its credit, but it has not succeeded in becoming what its supporters hoped for—an organization fully representative of the general body of qualified scientific workers. Its membership is still a little below 1,000, although there must be nearly 10,000 persons in Great Britain qualified for admission. We believe that the establishment of such a representative body would be of the greatest importance to science and to those who have made science their profession; we are, therefore, sending this appeal to all qualified scien-