

the bite or sting of serpents or spiders, especially the black spider with a red spot on his back, called the tarantula, so common and dreadful in southern climates, wasps, bees, etc.

To cure any of these, you may only wet a thimbleful of indigo with good vinegar, to make it into a mud, and apply it to the bite or sting. If done soon, the danger will be immediately over; and it is stated to me, that the place will not swell at all.

The above is a discovery lately made in Sussex county, New-Jersey, where the snake called the pilot, or copper-head, was so common and bit so many, that the mowers would scarcely venture into the meadows, until this discovery was made. They then kept some of the indigo

mud by them, and found that they could cure themselves at once by this simple application.

Readers are warned not to depend upon this folk remedy, but to seek competent medical advice. However, it would be interesting to investigate, by precise laboratory methods, whether indigo acidulated with acetic acid has sufficiently marked adsorptive action on venoms to be aidful, or if other adsorbents can not be advantageously used, at least in conjunction with accepted remedial agents.

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## QUOTATIONS

### ABANDONMENT OF THE MOSCOW MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF GENETICS

THE seventh International Congress on Genetics, which was to have been held next August with a thousand of the world's leading scientists in this field participating, has been canceled by order of the Soviet Government, it is learned unofficially. Several British scientists who had expected to attend have been informed by Moscow that the congress will not be held.

About 100 Americans had been expected to attend, about forty of whom, including such authorities as Drs. C. P. Bridges, T. S. Painter, Sewall Wright and G. H. Shull, were preparing papers. A score of British geneticists had been expected, including Julian Huxley and Viscount Haldane.

An interesting story of a schism among Soviet scientists, some of the most prominent among whom are accused by Communist party authorities of holding German Fascist views on genetics and even being shielders of "Trotskyists," lies behind the cancellation. The fact that so many of the Soviet Union's most distinguished geneticists are under fire is believed to be the motive for the government's action.

In the past three months T. D. Lysenko, botanist, who has won great acclaim and high favor with the government for his experiments in the "vernalization" of wheat and other agricultural products to shorten the growing season, has been attacking the "classical geneticists" in the monthly scientific magazine, *Socialist Reconstruction of Agriculture*.

He challenged the validity of classical genetics, including the Mendelian laws and the chromosome theories and stigmatized them as "formalistic" and of no practical value, whereas his work, he said, is producing useful results. Mr. Lysenko said, "Genetics is merely an amusement, like chess or football," and he attacked the All-Union Institute of Plant Industry at Leningrad, headed by Academician N. I. Vaviloff, as useless.

Americans had a special interest in the congress because Professor Herman J. Muller, of the University of Texas, who during a four-year leave here has attracted world-wide attention with his experiments on mutations of the fruit fly, was chairman of the program committee. He is now head of the Department of Mutations and Genes of the Institute of Genetics, Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. Dr. Muller is assisted here by Dr. Daniel Raffel, Johns Hopkins graduate and a nephew of Gertrude Stein.

Among Soviet geneticists now under fire are Professor S. G. Levit, head of the Medico-Genetical Institute, who was general secretary of the organization committee, for the congress, and Professor Agol, a member of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences. Both have worked in Dr. Muller's laboratory in the University of Texas and both now have a high standing in the genetics world.

Professors Agol and Vaviloff, who have traveled extensively in America, have been arrested at Kiev on charges understood to involve Trotskyism. Professor Agol has been a Bolshevik since before the revolution. Professor Levit was originally a Menshevik, who joined the Bolshevik party in 1918.

Recently Professor Levit has come under heavy attack in the Communist party press, proving he has come under the displeasure of party authorities, who rule every phase of Soviet life, including the sciences, literature and the arts, as well as economics and politics. This has culminated in Professor Levit's being accused by the science subcommittee of the Moscow City Communist party committee of permitting the development of scientific views hostile to Soviet theory and friendly to Nazis in his institute—which was surprising in view of his published theories.

At a meeting of physicians and biologists a party representative said some Soviet scientists were not only ready to admire false and anti-scientific theories of

Nazi biologists but were imitating their methods in their own scientific work.

