if corroborated, prove this suggestion of various growth phases, which, to repeat, is not confined to the organism of leprosy.

The final and crucial proof of the correct etiological agent of leprosy still remains to be fulfilled. One spontaneous disease in animals, rat leprosy, apparently offers almost complete analogy to the human syndrome, including difficulty in culture of the microorganism in the lesion. In spite of this fact no one has, we believe, produced experimental leprosy in animals with material of human origin with anything like fidelity. No particular surprise need be occasioned by this failure. Many strictly human diseases have not been reproduced in animals, and some have succeeded only on the inoculation of anthropoid apes which have not been sufficiently tested in the case of leprosy. The time element would seem to us important in this connection. We know that human leprosy often requires years after the presumed, or, in a few instances, the known time of infection, before characteristic lesions with bacteria in them are found; so far as we know no experimental animals have been observed longer than a few weeks.

Another field for serious inquiry, in fact, the ultimately most important one in the study of leprosy, is that of specific therapy. There is a firm, and we believe an increasing conviction, that chaulmoogra oil derivatives are to a variable degree effective at least in ameliorating the symptoms and lesions of leprosy. The effectiveness so far depends not only on the preparation used but on the method of inoculation, and human trial must remain the ultimate criterion on which this or any other form of therapy is based. But it would seem as if a fairly obvious experimental method for the testing of the comparative value of anti-leprosy medicaments has only recently been tried; Anderson and his collaborators have compared several derivatives of chaulmoogra oil on rats spontaneously suffering from their own variety of leprosy and have been able to come to a certain decision in reference to the best of these preparations. Surely further attempts in this direction are indicated.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES

THE fourth International Congress of Agricultural Industries, which is one of the many to be held in connection with the Brussels Universal Exposition of 1935, is being organized by the International Commission of Agricultural Industries.

It will be remembered that the third congress was held in March of last year, at Paris, and although intervals of three years between the congresses will ordinarily be observed, it was decided to hold the next one the following year in order to set up a more effective organization of the congresses and to take advantage of the Brussels exposition.

The congress will be organized in the four divisions: (1) General scientific studies; (2) Agronomic studies; (3) Industrial studies, and (4) Economic studies. There will be some twenty-six sections comprised in these four general divisions. In order to assure that subjects of timely interest are discussed, special reporters upon ten such topics will be appointed and the reports prepared by them printed and distributed in advance in order to assure fruitful discussion of these questions of "priority."

Communications are invited from all who may desire to take part in the program. The texts of communications in triplicate, together with brief abstracts, should be mailed before April 15. The membership fee is 100 French francs and for the families of members, 50 francs. Applications for membership and for further information should be addressed to the International Commission of Agricultural Industries, 156 Boulevard Magenta, Paris (X^e), France.

THE PAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

A GEOGRAPHICAL and historical congress to organize an international bureau for the compilation of data on exploration was proposed by several South American countries as long ago as 1903. In 1928 at the sixth International Conference of American States plans were perfected for the organization of a Pan American Institute of Geography and History. Sr. Pedro C. Sanchez was appointed director of that institute, and in September, 1929, a meeting to conclude plans of organization was held in Mexico City. At that meeting Dr. Lawrence Martin, of the Division of Maps of the Library of Congress; Dr. George B. Winton, professor of history at Vanderbilt University, and Dr. William Bowie, chief of the Division of Geodesy, U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, represented this nation.

The first formal assembly of the institute was held at Rio de Janeiro in December, 1932. At that assembly the United States was represented by Hon. Edwin V. Morgan, Ambassador to Brazil, and Dr. Wallace W. Atwood, geographer, president of Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts. At the final plenary session the City of Washington was selected as the place for the next meeting in 1935, and Dr. Atwood was chosen executive president for three years.

Several of those who are particularly interested in