patience, caution, self-criticism and a remarkable technical skill. Those who knew him were impressed by his gifted, generous and beautifully modest personality as well as by his deep understanding of other fields of knowledge. Dr. Lesser studied medicine in Freiburg and Munich. After taking his degree he worked in the physiological laboratories of Voit in Munich and Bernstein in Halle. In 1906 he was made "Privatdozent," submitting a thesis on the electromotoric force of the current of the frog skin. The following years mark the beginning of a series of investigations on life without oxygen, which led to the important observation that there occurs a restitution of glycogen when frogs are allowed to recover after a period of anoxibiosis. This phenomenon of oxidative recovery is now one of the basic laws of muscle physiology. In 1910 Dr. Lesser accepted the position in Mannheim, which he held until his death, with only a short interruption during the war, when he substituted as professor of biological chemistry at the University of Strasbourg. His work on the diastatic ferment of the liver led him into a broad investigation of carbohydrate metabolism which made him a recognized leader in this field. Here he succeeded in the preparation of an active extract of the pancreas, but before he was ready to publish his results, which he wanted to elaborate as far as possible, there appeared the first paper of Banting on insulin. Interested only in the progress of science and not in personal matters, he kept this fact secret—only his intimate associates knew of it—and never made any claims of priority. His series of papers on the nature of the action of insulin is a classic and his summarizing articles in text-books and reviews are proof of the clarity and penetration of his mind. Not surrounded by the glamor of an academic position, he did not receive the full recognition of the high qualities of his character and his work at the early age at which he died.

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SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON BITUMINOUS COAL

BETWEEN 60 and 70 scientists and fuel technologists in eleven different countries have tentatively accepted invitations to speak at the second International Conference on Bituminous Coal, which will be held at the Carnegie Institute of Technology in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, during the week of November 19. The list includes about forty Europeans whom Dr. Thomas S. Baker, president of the Carnegie Institute of Technology, personally invited while making his recent two months' visit in Europe in the interests of the conference.

It is announced that the purpose of the congress is similar to the one held in 1926 by the Carnegie Institute of Technology: to present the results of recent studies of coal that have to do with improved methods of utilization and combustion. The program will include the discussion of low temperature distillation, high temperature distillation, coal tar products, power, smokeless fuel, complete gasification of coal, hydrogenation, pulverized fuel and its new applications, fixation of nitrogen, coal beneficiation, etc.

Upon his return from Europe in April, President Baker expressed the opinion that the second conference will be much larger in scope and importance than the first, and that the number of delegates from foreign countries will be considerably in excess of that at the 1926 meeting, when thirteen different nations were represented.

Among the distinguished scientific men in Europe who have either definitely or tentatively accepted invitations to speak are the Right Honorable Sir Alfred Mead, Harald Nielsen, Dr. Cecil H. Lander and Dr. R. Lessing, of England; Donat Agache, president of the executive board of the Kuhlmann plants; André Kling, director of The Municipal Laboratories of Paris, and Henri Lafond, International Company for the Manufacture of Gasoline and Oils, France; Dr. Friedrich Bergius, inventor of the Bergius process for the production of oil from coal; Dr. Franz Fischer, director of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Coal Research; Professor Fritz Hoffman, inventor of a process for manufacturing synthetic rubber from coal; Dr. Carl Krauch, director of the I. G. Dye Trust, and Rudolph Rawlikowski, of the Cosmos Machine Construction Institute, Germany, and many others.

Professor Sumner B. Ely, of the Carnegie Institute of Technology, is secretary of the conference. The advisory board includes John Hays Hammond, E. M. Herr, Samuel Insull, Frank B. Jewett, Otto H. Kahn, George E. Learnard, the Honorable A. W. Mellon, Auguste G. Pratt and Charles M. Schwab.

THE SIXTH NATIONAL COLLOID SYMPOSIUM

THE Sixth National Colloid Symposium will be held under the auspices of the Colloid Division of the American Chemical Society at Toronto, Canada, June 14, 15 and 16, 1928, with Sir William B. Hardy, of Cambridge, England, as the guest of honor. The following program of papers has been announced by the chairman, Professor Harry B. Weiser, The Rice Institute, Houston, Texas.