

form the most important points of the agreement were:

(1) That a material standard preparation should be preserved as a central standard of reference.

(2) That this material standard should consist of the hydroxy-ketonic form of the hormone.

(3) That the various countries will be invited to contribute samples which will be combined to form the standard preparation.

(4) That the unit will be the specific estrus-producing activity contained in 0.1 gamma of the standard preparation.

(5) That by the term "estrus-producing activity" is to be understood the power of producing in an adult female animal completely deprived of its ovaries an accurately recognizable degree of the changes characteristic of normal estrus, *i.e.*, the changes in cellular contents of the vaginal secretion of the rat or mouse.

(6) That the comparison of an unknown preparation with the standard can only be accurately made if the conditions of administration and interpretation of results are identical.

(7) That a bio-assay procedure, which has been proved to be capable of determining the equality of activity with an error not greater than plus or minus 20 per cent., should be used in comparing a preparation with the international standard.

(8) That proper precautions will be observed in the preparation and storage of the international standard. The international standard will be kept at the National Institute for Medical Research in London, but a portion will be available for distribution in each country.

The adoption of an international standard should solve many of the vexing problems of bio-assay of the estrus-producing hormone. In the past, many modifications of the original Allen-Doisy bio-assay procedure have been introduced. This has led to a great many different units, since so many different factors alter the absolute weight of the hormone required to produce estrus. The result was that no investigator could compare his results with those of another investigator with any feeling of assurance of accuracy. With the establishment of an international standard it is hoped that investigators will make use of this standard preparation and that pharmaceutical houses will also label their products in terms of the international unit.

E. A. D.

THE ELEVENTH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON PHYSICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

THE eleventh International Symposium on Physics at the summer session of the University of Michigan will be held as usual. Owing to reduced university appropriations its support has been provided for from private sources.

The foreign lecturers this year will be Professor

Niels Bohr, of the University of Copenhagen, Nobel laureate, the founder of modern atomic physics, and Professor Enrico Fermi, of the Royal University at Rome, authority on quantum theory. Professor John H. Van Vleck, of the University of Wisconsin, specialist in the theory of magnetism, will also lecture, as will Professors Ernest F. Barker, David M. Dennison and George E. Uhlenbeck, of the university.

Dr. Edward H. Kraus, dean of the summer session, states that the symposium brings together annually leading native and foreign authorities who conduct classes and meet together with their students in give and take discussions of both the theoretical and experimental aspects of the laws of the atom, infra-red rays, the revelations of the spectroscope and like problems.

In recent years physicists from outside the United States who have attended the symposium include Professors Erhenfest, of Leiden; Heisenberg, of Leipzig; Sommerfeld, of Munich; Pauli, of Zurich, and Kramers, of Utrecht, as well as Brillouin, of Paris; Dirac, of Cambridge, and Milne, of Oxford.

GEOLOGY AND GEOGRAPHY AT THE CHICAGO MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

SECTION E of the American Association for the Advancement of Science will meet in Chicago on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, June 20, 21 and 22 in conjunction with members of the Geological Society of America, the Geographical Society of Chicago and other affiliated organizations. The Hotel Southmoor at Sixty-seventh Street and Stony Island, will serve as headquarters. An informal dinner will be held on Tuesday evening at the University of Chicago and will be followed by a lecture on "Variation and Evolution in Earth History" by Professor Albrecht Penck, Berlin, who with Professor J. J. Sederholm, Helsingfors, Finland, is among the foreign guests who will address the members of this section and their friends. The meetings will be held at the University of Chicago and at the Field Museum of Natural History.

The Tuesday morning session will be devoted to papers on general geology and, if necessary, the reading of papers will be continued on Tuesday afternoon. On Wednesday afternoon there will be a joint session with the physicists, chemists and astronomers, devoted to a symposium on "The Measurement of Geologic Time." Among those who will participate in this symposium are: A. F. Kovarik, A. C. Lane, H. Schlundt, A. V. Grosse and W. D. Urry. For the Thursday session, which will be held jointly with the Geographical Society of Chicago, a program of papers on geography is being arranged by Professor Charles C. Colby, of the University of Chicago.

Local arrangements are in charge of Professor D. Jerome Fisher, of the University of Chicago. Hotel reservations should be made directly with the Hotel Southmoor. Titles and abstracts of papers for the program on geology should be submitted to Professor Kirtley F. Mather, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, prior to May 10.

AWARD TO PROFESSOR H. C. SHERMAN

THE medal of The American Institute of Chemists, presented annually for outstanding service to chemistry in America, has been awarded this year to Dr. H. C. Sherman, head of the department of chemistry at Columbia University, according to an announcement made by President Henry G. Knight from the office of the institute. The award is made in recognition of Dr. Sherman's food researches, and his services to the profession through the training of chemists.

One of the pioneers in food chemistry from the time he first began to teach at Columbia in 1898, Dr. Sherman has been prominent most recently for his studies of the effect of diet on longevity, carried out in collaboration with the Carnegie Institution of Washington. He was the first to insist on quantitative analysis of iron and other minerals in foods; and he has also carried out research on enzymes and on the vitamin values of foods and the significance of vitamins in nutrition.

Dr. Sherman's work for fifteen years with the food supply committee of the New York Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor has resulted in a marked improvement in the food and nutrition conditions of the average New York family.

Describing Dr. Sherman's work as "use-research," Dr. Knight called for increased scientific efforts to teach people how to live intelligently. "Industry can always afford to pay for the discovery of products it can sell," Dr. Knight said, "but only educational institutions, subsidized foundations and state and national governments can improve living conditions by showing people how to use the things they already have. The individual can not pay for his own nutrition research. Instead, he pays for medicine and doctors, after he has guessed wrong."

Last year's medalist of the American Institute of Chemists was Dr. Charles H. Herty, whose newly discovered process for making paper from the Southern slash pine has just turned out its first mill run of newsprint. Other past medalists include Andrew W.

Mellon and Richard B. Mellon, honored for establishing the Mellon Institute for Industrial Research; the late George Eastman, who made fine organic chemicals available to the chemists of the country, and Mr. and Mrs. Francis P. Garvan, who established the Chemical Foundation.

The medal will be presented to Dr. Sherman at the annual meeting of the American Institute of Chemists, to be held in New York in May.

PROFESSOR EINSTEIN AND THE PRUSSIAN ACADEMY

ACCORDING to a special cable to the *New York Times*, the Prussian Academy of Science accepted on April 1 the resignation of Professor Einstein and announced that he was renouncing the Prussian citizenship conferred on him in 1913 on his admission to membership. He was born in Ulm, Germany, but subsequently his family moved to Switzerland and he became a Swiss citizen.

Professor Einstein has also withdrawn from the management of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute, which recently appealed in the United States for funds for the construction of a new physical laboratory.

The Prussian Academy, its statement declares, "learned with indignation of Professor Einstein's participation in atrocity propaganda in America and France" and immediately demanded an explanation. His reply, it is stated, was that he "could no longer serve the state under the present government."

"The Prussian Academy," the announcement continued, "deplores Professor Einstein's propagandist activity abroad the more since, of old, the academy and its members have felt themselves intimately conjoined with the Prussian State and for all the strict reserve they have maintained respecting political questions, have always emphasized and preserved the idea of nationality. The academy, therefore, has no reason to regret Professor Einstein's retirement."

It is further reported that funds and securities in a Berlin bank have been seized by the Nazi Government "to prevent their use for treasonable purposes."

Professor and Mrs. Albert Einstein arrived at Antwerp aboard the liner *Belgenland* on March 28. Mayor Camille Huysmans went aboard to welcome them. Professor de Groodt, who lives near Antwerp, will be their host for several days. They plan to remain in Belgium four or five months, taking a cottage at Coq-sur-Mer near Ostend. Professor Meyer, his assistant, will join him.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

ANNOUNCEMENT of the establishment of the Elihu Thomson Professorship of Electrical Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology was made

on March 29 by President Karl T. Compton, at the dinner given at the institute to Professor Thomson in honor of the eightieth anniversary of his birthday.