

It has been pointed out⁴ that the linking up of hydroxyl bonds explains the properties of the gels that are formed by neutral hydroxides.

These few examples may serve to show how improvements in the technique of x-ray analysis are sharpening a tool which has already been of assistance to research in many directions and now seems to be acquiring a new usefulness.

The chemist has already shown that the properties of the molecule depend on the internal disposition of its atoms. The characteristics of the solid state depend also on spatial relations, and in a manner which is even more complicated, much more complicated than in the case of the independent molecule. Accurate measurement of the spatial arrangements lays a firm foundation for the study of the properties of a substance in relation to its structure and its composition.

The problems to be solved are, of course, extremely complex, but it is surprising how much can be done towards the examination of intricate molecular associations when the spatial relations between the most commonly occurring atoms are known. This applies, for example, to the study of the proteins which has already gone far; to the clays, and to the glasses and other extended structures. At one time it seemed hopeless to expect to learn much of the structure of bodies which were so irregular as to give no sign of crystallinity. But it is now possible to work from the regularity in occurrence of a few definite separation distances, even when regularity in orientation does not exist: and methods have been devised by which these distances can be determined by the x-ray methods.

It is clear, I think, that the stereometry which the chemist has developed so successfully is acquiring new powers which will have the widest applications.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

GERMANY AND THE NOBEL PRIZES

FOLLOWING the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to Carl von Ossietzky, the German pacifist who was confined at the time in a concentration camp, Chancellor Adolf Hitler issued on January 30 a decree which reads:

In order to avert such shameful occurrences for all future time, I decree with this day the foundation of a German national prize for art and science.

This national prize shall be divided annually among three worthy Germans to the amount of 100,000 marks each.

Acceptance of a Nobel Prize is herewith forbidden to all Germans for all future time.

Executive orders will be issued by the Reich Minister for Popular Enlightenment and Propaganda.

At the Propaganda Ministry it was emphasized that the prohibition applied not merely to the peace prize, but to all Nobel awards.

The New York Times prints in full the statement made to the Reichstag by its president, Colonel General Hermann Goering, which reads:

Ridiculous insults which proceed partly from rage and partly from the bad taste of others can neither offend nor shame Germany. They merely fall back on those from whom they come, and especially on those who always pride themselves on their special good breeding.

When we see attempts to insult Germany before the world by awarding a peace prize to a traitor, to a person punished with penal servitude, then such action does not shame Germany but merely makes those ridiculous who are responsible for it.

But because Germany will not tolerate such shameful

things in the future and does not want any dispute about them at all, the Fuehrer has created this day a national prize for art and science.

May the world realize from this that everything which it may undertake to insult the German people will always fall back on the other. It is, as the Fuehrer has repeatedly emphasized, a singular characteristic of present-day democracies to ignore facts and realities. But one must learn in time that the once torn and impotent Germany has been transformed into a proud, strong, honest, honor-loving, freedom-loving people—a people that has a right to be proud of its achievements before all nations, before history, before the future.

An Associated Press dispatch from Stockholm of the same date reports that Germany's ban on acceptance of Nobel Prizes by Germans will have no effect on the granting of awards by the Nobel committee. Professor Karl Manne Siegbahn, a committee member who won the prize for physics for 1924, asserted that the awards would be without regard for German laws, on the ground that no distinctions were possible between German and other scientists. However, whether payment is possible is a matter between the winner and his government.

A JOURNAL OF "PARAPSYCHOLOGY"

DUKE UNIVERSITY News Service has sent to SCIENCE the following release:

Establishment of a new scientific journal devoted to research in telepathy and clairvoyance has been announced by the Duke University Press. The journal will be called the *Journal of Parapsychology* and will be edited by Professor William McDougall and Dr. J. B. Rhine, with the assistance of Charles E. Stuart. It will be issued quarterly.

⁴ Fricke, *Koll. Z.*, vol. 69, p. 312, 1934.

The rapid growth of the Duke experiments, and especially the development of similar work in other institutions of learning and elsewhere, has made it necessary to publish the journal to provide a proper outlet for articles in the field of study. The extraordinarily widespread public interest in this work, it is felt, justifies the founding of a magazine devoted entirely to these topics.

