

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-

ing for the cooperation of several countries and control of scientific investigations.

4. It shall be entrusted with the publication of all reports ordered by the American states.

5. It shall participate in the study of frontiers, in order to facilitate the acceptance of the natural nature of a geographical character and serve as an intermediary between American states for a better understanding between them.

6. It shall be in charge of the formation of an archive comprising maps of the entire American continent, classified by countries as well as by libraries, containing all the geographical works published by American states.

The plan was later approved by the Pan-American conference in plenary session. It proposes an ambitious central organization in an American capital to be chosen by lot, with affiliated organizations in all new world republics contributing to its store of knowledge.

Each government would appoint one member who shall have been an active geographer in the service of his country. The number of votes appertaining to each delegate and the quotas due from each country for the maintenance of the institute would both be computed on the basis of population of each republic compared to the total population of all the nations represented.

NEW BUILDING FOR THE YALE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

PLANS for a new building for the Yale School of Medicine, costing \$1,250,000 and consisting of an addition to the Anthony N. Brady memorial laboratory, have been announced at the university. The entire cost will be met by the General Education Board.

The construction began several months ago and it is now expected that the building will be completed by the beginning of the next school year. The total capacity is 1,600,000 cubic feet, which is 20 per cent. larger than the Sterling Hall of Medicine, which was built a few years ago.

The new building, at the corner of Cedar Street and Congress Avenue, is joined with the administration building of the New Haven General Hospital by a covered archway. Together with the existing wing of the Anthony N. Brady laboratory, built in 1917, the new building has a total cubic capacity of 2,200,000 cubic feet.

The ground floor of the Brady laboratory, which will be the entrance floor for students and workers in the new building, will be given over to locker and rest rooms. The first floor of the Brady laboratory will be occupied by the school of nursing for its administrative offices and classrooms.

The ground floor of the new Cedar Street wing, as

well as that of the Congress Avenue wing, will be devoted to technical procedures essential for the work in the laboratory. Among these are the surgical pathology activities and a large well-equipped photographic establishment.

The first floor of the new wing on Cedar Street, as well as on Congress Avenue, and the second floor of the Congress Avenue wing are to be occupied by pathology. The whole of the second floor of the Cedar Street wing will be occupied by the department of public health, headed by Professor C.-E. A. Winslow. On the third floor of both the old and new wings on Cedar Street and the whole of the Congress Avenue wing on this floor will be located all of the university's activities in bacteriology.

The fourth floor of the Cedar Street wing contains a dormitory suite for the use of the staff in pathology and bacteriology, so that these men may be available at all times, not only to conduct time-consuming investigations, but also for emergency service, which their particular departments are frequently called upon to render.

THE 1929 BUDGET OF THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

THE budget for the fiscal year 1929, transmitted by the president to congress on December 7, recommends total appropriations of \$142,753,229 for the work of the U. S. Department of Agriculture for all purposes, including \$77,500,000 for road construction. Items for which increases are allowed total \$3,714,679, this figure being offset by reductions in other items aggregating \$824,439. The budget recommends that \$150,000 of the balance remaining from the \$10,000,000 corn-borer control fund, provided by the act of February 23, 1927, be made available for a special research program designed to assist in meeting the situation arising out of the corn-borer infestation. Including the special fund for research in relation to the corn-borer situation, about \$1,300,000 of the increases included in the budget is for research work by the Department of Agriculture.

An increase of \$480,000 is recommended in the funds authorized by the Purnell Act for payments to the state experiment stations for agricultural research, or \$10,000 additional for each of the 48 states, making a total of \$3,840,000 to be available during 1929 for this purpose under the Hatch, Adams and Purnell Acts. An increase of \$41,256 is recommended for extending the research work of the Bureau of Dairy Industry. Increases in several of the subappropriations of the Bureau of Animal Industry, aggregating \$120,620, are recommended to provide for adjustments in the compensation of field veterinarians. A net increase of \$495,180 is included for forestry,