

luncheon, said, as reported in the *Times*, that they were met to celebrate an achievement of no mean order in the field of ophthalmic optical instruments. Their industry by its nature had an international character. It was scientific, or should at its best be scientific, and consequently must feed on the knowledge and research of mankind in general. When, however, they concerned themselves with the application of principles to specific instances they came into a realm where national characteristics had their proper place. In this realm the time had come to glory in a definitely national achievement of British optical engineering, in the matter of a refracting unit. If its father was a pioneer American instrument, its mother was British optical engineering skill. The midwife was a depreciated currency, and possibly its godparents were the key industries duty and the recently imposed protective tariffs. The instruments to be marketed would stand comparison with the finest productions of the Continent and America, and he congratulated the makers, the Ellis Optical Company.

Mr. A. E. Turville proceeded, according to the *Times*, to give a demonstration of apparatus which included the British refracting unit, the Dobson retinoscope, the Turville-Stewart ophthalmoscope, the Turville dynascope, a Tert-type drum and the Scotometer. He said that the refractor consisted of over 1,000 separate parts and had all kinds of combinations of lenses. The use of the old trial case and frame caused a certain amount of discomfort to the patient, but with the new apparatus there was no discomfort. Examination could not be carried on without apparatus, and it had been a sore point with him in the past that certain Continental or American instruments far excelled British ones or there was no British instrument in existence. All the apparatus he had used that afternoon was British made and was perfectly accurate in use and construction. The refracting unit marked a great advance in instrument design in Great Britain. He would like to urge on British designers and manufacturers that they should continue their efforts, so that very soon all our consulting rooms, hospitals and clinics would be equipped throughout with British apparatus.

THE COSMIC RAY SURVEY

PROFESSOR ARTHUR H. COMPTON, of the University of Chicago, has arrived in Mexico City to continue his study of cosmic rays on the summit of the Nevado de Toluca, 14,950 feet above sea-level.

Dr. Compton had been making measurements on Mt. Huancayo, in Peru, and previously in Hawaii, Australia, New Zealand and Panama. He will return

to Chicago late in August and then join a group working in the Rocky Mountains.

Further new tests are now being made for Dr. Compton in Baffin Land, near the north magnetic pole, by Dr. D. LaCour, of the Meteorological Institute of Copenhagen. Dr. Ralph Bennett, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is heading a party which has made extensive measurements in the region of Mt. McKinley, Alaska. Dr. Bennett's group is carrying on the ill-fated Alaska project which cost two lives in June. Further parties are working in South Africa, in India and the South Seas, and in Patagonia and Chile.

Dr. Ernest O. Wollan, instructor in physics at the University of Chicago, is on his way to Spitzbergen, 600 miles south of the North Pole. Using the same type of heavily-leaded electrometer now being employed by four other parties working under Dr. Compton's direction, he will make his tests at Advent Bay and at the edge of the ice-packs, at 80 degrees north latitude. Dr. Wollan will later proceed to Zurich to make further tests on the Jungfrau, where Dr. Compton worked last September.

EFFECT OF THE ECONOMY MEASURE ON THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

IN accordance with section 204 of the act recently passed by Congress, known as the economy bill, which was signed by the President on June 30, no person in civilian service in any branch of the United States Government who had reached the retirement age prescribed for automatic separation from the service could be continued in the service after June 30 except by executive order of the President. On June 30 there were 157 employees in the Department of Agriculture who had reached the retirement age, who were eligible for retirement, and who were subject to the provisions of the act. Of this number three were continued, namely: Professor Charles F. Marvin, chief of the Weather Bureau; Dr. Isaac M. Cline, principal meteorologist in charge of the Weather Bureau station at New Orleans, Louisiana, and Dr. William J. Humphreys, principal meteorologist, Weather Bureau, Washington, D. C.

Dr. A. F. Woods, director of scientific work, has sent in response to a request from the editor a statement in regard to the effect of the economy bill on scientific workers in the Department of Agriculture, which reads as follows:

The professional and scientific workers in the Department of Agriculture are in hearty accord with the policy of rigid economy in expenditures of the government. They have accepted the withholding of normal salary increase without any complaint, though in many cases it means hardship.

