

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 micro-organism 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

the development of cultural relationships between the citizens of the United States and their Latin American neighbors to the south, have held informal conferences in Washington and made preliminary plans for the congress, which is to be held in Washington before the close of this year. Bills have been presented in both houses of the Congress in support of this enterprise. On February 19 Secretary of State Cordell Hull sent the following letter to the President of the United States:

Sir: The undersigned, the Secretary of State, has the honor to recommend that the Congress be requested to enact legislation providing for an annual appropriation of \$10,000 for the payment of the share of this Government in the expenses of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History; to request the President to invite the Pan American Institute of Geography and History to hold its second general assembly in the United States in 1935, and to provide an appropriation of \$10,000 for the expenses of such a meeting.

There is attached hereto a statement containing the history of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History.

Membership of the United States in the Institute would be desirable as the Institute will provide an international agency for the collection, coordination and dissemination of geographical and historical information which will be of value to numerous organs of the Government of the United States, scientific organizations, educational institutions and interested scholars.

This is the first organization of a Pan American character to be established in Mexico. The Mexican Government has made generous provision for the Institute including the erection of an appropriate and handsome building for its use. The next meeting of the assembly of the Institute is scheduled to take place in Washington in 1935. It is believed that Mexico as well as the other members of the Pan American Union would view with great gratification the support of the Institute by the United States.

On February 20 President Franklin D. Roosevelt sent the following message to Congress:

I commend to the favorable consideration of the Congress the enclosed report from the Secretary of State, with an accompanying paper, to the end that legislation may be enacted providing for an annual appropriation of \$10,000 for the payment of the share of this Government in the expenses of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History and requesting the President to invite the Pan American Institute of Geography and History to hold its second general assembly in the United States in 1935, and providing an appropriation of \$10,000 for the expenses of such a meeting.

If and when the Congress has taken the necessary action, the invitations will be sent out by the President, or through officers of the State Department, to the various nations that are cooperating in this enterprise

and a group of official delegates will be selected to represent the United States at the coming meeting. Preliminary plans call for a series of programs of general interest, in which progress in research work in geography and history and plans for cooperation between the American people in the promotion of such research will be presented. We anticipate that a number of sectional meetings will be necessary, for the organization recognizes the fields of archeology, pre-Columbian history, the Colonial epoch, as well as topography, cartography, geodesy, geomorphology, human geography, historical geography, biologic and economic geography.

In addition to the formal meetings, at which papers may be presented, a number of excursions to places of special interest in or near Washington will be planned for the delegates. It is anticipated that there will be one or two social occasions associated with the congress.

WALLACE W. ATWOOD, *President,*
Pan American Institute of Geography
and History

THE LANCASTER BRANCH OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

At a meeting of the executive committee of the American Association for the Advancement of Science held in New York on October 21, a committee was appointed with special reference to the organization of local branches of the association, and the first branch under its auspices authorized by the council at the Pittsburgh meeting of the association has been established at Lancaster, Pa.

A preliminary organization meeting, with seventy of those interested in the movement in attendance, was held at Franklin and Marshall College in December. Jaques Cattell, vice-president of the Science Press Printing Company, after stating briefly the object of the meeting, introduced Dr. Otis W. Caldwell, professor of education and director of the Institute of School Experimentation at Teachers College, Columbia University, chairman of the committee on organization and now general secretary of the association. Dr. Caldwell gave an account of the work for the advancement and diffusion of science of the association and described how its objects could be promoted by the establishment of local branches. As the result of the discussion following Dr. Caldwell's address, which was led by Dr. Paul L. Whitely, professor of psychology at Franklin and Marshall College, acting as temporary chairman, a committee on organization was appointed.

The first regular meeting was held on February 13, at Franklin and Marshall College, at which Dr. W. F. G. Swann, director of the Bartol Research Foun-