SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE BRITISH NATIONAL COLLECTION OF TYPE CULTURES

The British Medical Journal points out that the establishment of the National Collection of Type Cultures of Bacteria and the issue of the first catalogue in 1922 marked an important step in the development of bacteriology in England. Before that date there was no official repository for bacterial cultures in that country. Individual bacteriologists kept their own collections, but there was no organization for the permanent preservation of pure cultures and for the supply of correctly labelled cultures to laboratory workers who required different species of bacteria for teaching purposes or for comparison with recently isolated strains. The *Journal* states that since this work was undertaken at the Lister Institute under the supervision of Professor Ledingham and Dr. St. John-Brooks the museum has grown to such proportions that it now contains more than three thousand different strains of micro-organisms. The demand for the cultures has increased to such an extent that more than five thousand cultures are being distributed to workers throughout the world each year. The latest catalogue is an enlarged and revised edition of the list published in 1925. The different strains are catalogued alphabetically, each entry giving details of the type, group or variety of the strain, the name of the person and institution supplying the strain, and in some cases particulars of the source from which the micro-organism was isolated. An attempt has been made to reduce the numbers of organisms appearing under the general heading of "bacterium" or "bacillus" by segregating some of the more natural groups and entering these as separate genera. This arrangement, it is pointed out, imposes a little inconvenience on those who are still accustomed to refer to bacteria by their old-fashioned names. For instance, *B. typhosus* must now be looked for as *Salmonella typhi,* and *B. tuberculosis* as *Mycobacterium tuberculosis.* In all such cases, however, ample cross-references are given for the benefit of those more familiar with the older system. The Medical Research Council expresses the hope that this new edition of the catalogue will tend to direct the attention of bacteriologists in this and other countries to the continued need for the deposition of strains of bacteria and fungi for maintenance and reference in this collection.

THE NEW OBSERVATORY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

THE new astronomical observatory on the University of Kentucky campus which is situated on the Experiment Station farm and which has just been completed and equipped at a cost of approximately $25,000 will be ready for use with the opening of the fall term.

The observatory building is modern in every respect, and has been constructed with a view to accommodating more comprehensive equipment in the future. It consists of a first floor plan which includes classroom, combination office and library, laboratories and space for pictures and transparencies, a basement and a dome room.

The dome room is a 22-foot circular room which will accommodate the eight-inch equatorial telescope now owned by the university and is planned to accommodate a 12-inch telescope. The dome is to be motor-driven. At the rear of the building is a transit room which in the future will house a small transit instrument. The basement contains a dark room for developing pictures, a small classroom, work room and furnace room with modern gas furnace and storage space.

On the roof, over the office library and classroom are observation decks for use in studying stars and constellations and over the foyer is a parapet for use in map work.

The department of astronomy is a division of the department of mathematics and astronomy with Dr. Paul P. Boyd, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, as head. The work is in charge of Dr. H. H. Downing, professor of mathematics, and Professor D. E. South, assistant professor of mathematics.

In the past the department of astronomy offered one or two semesters of practical astronomy which consisted of problems of time, latitude, longitude and position, the use of instruments and the collection of observational data for the solution of these problems. However, this work was done with borrowed engineering instruments and some home-made apparatus.

At present the department of astronomy offers one year of descriptive astronomy, which is a beginning course dealing with sizes, distances, masses, densities, speeds, revolution, rotations, etc., of the planets, satellites, comets, meteors, asteroids, stars, clusters and nebulas. Also one or two semesters of celestial mechanics.

With the opening of the next academic year a course in the history of astronomy will be offered for the first time in addition to the other courses. New courses will also be added from time to time as the demands require and the teaching staff permits.

SUMMER SESSION OF TEACHERS OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

ACCORDING to *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry,* under the auspices of the Society for the Pro-

motion of Engineering Education, a summer session for teachers of chemical engineering was held at the University of Michigan from June 24 to July 9. Seventy men, representing 47 colleges located in 25 states, from Washington and California on the west to Massachusetts and North Carolina on the east, and from Louisiana on the south to Minnesota and Montana on the north, were registered for the meeting. In addition to visitors, many of whom stopped over for a day or more, a large staff of distinguished lecturers was in attendance.

