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.

Sir William B. Hardy, Cambridge, England (title not yet available).

Dr. H. A. Abramson: Cataphoresis of blood cells and inert particles in sols and gels and its biological significance (with motion pictures).

Wilder D. Bancroft and C. E. Barnett, Cornell University: Adsorption of methylene blue by lead sulfate.

David R. Briggs, University of Minnesota: Surface conductance.

E. F. Burton and Beatrice Reid Deacon, University of Toronto: Influence of temperature on coagulation of colloidal solutions.

John R. Fanselow, University of Wisconsin: The influence of electrolytes and non-electrolytes upon the optical activity and relative resistance to shear of gelatin systems.

William D. Harkins, University of Chicago: Charges on colloidal particles, adsorption, and the spreading of liquids.

A. B. Hastings, University of Chicago: The rôle of hemoglobin in the blood.

Ernst Hauser, Frankfurt am Main, Germany: New microscopic methods in connection with the problem of vulcanization.

Emil Heuser, International Paper Company, Ontario: Problems of cellulose chemistry.

Harry N. Holmes and Robert C. Williams, Oberlin College: The uniform distribution of catalysts throughout porous solids.

F. B. Kenrick, University of Toronto: The effect of adsorbed water on electrical conductivity of powders.

John C. Krantz and Neil E. Gordon, University of Maryland: Hydrogen-ion concentration and stability of emulsions.

M. E. Laing, J. W. McBain and E. W. Harrison, Stanford University: Adsorption of sodium oleate at the air-water interface.

J. W. McBain, W. F. K. Wynne-Jones and F. H. Pollard, Stanford University: The activity and adsorption of p-toluidine in the surface of its aqueous solutions.

P. J. Moloney and Edith M. Taylor, Connaught Research Laboratories: Fractionation of diphtheria anti-toxic sera.

Stuart Mudd, Baludin Lucke, Morton McCutcheon and Max Strumia, University of Pennsylvania: Relation between surface properties and phagocytosis of bacteria.

H. A. Neville and H. C. Jones, Lehigh University: The study of hydration changes by a volume-change method.

J. B. Nichols, Dupont Company: The development of the ultra-centrifuge and its field of research.

Fred Olsen, Picatinny Arsenal: Influence of gel structure upon the technology of smokeless powder manufacture.

A. J. Phillips, Picatinny Arsenal: Structure of cellulose nitrate and cellulose nitrate gels.

W. L. Robinson, University of Toronto: The filtration of colloids by the spleen.

S. E. Sheppard and R. H. Lambert, Eastman Kodak Company: Grain growth in silver bromide precipitates.

A. J. Stamm, Forest Products Laboratories: The structure of soft-woods as revealed by dynamic physical methods.

H. L. Trumbull, B. F. Goodrich Company: The preparation and properties of rubber dispersions.

Hardolph Wasteneys and H. Borsook, University of Toronto: Emulsions and protein synthesis.

Harry B. Weiser and G. E. Cunningham, The Rice Institute: Adsorption of ions and the physical character of precipitates (with motion pictures).

G. S. Whitby, J. G. McNally and W. Gallay, McGill University: Studies of organophilic colloids.

A BILL TO PROMOTE ETHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH AMONG THE AMERICAN INDIANS

AN appropriation to provide for cooperation by the Smithsonian Institution with state, educational and scientific organizations in the United States for continuing ethnological researches among the American Indians, was approved by the Senate on May 8, when it passed the McKellar bill, which contains the following provisions:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the secretary of the Smithsonian Institution is hereby authorized to cooperate with any state, educational institution, or scientific organization in the United States for continuing ethnological researches among the American Indians and the excavation and preservation of archeological remains.

Section 2. That there is hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of $20,000, which shall be available until expended for the above purposes:

Provided, That at such time as the Smithsonian Institution is satisfied that any state, educational institution, or scientific organization in any of the United States is prepared to contribute to such investigation and when in its judgment such investigation shall appear meritorious, the secretary of the Smithsonian Institution may direct that an amount from this sum equal to that contributed by such state, educational institution, or scientific organization, not to exceed $2,000, to be expended from such sum in any one state during any calendar year, be made available for cooperative investigation:

Provided further, That all such cooperative work and division of the result thereof shall be under the direction of the secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

THE AWARD OF MEDALS BY THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE

THE annual meeting for the presentation of medals by the Franklin Institute took place in Philadelphia on May 16. Medals were presented to sixteen men for scientific achievement over a wide field. The Franklin medal, the highest award of the institute, was presented to Dr. Charles F. Brush, inventor of