Parapsychology is a branch of psychology which includes such subjects as telepathy and clairvoyance and whatever other unusual capacities of mind may be discovered that do not fit into the recognized order of things. Although articles in the new Duke journal will be written in the usual scientific manner, they will not be unintelligible to the average educated person. The journal will have the special feature of presenting editorial abstracts of the articles to give the gist of each in non-technical terms.

The new journal is the first and only academic scientific journal devoted to the field of parapsychology. Though it is published at Duke, its columns are to be shared with other institutions where members are engaged in similar research.

Professor McDougall, eminent psychologist at Duke University, is a veteran in the field of parapsychology. He was formerly president of the English Society for Psychical Research and of other well-known organizations. He has been on scientific investigating committees and is considered the leading psychologist who has given his attention to the parapsychological branch.

Dr. Rhine has been in active charge of the experimental studies of clairvoyance and telepathy, or extra-sensory perception, as they are called, and has opened up through his book, "Extra-Sensory Perception," a new interest in these subjects and a new experimental attack that is world wide. Mr. Stuart is Prince memorial fellow at the Duke parapsychological laboratory and is the author of several articles on the subject.

THE FIRE IN LYMAN HALL OF NATURAL HISTORY, SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

THE following is a brief report on the serious fire in Lyman Hall of Natural History at Syracuse University on January 11.

Smoke issuing from the roof of the southeast wing at about 1:20 P. M. was the first observed indication of the fire on the outside of the building; and smoke from the ceiling and walls of one of the rooms on the fourth floor was the first indication that those within the building had of the fire. It apparently did not arise in either of the laboratories or the museum.

The damage to the Natural History Museum is serious, as many of the exhibits are irreplaceable. The main losses in the museum were reported in *SCIENCE*, January 22.

Professor Ernest Reed, chairman of the department of botany, had his laboratory for genetics, mycology and plant pathology on the fourth floor. All the illustrative material for the course in genetics, mycology and plant pathology has been lost. The large research

collection of cultures of *Fusarium* and other fungi which Professor Reed and his graduate students have collected during the past fifteen years was destroyed. Professor Reed has also lost notes and materials of his twenty years of study of inheritance in the sugar beet. At the present time he is on a collecting trip in Colombia and Venezuela and it has not been possible to get word to him of the destruction of his laboratory.

Professor Parke Struthers, of the department of zoology, was also located on the fourth floor. He was in charge of the courses in comparative anatomy and vertebrate zoology. The collections and equipment in these fields accumulated during the past thirty years is almost a total loss. Professor Struthers's chief losses are his collection of separates, his embryological material on the porcupine and numerous collections of skeletons.

The fire losses were limited to the fourth floor, but the water damage extends to the basement. A roof is being put on, and it is expected that classes will be able to return to the building by February 15 to use the three floors and the basement.

The university is protected by insurance. Professors Reed and Struthers will have to build entirely their research material.

I am wondering whether those interested in genetics, mycology and plant pathology may not have extra separates that they would be willing to contribute to the department of botany; or those in comparative anatomy and vertebrate zoology, separates that they would give to the department of zoology. Any such gifts will be appreciated and should be mailed to the Main Library, Syracuse University, and marked "For the Department of Botany" or "For the Department of Zoology."

W. M. SMALLWOOD

THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE ON THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ENDOWMENTS

THE American Philosophical Society is sponsoring a joint meeting with representatives of foundations, societies and institutions administering funds in aid of research, to be held on February 19 and 20, in the hall of the society at Independence Square, Philadelphia.

On Friday, February 19, closed sessions, including round-table conferences, will be held from 10 A. M. to 1 P. M. and from 2 to 5 P. M., presided over by Dr. Edwin G. Conklin, vice-president of the society. Waldo G. Leland, permanent secretary of the American Council of Learned Societies, will open the discussion of some or all of the following subjects:

1. Grants-in-aid as distinguished from fellowships and scholarships.