

(4) The war, on the whole, had a distinctly beneficial effect on research in the fundamental science of chemistry in the United States.

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SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

AWARD OF THE CONWAY EVANS PRIZE TO SIR CHARLES SHERRINGTON

IN February, 1925, the residuary trust funds of the estate of the late Dr. Conway Evans, medical officer for the Strand district, who died in 1892, were transferred to the president of the Royal Society and the president of the Royal College of Physicians of London and their successors in office that, in accordance with the terms of his bequest, they

shall apply the same in giving rewards to such person or persons who, in the opinion of the presidents, have rendered or shall from time to time render some valuable contribution or addition to science as it exists at the time of my death either by invention, discovery or otherwise.

In accordance with this trust, the president of the Royal Society and the president of the Royal College of Physicians of London have made the first award of the Conway Evans prize, amounting to five hundred guineas, to Sir Charles Sherrington, on the ground that his work on the physiology of the nervous system, and chiefly on the physiology of the brain and spinal cord of the higher animals, has brought many complex nervous functions for the first time within the range of investigation and analysis. His discoveries have had a profound influence throughout the world on the experimental sciences of physiology and psychology and have thrown a flood of new light on many of the symptoms of nervous disease. In making his first award for some valuable contribution to science as it existed at the time of the death of the testator, the presidents of the Royal Society and of the Royal College of Physicians state that they have had no hesitation in selecting as conspicuously worthy of such recognition the work of Sir Charles Sherrington, which they believe to be of outstanding value for science and for humanity.

EXPLORATIONS IN THE REGION OF LAKES TITICACA AND POOPO

AN important journey in the region of Lakes Titicaca and Poopo, according to the *Geographical Journal*, was undertaken last year, with the support of various German bodies, by Dr. K. Troll, of Munich, who describes some of his results in *Petermanns Mitteilungen*, 1927, Nos. 1-2 and 7-8. The program laid

down was very extensive, and included a study of the geology and morphology of the Bolivian Altiplano and its surrounding ranges, as well as of the vegetation and the agriculture, actual and potential. The La Paz valley was first examined and its relation to the glacial epoch made out. A careful study of the shores of Lake Titicaca and its ancient terraces was next made, and it was ascertained that the highest level (representing the Lake Ballivian of Bowman) was considerably older than the last ice-age. The next piece of work was the examination of the Cordillera and its eastern escarpment between Illampu and Apolobamba, where little had been known of the direction taken by the crest of the range and its relation to the hydrography. The conditions were found very similar to those of the La Paz system, the range being several times broken through by the Rio Mapiri, so that here too the water-parting is merely the sharply cut edge of the Altiplano. As in the case of the La Paz, the trenching was pre-glacial. Dr. Troll was able to join Professor A. Possnansky in a descent of the Desaguadero from Titicaca to Poopo in a motor boat, this being the first occasion on which the whole course of the river had been navigated. It led to the discovery that the river has since 1922 shifted its course considerably to the east before entering the lower lake. While traversing the Pampa north of Poopo (which is dry and not swamp as shown in the 1-M map of the American Geographical Society) the river flows at a slightly higher level than the surrounding plain, and its bank seems to have been breached at high water. Much attention was paid to the history of the lake basins in recent geological times, and some of the conclusions of Bowman as to the relations of the two ancient lakes ("Ballivian" and "Minchin") are considered to be incorrect. Both the modern lakes have shown a decided rise in level of late years. This had been known for some time as regards Titicaca, but Dr. Troll was able to establish the fact for Poopo also, where much vegetation on the banks has been killed by the flooding. It seems that the cause is a climatic one. Even though the journey was made at the end of the dry season, Poopo was found to be discharging by the Lacahuira River towards the "Salar" of Coipasa, although the lake has been held (as by Neveu-Lemaire of the French Commission of 1903) to have no outlet. (May not the discharge be a recent phenomenon, due to the rise in the level of the lake?) Dr. Troll ends by speaking of small remnants of primitive inhabitants that are still to be met with on the Altiplano, distinct from the Aimara and Quechua, and discusses recent projects for using the Desaguadero for navigation and irrigation. At the time of writing he was continuing his researches.