

distance as 20 miles. So far as we can judge of the state of matter under those extraordinary conditions of temperature and pressure, the core is melted and its diameter of 4,000 miles is that of the sphere which has become molten since the earth acquired sufficient size to retain the melting mass. That was certainly more than two billion years ago. The heating has

progressed very slowly. It is possible that the heating elements are exhausted and the molten core is no longer growing. But it seems more probable that the persistent release of atomic forces is continuing and will continue to supply heat and to melt the surrounding shell, with the result that Mother Earth may eventually take her place among the shining stars.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE WESTERN DIVISION OF THE CONNAUGHT LABORATORIES

IN consequence of an arrangement which has been entered into by the Provincial Board of Health of British Columbia, the University of British Columbia and the University of Toronto, there has been established in the University of British Columbia, as of October 1, a western division of the Connaught Laboratories of the University of Toronto. The undertaking in the first instance is for a period of one year.

Primarily established as a research center, it is hoped that the coordination of activities of the department of bacteriology and preventive medicine of the University of British Columbia with those of the Provincial Board of Health Laboratories of British Columbia and of the Connaught Laboratories will make it possible to extend considerably the fields of usefulness of all three institutions.

Dr. C. E. Dolman has been appointed associate professor and acting head of the department of bacteriology and preventive medicine, and acting head of the department of nursing and health in the University of British Columbia. He has also been appointed director of the Provincial Board of Health Laboratories of British Columbia. He will, furthermore, continue as a member of the staff of Connaught Laboratories as a research member. Dr. R. J. Gibbons, of the staff of Connaught Laboratories, will be associated with Dr. Dolman, seconded for duty in the western division. At the outset the Western Division of the Connaught Laboratories will be provided with quarters in the Science Building of the University of British Columbia.

It is hoped that this experiment in inter-university and provincial health department collaboration will afford excellent opportunities for expansion of activities in the field of preventive medicine in Western Canada, especially in British Columbia.

THE LAWRENCE HOPKINS MEMORIAL EXPERIMENTAL FOREST

THE gift to the Federal Government of a 1500-acre tract of land in northwest Massachusetts by Williams College, Williamstown, Mass., to be known as the Lawrence Hopkins Memorial Experimental Forest, has been announced by the U. S. Department of Agri-

culture. The tract will be administered by the Forest Service as a branch of its Northeast Forest Experiment Station, and the rehabilitation of New England woodlands and abandoned farm lands which have reverted to forest growth can be studied there.

In a letter accepting the gift, Secretary Wallace wrote to President Tyler Dennett, of Williams College: "Studies on the area will fill an important gap in our program of forest research in the northeast and should be of value in providing a sound technical basis for management and restoration of woodlands and abandoned farm lands over much of New England, whether in private or public ownership."

The Hopkins Forest is in the extreme northwest corner of Massachusetts, adjoining Vermont and New York on its northern and western boundaries. It is just outside the limits of Williamstown, where the college is located. The tract is typical of the abandoned farm land in the region. The principal growth on about 1,000 acres is northern hardwoods, including birch, maple, red oak and white ash in various stages of stocking. The remainder, 500 acres, is old hayfields. The land was formerly the estate of the late Colonel Amos Lawrence Hopkins, who used it largely as a sheep and horse farm. It was donated to Williams College by Mrs. Hopkins.

C. Edward Behre, director of the Northeast Forest Experiment Station, said that investigations of the various problems dealing with the establishment, growth, management and protection of forests, plus the promotion, development and production of desirable forms of wild life in the area would be started. Such investigations are to be carried on particularly in reference to the rehabilitation and best use of such lands. Work of restoring the area to valuable forest land will include replacing poor stock with better tree species.

The forest will also serve as a field laboratory for Williams College, providing an opportunity for honor students to carry on special work in forest botany and allied subjects. The college has made available to the Forest Service for experimental use its own laboratory facilities, library and greenhouses.

Work with the forest will be initiated this winter and a CCC camp will probably be established.