

were brought to a close by a reception in the evening at the Elysée Palace tendered by M. Doumergue, the President of France.

In conclusion I regret to mention that the pleasure of the American delegates in their participation in the ceremonies was marred somewhat by the action which had been taken in September by the Council of the American Chemical Society in regard to the Maison de la Chimie. Although this was evidently based upon a misunderstanding, it was rightly regarded as an unjust criticism of the project. The mistaken basis of that action was undoubtedly a confusion in the minds of some between the proposed International Office of Chemistry and the Maison de la Chimie. The two are not identical.

Although from the American point of view there may be worthy arguments against participation in an international office of chemistry, there can certainly be no just criticism of the kind of Maison de la Chimie which is to be erected in honor of Marcelin Berthelot. This, as repeatedly emphasized by its sponsors and many friends, is a beneficent enterprise having for its object the advancement of chemistry and the promotion of good-will between the nations of the world.

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SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON CANCER RESEARCH

At the quarterly meeting of the grand council of the British Empire Cancer Campaign, held on January 10, under the presidency of Sir John Bland-Sutton, it was announced that an International Convention on Cancer Research was being convened for next July in London, and that the Royal Society of Medicine had placed their headquarters at the disposal of the British Empire Cancer Campaign for the purposes of the meetings of the convention. Sir J. Bland-Sutton, past-president of the Royal College of Surgeons and vice-chairman of the campaign, has been appointed president of the convention.

The London *Times* reports that the convention committee, charged with the arrangements, informed the grand council that the work of the convention would be divided into the following sections: Pathological, diagnosis, medical treatment, surgical treatment, radiological treatment and public health and statistics. Chairmen had been appointed for some of these sections: Sir Thomas Horder, with Sir William Willcox as vice-chairman, of diagnosis section; Professor Lazarus-Barlow, pathological section; Sir Charles

Gordon-Watson, surgical treatment section; Professor Sidney Russ, with Dr. Robert Knox as vice-chairman, radiological treatment section, and Lieutenant-Colonel F. E. Fremantle, public health and statistics section.

Invitations are being sent to all parts of the world to those whose names are closely associated with modern research into the cancer problem, and all the universities and medical schools of the United Kingdom will be invited to send delegates to the convention. The chairman of the convention committee, Mr. J. P. Lockhart-Mummery, reported that Sir Richard Garton, chairman of the finance committee, was making a generous donation towards the expenses of the convention and that no part of the campaign's funds would be used in connection with it.

Sir Richard Garton, in submitting the report of the finance committee, announced that a trust fund had been created by the executors of the late Mr. William Johnston, of Liverpool, to be known as "the Aileen Congreve Memorial Fund," which amounted to a sum of £18,147. Of this amount £16,000 will become a permanent trust, the interest on it being applied to cancer research work in Liverpool, through the scientific committee set up in connection with the Lancashire, Cheshire and North Wales Council of the British Empire Cancer Campaign, now in process of formation. The chairman of the finance committee also reported that an anonymous donation of £10,000 had been received by the campaign through Sir Basil Mayhew, auditor to the campaign, and that the interest on such fund would be available for the general research work fund of the campaign.

THE PROPOSED PAN-AMERICAN GEODETIC INSTITUTE

THE Mexican delegation to the Pan-American Conference has submitted a plan for the organization of a Pan-American Geodetic Institute.

In a review of the history of the science of geography the Mexican delegation introduced a report prepared by the department of agriculture and public works of the government of Mexico in which great emphasis is placed on the fact that the existing world geographical institution, known as the International Council of Investigators, does not suffice for solution of the localized problems of America.

Functions of the proposed institute, the location of which is to be later decided by the nations, are detailed as follows:

1. The coordination, distribution and propagation of geographical studies in American states.
2. It shall serve as an organization of cooperation among the geographical institutes of America, in order to facilitate the study of geographical problems.
3. It shall carry out and coordinate investigations call-