

THE COST OF GERMAN MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC PERIODICALS

DURING the past summer several conferences were held in Germany regarding the high cost of scientific and medical periodicals. One of the most important of these was held in Münster, during which the following groups met and decided to formally recommend fixed yearly prices, diminished content and at least a 20 per cent. reduction for the most expensive periodicals: The Verband der Deutschen Hochschulen, the Börsenverein der Deutschen Buchhändler, the Vereins Deutscher Bibliothekare and the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Wissenschaftlicher Verleger.

Dr. Ferdinand Springer and Dr. Herrmann Degener were present as delegates of the Börsenverein at a special committee meeting held in connection with the American Library Association meetings in Chicago on October 15. This was also attended by foreign delegates from the International Federation of Library Associations.

As the result of this conference and subsequent negotiations on the part of Charles H. Brown, chairman of the American Library Association Committee, and Mrs. Eileen R. Cunningham, chairman of the Medical Library Association, Dr. Springer announced an average reduction of 30 per cent. on his most expensive journals.

The Medical Library Association Committee called a special meeting of those medical librarians and members of Medical Library Committees present in Chicago, to consider the proposals of Dr. Springer, and, while they realized that this amount was not sufficient for a satisfactory permanent settlement, it seemed wisest to give Dr. Springer a certain amount of time in which to adjust matters and to enable him to carry out his promise that he would make every effort to reduce the price of all journals costing more than 60 RM a year published by his firm. If the German publishers are unable to fulfill their promise to go beyond the 30 per cent. reduction announced in the case of these very expensive journals it is certain that medical libraries, many of which are already laboring under terrific financial difficulties, will not be able to continue these journals. We hope that the proper measures will be taken to prevent such an outcome, and recent advices from Germany indicate that earnest effort is being made in this direction.

Since the return of Dr. Springer and Dr. Degener to Germany, a conference took place in Frankfurt between the officers of the Gesellschaft Deutscher Naturforscher und Aerzte and representatives of the Börsenverein der Deutschen Buchhändler and some of the most important scientific publishers. Those attending the conference agreed that while the Münster conference of August represented a good starting point, it was evident that further reductions would

have to be made in those journals costing more than \$40 a year and that every effort would be made by the German group to inaugurate these changes. An advance list of maximum prices for 1934 just received from Dr. Springer shows that in several instances he has been able to give better prices than the 30 per cent. indicated in Chicago. It is to be hoped that he and other German publishers will see their way clear to making some further reduction during the coming year, so that the scientific libraries of the world will still be able to continue their subscriptions to German scientific periodicals.

The Medical Library Association Committee will continue to function and the situation will be studied carefully during the next six months. Any new developments or further progress will be announced. For a detailed report of the work of the Committee on the Cost of Current Medical Periodicals of the Medical Library Association, see the *Bulletin* of the Medical Library Association, N.S., Vol. 22, No. 2, 1933.

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Chairman

COMMITTEE ON THE COST OF
CURRENT MEDICAL PERIODICALS
MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

PROJECTS OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF ENGINEERING EDUCATION

THE Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education through its Division of Engineering Drawing and Descriptive Geometry is sponsoring a series of four projects which should be of interest to the engineering profession. They are:

1. A collection of material showing the evolution and variety of instruments used in engineering drawing.
2. A collection of old drawings intended to show the development of engineering drafting-room practise, covering as long a period of time as is possible. This exhibit will show the development of various means of reproduction on engineering drawings, which is closely related to changing drafting-room practise.
3. A collection of the work of writers, old and modern, on the subject of drawing and descriptive geometry.
4. The preparation of a series of bulletin board posters, carrying a portrait and biography of persons prominent in the history of engineering, and excerpts from their writings emphasizing the value to engineers of training in engineering drawing. Dexter S. Kimball, director of the College of Engineering at Cornell University, is arranging to display the various collections in connection with the annual meeting of the society to be held at Ithaca in the latter part of June, 1934.

The general development of the program is being directed by H. M. McCully, chairman of the drawing division of the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education and head of the department of