

those things which brought him the greatest pleasure, thus becomes a shrine to which frequent pilgrimages will be made by all American chemists who cherish the memory of those who have been the chief builders of their science, as well as by the many who knew and loved the quiet, unassuming, generous comrade who was its ornament and its chief attraction.

Somewhere in that museum there should be displayed prominently the classic lines of Philip James Bailey, which seem to me to sum up so accurately and so beautifully the principles which guided the life of Edgar Fahs Smith:

We live in deeds, not years; in thoughts, not breaths;  
In feelings, not in figures on a dial.  
We should count time by heart-throbs. He most lives  
Who thinks most—feels the noblest—acts the best.  
Life's but a means unto an end—that end,  
Beginning, mean, and end to all things—God.

Instead of placing a wreath upon my friend's tomb, I am bringing as my tribute something which I am sure will please his spirit far more, and I hand to you, therefore, Mr. Provost, this ancient official order, dated Paris, December 24, 1791, for the payment of salaries and other expenses of officers of the Gendarmerie Nationale, signed by the great Lavoisier himself, the father of modern chemistry, as Commissaire of the National Treasury. It was secured by me in Paris a few years ago, and I know of no more worthy resting place for it than in the Smith Museum of Chemical History.

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## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### A BRITISH NATIONAL RADIUM FUND

ON April 16 the British Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that the government had undertaken to contribute out of public money towards the purchase of radium, on a basis of £1 for every £1 otherwise subscribed, up to a limit of £100,000. *The British Medical Journal* reports that a public appeal for £150,000 (making £250,000 in all) to form a "National Radium Fund" has now been set on foot by leaders of the medical profession acting in concert with laymen prominently associated with the work of hospitals and cancer research. The purpose and scope of the fund were indicated in a letter published in the *Times* of April 29, over the signatures of Sir John Rose Bradford, Lord Moynihan, Lady Barrett, Sir E. Farquhar Buzzard, Lord Dawson of Penn, Dr. Robert A. Fleming, Lord Gorell, Sir Thomas Horder, Lord Knutsford, Mr. J. P. Lockhart-Mummery, Sir

Ewen J. Maclean, Dr. J. M. H. MacLeod, Mr. Alexander Miles, Lord Reading, Sir Humphry Rolleston, Sir Arthur Stanley, Lord Stanmore, Sir StClair Thomson and Sir John Bland-Sutton.

The money obtained in this way, together with that contributed by the government, is to be held by a body known as the National Radium Trustees, who will buy therewith and hold radium for use by an administrative body of experts known as the National Radium Commission. The trustees are being constituted by the government in accordance with one of the recommendations made by the Radium Subcommittee of the Committee of Civil Research, but with two additional medical members to be nominated from their own number by the Radium Commission. The composition of the latter body has been modified so as to ensure adequate representation upon it of those familiar with the use of radium in medical practice, and its membership has been increased from nine to eleven. The commission will thus consist of a chairman, appointed by the trustees; six members, appointed by the trustees from a list of names drawn up by the titular heads of the medical profession, and four members nominated, respectively, by the Minister of Health, the Secretary of State for Scotland, the Medical Research Council and the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. The general effect of these changes in the administrative framework of the scheme put forward by the Radium Subcommittee is summed up in the letter published on April 29: "The radium will be bought and held by a body of trustees which has the confidence alike of His Majesty's government and the medical profession. It will be administered by a commission which will contain an effective majority of members representing the skilled and experienced workers on the staffs of the voluntary hospitals."

The national appeal for radium is being made conjointly with a special appeal by King Edward's Hospital Fund in aid of the hospitals in the metropolitan area as a thank-offering for the king's recovery, the nucleus of the latter project being 100,000 guineas offered by an anonymous benefactor. Lord Donoughmore is acting as treasurer of the combined appeals, and arrangements have been made by the King's Fund so that contributions earmarked for the purchase of radium for the needs of the whole country will be applied to that purpose through the National Radium Fund.

