

### SCIENTIFIC EXHIBITS AT THE ROYAL SOCIETY CONVERSAZIONE

*The British Medical Journal* gives an account of the scientific exhibits shown at Burlington House at the conversazione of the Royal Society on May 4. It states that among historical exhibits were the royal charters of the society, with the charter-book containing the signatures of the founder, patrons and fellows from 1662 to the present day. There were also shown original manuscripts and manuscript letters of early fellows, including Boyle, Hooke, Leeuwenhoek, Leibnitz, Malpighi and Newton. Another exhibit consisted of diplomas and other original documents of William Hyde Wollaston, a recent gift to the society from the Wollaston family. There was also exhibited an unrecorded watercolor portrait of John Dalton; this was shown under the zograscope, a contemporary optical instrument used for domestic entertainment in the eighteenth century. A number of exhibits related to investigations on plants, especially on virus infections.

Imperial Chemical Industries has been experimenting on plant hormones. Substances have been isolated from plants and shown to possess growth-promoting properties, and some of the effects of heteroauxin on plant tissues were demonstrated. There were cameras for television, microscopes for ultra-violet light, and an instrument for the photographic recording of transient phenomena, such as lightning surges, with which records could be obtained of phenomena lasting only one or two millionths of a second.

Professor H. H. Woollard exhibited x-ray films illustrating the lymphatics of the human body after injection with thorotrast and barium. Some of this work with thorotrast is described in the recent annual report of the British Empire Cancer Campaign. Another demonstration was of a subjective photometer by Dr. W. D. Wright. This instrument has been used to measure the adaptation functions of normal eyes, and it is hoped to extend the measurements to test the effect of various pathological conditions on the adaptation process.

An unusually large number of exhibits of biological and zoological interest were on view. These included an exhibit showing tails of birds of paradise, bringing out their variations, and a collection of spiny mammals—echidnas of the Australian region and the more familiar hedgehogs and porcupines. Both were from the Natural History Museum.

During the evening a short lecture was given by Professor Andrade on events and personalities in the history of the Royal Society and the vicissitudes of its fellowship in days gone by.

### THE CHESAPEAKE BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY

THE Chesapeake Biological Laboratory is situated on the picturesque and interesting Solomons Island at

the mouth of the Patuxent River, facing the celebrated Drum Point Harbor, in the very center of the Chesapeake Bay region. It is about 90 miles from the ocean and about the same distance from the fresh waters at the head of the bay. Some ten miles distant across the bay lie the shallow and placid tidewater estuaries of the Eastern Shore, famous for their extensive blue-crab and oyster fisheries. Located in this section is the laboratory's one-thousand acre Aquicultural Experiment Farm. Fresh-water streams flowing into the Patuxent, as well as ponds, offer ample opportunity for the study of fresh-water biology, and near-by along the bay are outcroppings of rich Calvertian fossil beds.

The laboratory first began to take form in 1919, and the present building was built in 1931. A new dormitory has just been completed. On a recently completed 760-foot pier there is a tidal station operated in cooperation with the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey. A large boat, a small power boat and small boats and canoes are at the service of the laboratory. The laboratory is a cooperative organization, the cooperating institutions being the Carnegie Institution of Washington, Goucher College, Johns Hopkins University, the University of Maryland, Washington College, Western Maryland College and the Maryland Conservation Department. It is open from June to August, inclusive, class work beginning on June 23 and ending on August 4.

The laboratory maintains a staff of three on full time, the cooperating institutions supplying the remainder of the personnel and paying their expenses. The problems of special interest to the members of the staff during the present season are: the hydrography of the Patuxent area (Dr. C. L. Newcombe, University of Maryland); the biology of the striped bass and shad (Dr. V. D. Vladikov, Maryland Conservation Department); the algae of the Solomons Island region (Dr. H. C. Bold, Vanderbilt University, working under the auspices of Western Maryland College); the migration and distribution of the blue-crab (Dr. R. V. Truitt, University of Maryland); the diatoms of the Atlantic coast (Mr. Paul S. Conger, Carnegie Institution of Washington); studies on the life history of the blue-crab (Mr. Roy Robertson, Western Maryland College); the biology of *Cliona celata* (Dr. M. C. Old, Ursinus College, working under the auspices of Johns Hopkins University); methods for water analysis (Dr. R. P. Cowles and Dr. Bramble, Johns Hopkins University); strobilization and polymorphism in *Dactylometra quinquecirrha* (Mr. Littleford, University of Maryland); food analyses of the striped bass (Mr. Edgar Hollis, Western Maryland College); physical, chemical and biological fitness of Gun Powder Falls watershed as a brook trout environment (Mr. Fred Seiling, Univer-

sity of Maryland); age and rate of growth of the striped bass in Chesapeake Bay (Mr. David Wallace, Maryland Conservation Department); and certain physico-chemical toleration points in oyster germ cells and larvae (Drs. R. V. Truitt and C. L. Newcombe, University of Maryland).