Three main series of lectures were delivered, covering the unit operations of chemical engineering, recent advances in chemical technology, and methods of conducting laboratory courses in the unit operations. The speakers included:

H. A. Curtis, Vacuum Oil Co.; W. K. Lewis, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; R. E. Wilson, Standard Oil Co. of Indiana; W. L. Badger, University of Michigan; R. S. Tour, University of Cincinnati; Zay Jeffries, The Aluminum Co. of America; H. L. Olin, University of Iowa; J. C. Olsen, Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute; Clifford Paige, Brooklyn Union Gas Co.; A. V. H. Mory, Bakelite Co.; O. R. Sweeney, Iowa State College; W. L. Beuschlein, University of Washington; C. C. Furnas, Yale University; L. V. Burton, *Food Industries;* S. D. Kirkpatrick, *Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering;* E. S. Rothrock, Louisiana Chemical Co.; George Oenslager, B. F. Goodrich Co.; A. W. Hixson, Columbia University; G. H. Montillon, University of Minnesota; A. Anable, The Dorr Co.; A. K. Brodie, Procter and Gamble; R. A. Hayward, Kalamazoo Vegetable Parchment Co.; B. F. Dodge, Yale University; G. A. Bole, Ohio State University; C. O. Brown, Chemical Engineering Corp.; G. G. Brown, University of Michigan; E. C. Sullivan, Corning Glass Co.; H. C. Hottel, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; W. H. McAdams, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; J. C. Brier, University of Michigan.

The members of the session, lecturers and visitors were housed in Jordan Hall, one of the university dormitories. This arrangement facilitated interchange of ideas, and discussions held informally over the dinner table and in the parlors.

A social committee provided many opportunities for exercise and play. Golf, tennis, swimming, canoeing, hiking, baseball and bridge afforded relaxation in the afternoon. A smoker, at which an informal talk was given by Professor H. H. Bartlett, of the department of botany, on his experiences while working on the rubber plantations of the Dutch Indies; a bridge party; a tea, and a picnic on the Fourth of July with baseball and horseshoe pitching, provided additional entertainment. There was a trip through the River Rouge works of the Ford Motor Co., and a banquet, at which L. R. Newburgh, research professor of medicine, spoke on "The Human Body as an Internal Combustion Engine."

The summer session was under the general direction of H. P. Hammond, representing the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education. The local director was A. H. White, and the secretary, W. L. McCabe. Generous financial support was given by the University of Michigan and by the Chemical Foundation, Inc.

THE SCHENECTADY MEETING OF THE AMERICAN PHYSICAL SOCIETY

THE one hundred and seventy-second meeting of the American Physical Society will be held at Schenectady, New York, on September 10, 11 and 12. Registration will be at the Research Laboratory of the General Electric Company throughout the first morning. At 10 A. M. a meeting for ten-minute contributed papers will be held at Rice Hall, followed by a luncheon for members at the Works Restaurant and an inspection trip through the laboratories. The annual dinner will be held in the evening at the Mohawk Golf Club. A meeting to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the notable experiments of Michael Faraday and Joseph Henry on electromagnetic induction will be held at 9 A. M. on Friday, when a paper on Faraday written by Sir William Bragg will be read by Professor John Zeleny. A paper on Joseph Henry will be presented by Professor W. F. Magie. After the memorial meeting informal group discussions will be held. The luncheon at Union College will be given at one o'clock. In the afternoon a trip will be taken to Lake George. This will be by special train to the lake and will include a three hour sail with dinner on board the steamer, provided a sufficient number of members wish to attend. On Saturday morning there will be a symposium on magnetism, followed by informal group discussions as on Friday. One of these groups is planning for a rather intensive discussion of present-day experimental and theoretical aspects of magnetism for those particularly interested in this field. This group will not meet on Friday. Saturday afternoon will be devoted to sports. Arrangements will be made for guest cards at the various golf clubs and tennis courts will be available.

THE FILTERABILITY OF BACTERIA

THE James A. Patten Lecture was given at Northwestern University on July 22 by Professor Arthur Isaac Kendall, of the Department of Research Bacteriology, Northwestern University Medical School, Chicago. The subject was "Observations upon the Filterability of Bacteria, including a Filterable Organism Obtained from Cases of Influenza."