### COOPERATION IN FISHERIES RESEARCH

THE oceanographic laboratory at the Peabody Museum of Yale University will undertake a research program in cooperation with the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries. According to this program, the Bingham

Oceanographic Laboratory, established by Harry Payne Bingham, Yale, 1910, of New York City, will take up the general study of the fishes found along the middle Atlantic coast of the United States. Albert E. Parr, assistant curator of zoology at Yale in charge of the Bingham Collection, will leave within a few days for Cape May, New Jersey, where the work will be concentrated and continued throughout the summer. Collections of fish eggs and larvae obtained by other expeditions of the Bureau of Fisheries within the region from Delaware Bay to Cape Cod will also be received for study at the oceanographic laboratory as a part of the general program. Mr. Parr writes:

While the investigation of the very rich collections of tropical coral reef and deep-sea animals brought back from the three oceanographic expeditions conducted by Mr. Bingham, and now deposited in the Peabody Museum at Yale, is still being continued, this work has progressed so far that other problems can also be taken up. In a realization of the high scientific interest and great practical value of the investigations carried on by the United States Bureau of Fisheries, an offer of cooperation has been extended to that institution, and a research program has been developed. According to this program, the Bingham Oceanographic Laboratory will take over the general study of the spawning, hatching and early life history of the fishes found along the middle Atlantic coast of the United States.

Of particular interest at the present time is the question of where the weakfish goes to spawn. In spite of the fact that this species is commercially most important and one of the commonest within the region, the exact nature of its spawning grounds and the conditions under which the new year classes of weakfish hatch and develop remain unknown. It is believed, however, that the spawning must take place mainly in inshore waters. The first problem to be undertaken is a search for the spawning grounds of the weakfish and for this purpose the Bureau of Fisheries will this summer put a boat and crew at our disposal. The investigations, during the coming season, will be mainly concentrated in the region around Cape May, New Jersey, since practically every type of inshore waters is here accessible within cruising radius from a fixed base.

In addition to the spawning of the weakfish, the spawning grounds of the other species occurring in the region will also be studied as comprehensively as the collected material will permit, and the findings will be correlated, as far as possible, with the physical and chemical conditions of the sea, in an effort to contribute something to our understanding of the factors controlling the spawning and subsequent development of the various species.

#### INFORMATION ON INTERNATIONAL CONGRESSES TO BE HELD IN 1930

THE council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science recently appointed a committee to assemble information for the benefit of American men and women of science planning to attend

international congresses outside the United States in 1930. The committee consists of C. O. Appleman, G. H. Coons, F. H. Grindley, A. S. Hitchcock (secretary) and A. G. McCall.

The following information concerning several international congresses to be held in 1930 has reached the committee, though in some cases the data are not complete:

The Fifth International Botanical Congress meets at Cambridge, England, August 16 to 23, with excursions during the following week. Secretaries, Dr. F. T. Brooks, 31 Tenison Ave., Cambridge, England, and Dr. T. F. Chipp, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England.

The International Congress of Soil Science meets at Leningrad, U. S. S. R., June 10 to 20 (the dates are provisional). American representative, Dr. A. G. McCall, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

The World's Fourth Poultry Congress to be held in the Crystal Palace, London, England, July 22 to 30. Chairman of Subcommittee for United States is Mr. Harry R. Lewis, East Greenwich, R. I.

The Ninth International Horticultural Congress to be held at London, England, August 7 to 15. American Pomological Society representative, W. T. Macoun, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, Canada.

The International Geodetic and Geophysical Union to be held at Stockholm, Sweden, August 17 to 25. Secretary, Colonel H. S. L. Winterbotham, British War Office, S. W. 1, London, England.

The Seventh International Congress of the History of Medicine to be held at Rome, Italy, September. Representative in United States, Dr. Edward B. Krumbhaar, School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa.

The Ninth International Congress of Actuaries to be held at Stockholm, Sweden, June 16 to 20.

The International Exposition of Science, Applied Science and Industry to be held at Liège, Belgium, April to October.

The Fifth International Congress of Aeronautics to be held at The Hague, Netherlands, August.

The Second Plenary World Power Conference to be held at Berlin, Germany, June.

The International Exposition of Hygiene to be held at Dresden, Germany, May.

The International Week of Therapeutic Light to be held at Paris, France, July 22 to 27.

The Fifth International Moral Educational Conference to be held at Paris, France, spring.

The International Electrochemical Commission to be held at Stockholm, Sweden.

The World Engineering Congress to be held at Tokyo, Japan. Executive Secretary, Maurice Holland, 29 West 39th St., New York City.

The International Congress on Malaria to be held at Algiers, Algeria, May.

The committee would be glad to have the data completed where lacking in the above announcements and