In addition to work on these special problems a biological survey of the Solomons Island region is being conducted at the laboratory. This survey is comprehensive in outline and is planned as a project of several years' duration. All members of the staff assist, as their time permits, in the work of collecting, preserving and classifying the biological material. This offers an excellent opportunity for advanced students, instructors and specialists in biological subjects to engage in field work and make observations on living things in their natural surroundings.

For the coming season courses are offered in the various significant modifications, structure, habits and classification of the invertebrates; algae; economic zoology; diatoms; ichthyology; experimental zoology, especially the influence of temperature, salinity and certain other factors on behavior, growth and reproduction, special attention being paid to mollusks, crustaceans, polychaetes and coelenterates; and in various biological problems.

The director of the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory is Professor R. V. Truitt, of the University of Maryland, College Park, Md.

AUSTIN H. CLARK

#### SYMPOSIUM AT THE DENVER MEETING ON THE CONTROL OF DRIFTING SOILS

THE general symposium arranged for the Denver meeting under joint auspices of the American Association and the Ecological Society of America deals with the important problem of "The Scientific Aspects of the Control of Drifting Soils." The program last year on the scientific aspects of flood control was very successful and this year's topic follows naturally in a region where wind erosion is of outstanding importance. Three speakers have been invited to discuss the geological, the biological and the present human phases of the question.

"The Geological Aspects of the Drifting of Soils" will be the topic of the first paper by Dr. M. M. Leighton, chief of the Illinois State Geological Survey. He will consider the nature, importance and examples of the geological factors involved and the cardinal principles to be learned from the geological record.

"Climatic Cycles and Human Populations" is the subject announced by Dr. F. E. Clements, of the Division of Plant Biology of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. He will discuss shortgrass and climate, plant cover in relation to erosion and flood and cooperation as an ecological process.

The final paper by H. H. Bennett, chief of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, is entitled "Emergency and Permanent Scientific Control of Wind Erosion." He plans to discuss the precise nature of the human problem and the factors involved in wind erosion with especial reference to emergency control *vs.* permanent control.

Each of the papers will be illustrated by demonstrations, lantern slides or other special means.

The symposium will be held at two o'clock on Thursday afternoon, June 24, in the lecture hall of the Trinity Building near the association headquarters. The general plan of the program and arrangements with speakers have been made primarily by Dr. H. de Forest, representing the Ecological Society of America. The sections of the association and affiliated societies meeting in Denver have arranged their special programs so far as possible to avoid conflicts with the symposium in order to permit all members to attend this discussion of a problem of great social importance at the present time.

HENRY B. WARD

#### AWARDS OF THE LALOR FOUNDATION

THE Lalor Foundation, organized in 1935 for the advancement of scientific research, has issued a statement announcing the recipients of its awards for the academic year 1937-38. These are the first grants made by the foundation and comprise four fellowship awards of \$2,500 each for research in chemistry. Seventy-eight applications were received from 70 men and 8 women. They were reviewed by an advisory committee composed of the following scientific men:

- Dr. Roger Adams, chairman of the department of chemistry, University of Illinois.
- Dr. Katharine Blunt, president of the Connecticut College for Women.
- Dr. Harrison E. Howe, editor of *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry*.
- Dr. Henry G. Knight, chief of the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, U. S. Department of Agriculture.
- Dr. Charles A. Kraus, chairman of the department of chemistry, Brown University.
- Dr. Arthur B. Lamb, professor of chemistry, Harvard University.

The appointments are as follows:

- James English, Jr., Ph.D., Yale University, research assistant at the California Institute of Technology, to continue research at the institute on the isolation and constitution of certain hormones promoting plant growth.
- Leland John Haworth, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin, instructor of physics at the university, to work in the Research Laboratory of Physical Chemistry at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on the magnetic properties of materials at very low temperatures.
- Philip Albert Leighton, Ph.D., Harvard University, asso-