

than half a century his home. Sir William Bragg, director of the Royal Institution, said that the proposed celebrations had been in mind a long time, and in choosing the particular discovery of August, 1831, they were recalling one of Faraday's most important discoveries, on which rested a vast body of scientific and industrial development. The occasion would give the nation an opportunity of realizing the contributions to science and industry during the last hundred years. It was unlikely there would be another occasion so favorable and, if made a success, the centenary would encourage the people to go on with their work and brighten the whole outlook of the nation.

Among the speakers was Sir Ernest Rutherford, who not only approved the suggestions but also pointed out that in 1931 occurs the centenary of the birth of James Clerk Maxwell, who in a sense was Faraday's interpreter and put into mathematical form the latter's views. Colonel K. Edgcumbe, president of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, Sir John Snell, Sir William Pope, Mr. D. N. Dunlop, Sir John Reith, Colonel W. A. Vignoles and Professor J. L. Myres all promised the cooperation of the societies they represented. Professor Myres made the interesting announcement that the officers of the British Association were prepared to recommend to their council that the centenary meetings of the Association of 1931 should be held in London, and said they would be glad to do everything in their power to ensure that not only the intellectual descendants of Faraday himself, but also the large public interests which benefitted from the applications of those discoveries, should be represented. The meeting approved the appointment of two small committees to deal with the scientific and industrial sides of the celebration, which Sir William Bragg announced would probably take place in the third week of September, 1931.

THE HENRY LESTER INSTITUTE AND HOSPITAL

THE *British Medical Journal* announces that an Englishman, Mr. Henry Lester, who had spent the greater part of a long life as an architect and estate agent in Shanghai, died in 1927, and, by a will executed two years prior to his death, bequeathed the bulk of his large fortune to various schemes for the promotion of education, along British lines, amongst the Chinese of the city of his adoption. After the disbursement of certain specified legacies covering various medical and educational institutions in Shanghai, the residue of the estate is placed under the control of "The Lester Trust" in order to give effect to the directions of the testator. The trustees must always be British subjects ordinarily resident in Shanghai.

The clause in the will which will be of most interest to the medical profession is that dealing with "the establishment of an institute or institutes for the study of and instruction in the English language, of medical science, surgery, civil engineering, architecture and other useful and scientific knowledge." The trustees have decided to separate medical science from the purely technical subjects, and to proceed at once with the erection of a dignified building, equipped on the most modern lines, for research in medicine and surgery. Dr. H. G. Earle, formerly professor of physiology in the University of Hong-Kong, has been appointed as general adviser to the trust.

Directions are given that the institute "be open to all nationalities, but especially Chinese," that not less than Shanghai taels 400,000 (over \$250,000) should be expended on the building and equipment, and that it "be known as the 'Henry Lester Institute' and by no other name." The total amount of the residuary estate is still unknown, but, when all the other bequests have been provided for, it is expected that there will be funds amply sufficient to staff and endow a school containing at least six main divisions. These divisions will comprise:

1. Medicine, including Tropical Medicine and Parasitology.
2. Pathology, including Bacteriology and Immunology.
3. Physiology, including Biochemistry, Pharmacology and Industrial Physiology.
4. Surgery, including Experimental Physiology.
5. Hygiene and Public Health.
6. Field Research and Statistics.

The heads of divisions are at present being recruited from British schools of medicine, and it is hoped that the junior posts will be largely filled by young Chinese who have been trained abroad.

Until the institute is built, equipped and organized, the activities of the staff will be entirely confined to research; later on, it will be possible to initiate curricula for post-graduate studies in public health, tropical medicine and surgery, and in the event of the institute becoming affiliated to the University of Hong-Kong, there will be no further necessity for Chinese students to travel thousands of miles in order to take the D.P.H. or D.T.M.

Another medical institution which will benefit by Mr. Lester's generosity is the Chinese Hospital, long associated with the London Missionary Society, situated in Shantung Road, at a distance of about a mile from the proposed site of the institute. The bequest of Shanghai taels 1,000,000 (\$650,000), together with certain valuable properties, will be sufficient to rebuild and partly endow a hospital with accommodation for about 200 patients. The new building will be known as "The Lester Chinese Hospital," and it

will be controlled, not by the Lester Trust, but by its present board of trustees, but the clinical facilities of the hospital will be utilized by the research staff of the institute, and a beginning has been made by the appointment of Dr. Gordon Thomson, F.R.C.S., head of the division of surgery in the Lester Institute, as honorary visiting surgeon to the Chinese Hospital.