Now the complete mental equality of all races is as firm a dogma of Soviet faith as inequality is a dogma of Nazi faith. The party representative particularly attacked Professor Shtyvko of Professor Levit's staff for making deductions "resembling the racial nonsense of German Fascists" in a recent paper published in a German scientific journal.

Professor Shtyvko studied fifty-four skeletons of adult victims of the Russian famine during the civil war period and is alleged to have placed them some-

where between the Germans and the yellow race. He attributed this to the strain of famine and civil war.

In another paper, the party representative said, Professor Shtyvko classed the Buryat Mongols-Siberian people—as mentally equal to 12-year-old Europeans.

Professor B. I. Lavrentyeff, who was appointed chairman of a committee to look into these charges, warned Soviet medical and biological experts that they must protect Soviet science against any anti-scientific theories that might be dragged in.—*Wireless from Moscow to The New York Times.*

## INTERNATIONAL CONGRESSES

### THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL FORESTRY CONGRESS AT BUDAPEST

THE second International Forestry Congress took place in 1936 at Budapest, Hungary, from September 10 to 17. This was attended by 14 Americans, made up of ten foresters and four lumbermen, as follows:

Dr. F. A. Silcox, chief, and C. E. Rachford, associate chief, U. S. Forest Service; Dr. Raphael Zon, director, Lake States Forest Research Station, Minn.; John D. Guthrie, general inspector, CCC; Ovid Butler, executive secretary, American Forestry Association; Tom Gill, secretary, Paek Forestry Foundation and Educational Board; John B. Woods, forester, National Lumber Manufacturers Association; Professor Shirley Allen, Forestry Department, University of Michigan; Dr. Henry I. Baldwin, forester, Fox Research and Demonstration Forest, N. H.; Richard R. Fenska, forester, Bartlett Tree Experts, N. Y., all members of and delegates from the Society of American Foresters. The following lumbermen attended as delegates of the American Forestry Association: Ernest L. Kurth, Texas, president, National Lumber Manufacturers Association; G. F. Jewett, manager, Forest Industries, Inc., Idaho; Frank Kennett, president, Kennett Lumber Company, N. H.; and Julian F. McGowin, treasurer, W. T. Smith Lumber Company, Alabama. Nine of the above delegates were in Europe at that time on a forestry study tour under the auspices of the Oberlaender Foundation.

The idea of an international gathering or congress of foresters dates back to 1922, at the Sixth Annual General Assembly of the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome. At that time it was decided to invite all nations to a conference to consider problems in forestry, especially the world wood supply and its consumption. Following up this original suggestion, the first international forestry conference was held in Rome from April 29 to May 5, 1926. This was attended by 18 Americans, headed by Dr. S. T. Dana, dean, Forestry and Conservation Department, Univer-

sity of Michigan, at that time president of the Society of American Foresters.

#### PROMINENT NATIONALS ATTEND

Between 35 and 40 nations, colonies and dependencies were represented at the Second Congress. In addition there were delegates from five related bodies such as the International Institute of Agriculture, International Committee on Wood (C.I.B.), International Wood Gas Committee, International Travel Bureau and the International Union of Forest Research Stations. The estimated total number of delegates of various classes was 525. The heads of several of the leading forest services were present, including Sir Roy Robinson, chairman of the British Forestry Commission, Dr. E. D. Van Dissel, chief of Holland's Forest Service, Baron von Keudell, Generalforstmeister of Germany, Mons. Rene Chaplin, director general of the French Service of Forests and Waters, Dr. A. K. Cajander, director general of the Forest Service of Finland, and Dr. F. A. Silcox, chief, U. S. Forest Service.

Baron Clement Waldbott of Hungary was president of the congress, and the four vice-presidents were: von Keudell of Germany; Robinson, Great Britain; Silcox, United States, and Chaplin, France.

The congress was held under the patronage of the Regent of Hungary, Nicolas Horthy; its honorary president was Jules de Gömbös, president of the Hungarian National Council, while Minister of Agriculture Coloman de Daranyi was head of the Committee of Honor; and the co-presidents of the congress were Baron Giacomo Acerbo, president of the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome, and Dr. A. K. Cajander, director general of the Forest Service of Finland.

The congress was preceded by a ten-day field meeting of the International Union of Forest Research Stations to which Dr. Raphael Zon was the American delegate.