

sirable—the undersigned have the honor to propose the following line of action:

The International Committee on Intellectual Cooperation might forthwith decide in *principle* to cooperate with the International Meteorological Committee for the creation of an International Bureau of Meteorology in accordance with the suggestions set out above. It might authorize the present subcommittee to act on its behalf as soon as the International Meteorological Committee has formally approved the scheme drawn up by the experts, so that the recommendations in question may be submitted to the Council of the League at its December session.

As regards the question of premises, a decision might be taken by the Committee of Directors of the Institute.

The representative of the International Commission for Air Navigation has promised to see that, at the next (October) meeting of the committee, that organization takes action on the same lines to secure the creation of the International Bureau of Meteorology.

(Signed) M. CURIE  
H. A. LORENTZ  
A. EINSTEIN

#### A LABORATORY FOR THE STUDY OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN SPOTTED FEVER

THE state of Montana, in a bill approved by Governor Erickson on March 16, has appropriated \$60,000 for the erection of a laboratory at Hamilton for the State Board of Entomology, to be used for the further study of Rocky Mountain spotted fever. The state has also appropriated approximately \$25,000 per year for the next biennium to provide for carrying on the work on this problem. Ten thousand dollars per year of this sum is for the study, breeding and colonizing of the French tick parasite (*Ixodiphagus caucurtei* DuBuysson) recently introduced into America by Dr. S. B. Wolbach, of the Harvard Medical School, from the laboratories of the eminent parasitologist, Dr. Brumpt. Dr. F. Larrousse, who is associated with Dr. Brumpt, brought a stock of the parasites to Massachusetts last summer for the purpose of colonizing them on the American dog tick (*Dermacentor variabilis* Say) in Massachusetts.

In addition to the usual features of such laboratories, the building will provide facilities for the rearing of large numbers of infected and non-infected ticks and for the care of large numbers of caged wild rodents. The building will also be provided with rooms and chambers with automatically controlled temperatures and humidity.

The work on spotted fever in Montana is being conducted under an informal plan of cooperation between

the United States Public Health Service and the Montana State Board of Entomology. The Public Health Service on U. S. government funds is occupied chiefly at present with a further study of the Spencer-Parker vaccine. The vaccine, made from the bodies of infected ticks (*Dermacentor andersoni* Stiles), was originated two years ago at the laboratory at Hamilton, Montana, and at the Hygienic Laboratory in Washington, D. C., by the two workers from the Public Health Service, and was used last year on about one thousand persons in Montana and Idaho with encouraging results. The Public Health Service is also giving attention to the following: the organism of spotted fever (*Dermacentroxenus rickettsi* Wolbach) and other organisms found in ticks; characteristics of the virus of spotted fever, with particular reference to differences in ticks and in various laboratory and wild animals; relationships of the rabbit tick (*Haemaphysalis leporis-palustris* Packard) in the spotted fever complex; tularaemia, and tick paralysis in man and in domestic animals. The state of Montana, in cooperation with the United States Bureau of Entomology, had previously worked out the life-history and host relationships of the woodtick vector, and the State Board of Entomology is at present concerned mainly with the French tick parasite and with the destruction of ticks by killing the rodent hosts and the dipping of domestic animals. The biology and thermal constants of the parasite are being studied by the entomologist of the board and experiments in colonizing the parasite on ticks in nature are being started this season. The thermal constants of the tick are also being determined and will be correlated with those of the parasite.

The United States Public Health Service is represented at the Montana laboratory by Dr. R. R. Spencer, officer in charge, and entomologist R. R. Parker, special expert. The State Board of Entomology is made up of Dr. W. F. Cogswell, secretary of the State Board of Health, *chairman*; Dr. W. J. Butler, state veterinary surgeon, *member*, and R. A. Cooley, state entomologist, *secretary*. The work of tick destruction is being conducted by Mr. F. J. O'Donnell.

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#### ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

THE seventy-eighth annual session of the American Medical Association will be held in Washington, D. C., from May 16 to 20. Eight thousand physicians are expected to attend and be officially welcomed by President Coolidge at the first general evening session, Tuesday, May 17.