THE ERADICATION OF LEPROSY IN THE PHILIPPINES

THE trustees of the Leonard Wood Memorial for the Eradication of Leprosy announced that May 1 has been selected as Philippine Day and that every town, city and village in the United States will be asked to join in this observance, which falls upon the anniversary of the Battle of Manila. On May 1, 1927, Major-General Wood appealed for the first time to the American people for a fund of \$2,000,000 to eradicate leprosy in the Philippines, and on Philippine Day this year the trustees hope to complete this fund as a memorial.

At the first call, two years ago, more than half of the sum was contributed, and the construction of new buildings, of entire new units, and of one completely new leprosarium has already been begun at Culion, the Philippine leper colony. The funds are being expended in erecting laboratories, living quarters for the staff and receiving stations on other islands, as well as for increasing the personnel necessary to carrying on the work.

Using the Culion colony as an experimental station, the memorial fund looks forward to finding a cure and ultimately to wiping out the disease throughout the world. There are now about 3,000,000 lepers in the world, according to figures recently compiled. Of these, about 12,000 are in the Philippine Islands, and Culion, an island about 200 miles south of Manila, has facilities for about 6,000 of them.

Reports from Dr. H. Windsor Wade, the American leprologist at Culion, indicate increasing success in the use of the chaulmoogra oil treatment, by which it has been possible to check leprosy even in the fairly advanced stages. Experts are now experimenting with less painful methods of administering this cure. Dr. Wade asserts that 1,700 negative cases already have been returned to their homes as cured, eighty cases having left Culion in January and February of this year. It is hoped that the disease can be eradicated in ten years in the Philippines if the necessary funds are raised.

About \$100,000 of the amount raised by this new appeal will be used in erecting an adequate building for saving the children of lepers, who are born clean. Leprosy is not hereditary. The present Children's

Home at Culion can not accommodate another child.

The trustees of the Leonard Wood Memorial are James G. Harbord, chairman; Major-General Samuel McRoberts, Robert L. Bacon, Eversley Childs, Robert W. de Forest, Dr. John H. Finley, Charles E. Hughes, Arthur W. Page, Kermit Roosevelt, Colonel Henry L. Stimson and Owen D. Young. The headquarters of the memorial are at 1 Madison Avenue.

AN AGRICULTURAL SURVEY

A NATION-WIDE study of the agricultural industries, requiring five years similar to the survey made by the Hoover Committee on Waste in Industry, is planned by the American Engineering Council. The council hopes to undertake the survey in cooperation with the American Society of Agricultural Engineers, according to an announcement made by Lawrence W. Wallace, executive secretary of the council. He says:

Agriculture should industrialize its operations to the point where it can produce enough in one hour to exchange in the markets of the world for that which is produced in the same time. Agriculture can not be content, as now, to exchange products requiring 2.18 hours to produce for manufactured commodities made in one hour.

Farm management as broad in its conception and execution as the best in industry and commerce realizes returns comparable with those of industry and commerce. Output per worker and not output per acre, is the important thing. Increased yield, and therefore increased income per worker, comes through the use of more power and machinery. Industrial methods and practices when intelligently adapted to agriculture are profitable devices.

The proposed analysis of the agricultural situation is designed to point the way to practical and measurable standards of agricultural management; to an understanding of the interrelation and interdependence of agriculture, commerce and industry; to better agricultural financing and credits; to improved marketing facilities and results; to lower unit costs of production; to the elimination of avoidable waste in farm activities and products; to improved rural conditions through greater use of power and mechanical equipment, and to larger net returns and high standards of living for those engaged in the agricultural industry.

The machinery of agricultural financing and credits requires complete revision. Attention should be given to the subject of capital investment, credits in relation to farm turnover, the financing of agricultural production on earnings, as contrasted to pledging basic capital.

The program proposed will require five years to execute with scope and thoroughness. It will be comprehensive and all-embracing. It should be so, because no such study has been made, and, furthermore, only by an inclusive survey can an intelligent perspective be obtained. Its execution will require a thorough search of all authoritative literature, consultation with experts in many lines of activity and extensive and original field work.