The five-day week plan, valuable as it is for workers in general, does not fit the requirements of scientific work. This needs no amplifications to make it clear to scientific men.

The furlough or reduction in salary makes the situation still more difficult, but it is our observation that the scientific workers generally are making the readjustments necessary to keep within reduced incomes.

The reduction of annual leave (no leave with pay for the current year) and 15 days instead of 30 after this year, throws the government still further out of line with educational institutions and will make the government positions less attractive than those in educational institutions.

It is too soon to appraise very accurately what the full effect of this legislation will be. Our policy in administering it will be to secure the greatest possible saving with the least injury to the work and workers.

CANADIAN-AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL CONVENTION

THE program of the joint meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association and the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association during the week of August 22-27 at the Royal York Hotel, Toronto, has been completed. The Ontario Retail Druggists Association will also hold its annual meeting at this time and will have charge of the entertainment of the delegates. The Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain will be officially represented by President, F. G. Hines; past-president, Herbert Skinner; secretary, Hugh N. Linstead; and Thomas Marns, a member of the council. Mr. Skinner is also chairman of the British Pharmaceutical Conference. This will be the most important international pharmaceutical gathering held in North America.

The Plant Science Seminar, the Committee on Pharmaceutical Syllabus and the Conference on Pharmaceutical Research will meet in Toronto during the week preceding the Convention. The American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy and the National Association Boards of Pharmacy will hold their sessions on Monday and Tuesday, August 22 and 23. The Canadian Pharmaceutical Association and the Ontario Retail Druggists Association will hold their business sessions on Tuesday, August 23, and their members will be free to attend the various sessions of the American Pharmaceutical Association on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Saturday will be spent visiting the Canadian National Exposition.

On Wednesday forenoon and Thursday afternoon, there will be joint sessions. At the first, the Presidents of the organizations, George A. Burbridge, of Nova Scotia, and Walter D. Adams, of Texas, will deliver their presidential addresses.

Mr. Marns, as chairman of the Committee on Law Enforcement of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great

Britain, will take part in the Conference of Law Enforcement Officials, and Secretary Linstead, of the Society, in the Conference of Pharmaceutical Association Secretaries. The five sections of the American Pharmaceutical Association—Scientific, Practical Pharmacy and Dispensary, Educational and Legislative, Commercial Interests, and Historical—have an unusual number of papers and discussions dealing with practically every phase of pharmacy. Canadian pharmacists will participate in all the programs, and a number of questions of mutual interest to the pharmacists of the United States and Canada will be considered in addition to the usual reports and items of business.

There will be a reception and dance on Monday evening, the joint banquet on Tuesday evening, a moonlight sail on Lake Ontario on Wednesday evening, a Farewell Party and Dance on Friday evening and an all day visit to the Canadian National Exposition on Saturday. In addition, special entertainment for the ladies, Veterans Luncheon on Thursday, sight-seeing parties, a number of special dinners and luncheons for associations, alumni and other groups. Special transportation rates by rail and water are offered.

MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION AT HARVARD OBSERVATORY

DIRECTLY following the total eclipse of the sun, the triennial meeting of the International Astronomical Union (postponed for a year in order to coincide with the eclipse) will be held in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The meeting is open to delegates and specially invited guests. About eighty overseas astronomers have already signified their intention of attending the meeting.

Sessions of the general assembly, and meetings of scientific commissions, will be held in Alice Longfellow Hall of Radcliffe College. The student dormitories of Radcliffe College have also been lent by the college for the accommodation of the delegates.

The program of the meeting includes: Reception by the American Astronomical Society (Evening, September 2); garden party at the observatory residence (Afternoon, September 3); Excursion to Oak Ridge Station of the Harvard Observatory (September 4); Excursion by boat to Plymouth (Afternoon, September 6); Excursion to Wellesley College (Afternoon, September 8). On the evening of September 8 there will be a dinner, by the invitation of the American Section of the International Astronomical Union.

Meetings of the General Assembly of the Union, and of the various scientific commissions, will be held on the morning of September 3, the morning and after-