

### 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.

EILEEN R. CUNNINGHAM,  
*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

engineering drawing at the Carnegie Institute of Technology. He is being assisted in this work by F. W. Ming, of the Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute, as chairman of a subcommittee having charge of the drawing instrument project; William G. Smith, of Northwestern University, whose committee will have the collection of historical types of drawings in charge; F. M. Porter, of the University of Illinois, whose committee will be in charge of the collection of the material showing the evolution of text-books on descriptive geometry, drawing and other forms of graphics. Mr. McCully is in charge of the collection of material for the posters.

Efforts are being made to interest the Rosenwald Museum of Industrial Art in Chicago in the collection of old forms of engineering drawing, to the end that such a collection may eventually become a part of their exhibits.

The bulletin board posters are intended for general distribution through the drawing departments of all the engineering colleges. They are to be posted week by week, and it is hoped that they will add an inspirational touch to the teaching program.

The chairmen of the various committees are very anxious to make their collections as complete as possible, and they request that any readers of this publication who are in a position to lend or contribute to any particular collection write to them at once stating the nature of their offering.

### INORGANIC SYNTHESSES

At a meeting of a group of inorganic chemists at the Chicago convention of the American Chemical Society it was proposed that a series of volumes be published on inorganic syntheses somewhat similar to the organic syntheses now published. Like them, each synthesis submitted will be checked by another chemist before publication. The syntheses of each volume will be arranged in chapters on the basis of the periodic groups, with introductory chapters on special subjects. These syntheses will be either new, more efficient or simpler methods, older ones improved or ones which have been inadequately described when published in the journals.

Each synthesis will include precise directions with yields and purity of product as indicated by analyses. The method of analysis in cases where it is unusual will be described. Drawings may be used to simplify and to decrease length of descriptions. Sources of raw material where starting material is not on open market will be given. It is further expected that this will be an opportunity for original publication to supplement our crowded journals. The "Syntheses" will be abstracted in *Chemical Abstracts*. It is hoped

that these volumes will aid in the renaissance of inorganic chemistry.

It is proposed to utilize any royalties to help defray the expenses of the secretarial help needed for the project. In order to get this project under way the following have been selected as a board of editors: L. F. Audrieth, W. C. Fernelius, W. C. Johnson, R. E. Kirk and H. S. Booth, editor-in-chief.

The board of editors will welcome contributions and wish that contributions would be sent in as soon as possible, as the assembly for the first volume is now under way. The board would also appreciate suggestions and comments on the plan.

### MEDICAL LECTURES AT THE HARVARD AND STANFORD SCHOOLS OF MEDICINE

A SERIES of twelve public lectures on medical subjects will be given at the Harvard Medical School at 4 P. M. on Sunday afternoons, beginning January 7. The speakers, all but two of whom are members of the faculty of the school, and their subjects are:

January 7.—Dr. R. M. Smith, assistant professor of pediatrics and child hygiene, "How Do Your Children Grow?"

January 14.—Dr. F. W. Palfrey, assistant professor of medicine, "The Hygiene of Middle Life."

January 21.—Dr. T. B. Mallory, instructor in pathology, "Cancer."

January 28.—Dr. John Homans, assistant professor of surgery, "Varicose Veins and Varicose Ulcers."

February 4.—Philip Drinker, associate professor of industrial hygiene, "The Air We Breathe."

February 11.—Dr. F. T. Fulton, consulting physician at the Rhode Island and other hospitals and cardiologist at the Providence Lying-in Hospital, "How to Budget the Reserve Strength of the Heart."

February 18.—Dr. Walter Bauer, assistant professor of medicine, "Arthritis."

February 25.—Dr. V. H. Kazanjian, professor of clinical oral surgery, "Dentistry's Contribution to the Repair of Face and Jaw Deformities."

March 4.—Dr. W. L. Mendenhall, professor of pharmacology at Boston University Medical School, "Tobacco."

March 11.—Dr. Alice Hamilton, assistant professor of industrial medicine, "Dangerous Trades."

March 18.—Dr. F. C. Irving, professor of obstetrics, "The Change of Life."

March 25.—Dr. G. P. Grabfield, instructor in pharmacology, "Headaches and Headache Remedies."

The fifty-second course of popular medical lectures will be given by Stanford University School of Medicine on alternate Friday evenings at eight o'clock in Lane Hall from January 12 to March 23. The lectures and their subjects are: