

on Tuesday, at which the investigations of eight laboratories will be reported. The American Society of Mechanical Engineers will join in another technical session in the afternoon, at which G. F. Nordenholt, of the Product Engineering Company, New York, will be chairman. H. M. Hobart, consulting engineer of the General Electric Company, who received the Samuel Wylie Miller Memorial Medal last year, will preside at a conference and meeting of the fundamental research committee on Tuesday evening. Four papers devoted to "Fabrication" will be given on Wednesday morning. The afternoon will be spent in viewing the Metals Exposition. The growing demand for stainless steel and its applications and the welding of low alloy steels will be outlined at the Thursday morning symposium and there will be a shipbuilding symposium on Thursday afternoon. The final session on Friday morning will be devoted to railroads.

C. A. McCune, secretary of the Magnaflux Corporation, New York, is general chairman of the convention. On Sunday, October 17, President Gibson will give an informal reception to members of the society.

THE SIXTEENTH INTERNATIONAL PHYSIOLOGICAL CONGRESS

THE sixteenth International Physiological Congress will be held at Zurich from August 14 to 18, 1938, under the presidency of Professor W. R. Hess, of the University of Zurich. Members of the Swiss National Committee are: I. Abelin, Bern; L. Asher, Bern; F. Battelli, Geneva; E. Bürgi, Bern; Ch. Dhéré, Fribourg; S. Edlbacher, Basle; H. Fischer, Zurich; B. Flaschenträger, Zurich; A. Fleisch, Lausanne; W. Frei, Zurich; W. R. Hess, Zurich; P. Karrer, Zurich; M. Minkowski, Zurich; A. v. Muralt, Bern; E. Rothlin, Basle; J. Strohl, Zurich; F. Verzá, Basle. The general secretary of the congress is E. Rothlin, Basle, and R. Speich, of the Swiss Bank Corporation, Basle, is treasurer. The congress will meet in six sections as follows: General and comparative physiology, Biophysics, Biochemistry, Applied physiology (work, sport, aviation), Psychophysiology and Pharmacology.

The sixteenth meeting marks the fiftieth anniversary

of the International Physiological Congress. According to the official statement:

The fact that this congress is being held in Switzerland, the country in which its first meeting was held, affords an excellent opportunity to honor the founders of the International Physiological Congress by devoting special attention to the original objects they had in view and in the spirit with which they were imbued. Wherefore, due regard being had to the changed circumstances of the present day, it is desired in simple outward setting to emphasize the importance of *demonstration* and *discussion* of problems of mutual interest, and more especially to further personal contact between those taking part therein. In addition each member, especially the younger generation of scientists, is to be given the opportunity to introduce himself to his colleagues by an individual communication.

All members of physiological, biochemical, experimental pathological and pharmacological institutes or laboratories are entitled to participate. Those who are not members of any recognized society or institute must be recommended by the director of a recognized laboratory or institute or by the president of a recognized society. The subscription will be 35 Swiss frs, and should be forwarded by check or postal order (Account V 5) payable to the sixteenth International Congress of Physiology, Swiss Bank Corporation, Basle, Switzerland.

There will be the usual entertainments and excursions during the congress. Afterwards a survey of the physiology of high altitudes will be given at the Jungfrauoch High Alpine Research Station. Those interested should communicate with the president, Professor A. von Muralt, 5, Buhlplatz, Bern, Switzerland.

Before the congress an international meeting for cell research will be held at Zurich from August 7 to 13, under the presidency of Professor von Moellendorff, of the Anatomical Institute, Zurich, and the International Veterinary Congress will follow from August 21 to 25, under the presidency of Professor Flückiger, director of the Swiss Federal Veterinary Department at Bern.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

ON the occasion of the dedication of the new chemistry building at the University of Delaware on October 15 and 16 honorary degrees will be conferred on Dr. The Svedberg, professor of chemistry at the University of Upsala; on Professor Frank C. Whitmore, dean of the School of Chemistry and Physics at the Pennsylvania State College and president of the American Chemical Society, and on Dr. Warren K.

Lewis, professor of chemical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

AMONG the honorary degrees conferred on October 14 at the sesquicentennial of Franklin and Marshall College were the following: the doctorate of laws on Dr. Karl T. Compton, president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and on Dr. Harry Woodburn Chase, chancellor of New York University, and the

doctorate of science on Dr. Claude Schaefer Beck, associate professor of surgery in the School of Medicine of Western Reserve University, and on Dr. Karl Musser Houser, professor of otolaryngology in the School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania.

At the celebration of the four hundredth anniversary of the foundation of St. Mary's College of the University of St. Andrews, the doctorate of laws was conferred on Dr. G. F. Stout, professor emeritus of logic and metaphysics in the university and formerly editor of *Mind*, and on Sir C. Leonard Wooley, director of the joint expedition to Mesopotamia of the British Museum and the University of Pennsylvania.

THE honorary doctorate of the University of Zurich has been conferred on Dr. Emil Abderhalden, professor of physiology at the University of Halle.

THE patrons medal of the Royal Geographical Society, London, will be conferred at the annual meeting on October 18 on Lincoln Ellsworth, the explorer, in recognition of his work "in developing the technique of aerial navigation in the polar regions, culminating in his successful flight across the Antarctic in 1935-36." The award is made each year to an explorer of other than British nationality. Mr. Ellsworth sailed for England on October 8.

At a meeting held in June to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Gesellschaft für Pflanzenzüchtung in Vienna, Dr. George H. Shull, professor of botany and genetics at Princeton University, was elected an honorary member of the society.

THE Benjamin Ide Wheeler Medal, bestowed biennially upon a citizen of Berkeley, Calif., for distinguished public service, was presented under the auspices of the Service Club Council of Berkeley, in connection with a meeting of the Rotary Club on October 6, to Professor William B. Herms, chairman of the division of entomology and parasitology of the University of California. Professor Charles Gilman Hyde, of the university, stated the reasons for the award to Professor Herms, and the formal presentation of the medal was made by Dr. Monroe E. Deutsch, vice-president and provost of the university and chairman of the Board of Award. The award was first granted in 1929, in commemoration of Dr. Benjamin Ide Wheeler, formerly president of the University of California, who died in 1927.

PROFESSOR GEO. A. DEAN, head of the department of entomology, and Dr. R. K. Nabours, head of the department of zoology, of the Kansas State College of Agriculture and Applied Science, Manhattan, were honored on October 1 and 2 at a joint celebration upon the completion of 25 years as chairmen of their depart-

ments. Dr. H. B. Hungerford, head of the department of entomology at the University of Kansas, gave the opening address at a special meeting of the Zoology-Entomology Seminar on October 1, on "Interesting Aspects of World Distribution of Aquatic Hemiptera." Dr. Paul S. Welch, member of the entomological staff at the college from 1913 to 1918, now professor of zoology at the University of Michigan, gave an illustrated address in the evening on "The Oxygen Balance in Inland Waters and the Hazards of Aquatic Respiration." The two departments held "open house" on Saturday afternoon, displaying the major accomplishments of twenty-five years and the research work now in progress. A special issue of the Kansas State College *Bulletin* (Vol. 21, No. 9, p. 55) giving biographies of Professors Nabours and Dean, a survey of the accomplishments and titles of all published papers from the two departments in the twenty-five years, was distributed at the banquet. A bound volume of letters from students and friends also was presented to each of them.

DR. HARVEY N. DAVIS, president of the Stevens Institute of Technology, has been nominated president for 1938 of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

At the recent meeting in Boston of the American Society of Civil Engineers, Henry E. Riggs, honorary professor of engineering at the University of Michigan, was nominated for the presidency.

SIR THOMAS HOLLAND, principal of the University of Edinburgh, has been elected president of the Geographical Association of Great Britain for 1938.

DR. WILLIAM R. LONGLEY, Richard M. Colgate professor of mathematics, has been appointed acting dean of Yale University, following the retirement of Professor Clarence W. Mendell.

DR. W. H. STEVENSON, vice-director of the Agricultural Experiment Station of the Iowa State College, has become acting head of the department of agronomy, vacant by the death of Dr. P. E. Brown.

GEORGE BELL, of the U. S. Army, formerly head of the work in animal husbandry of the Bureau of Animal Industry of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, has been appointed a member of the staff of the Kellogg Institute of Animal Husbandry of the University of California.

DR. CARL OLSON, JR., assistant professor of pathology and bacteriology in the New York State Veterinary College, has been appointed research professor in veterinary science at the Massachusetts Experiment Station. He plans to work mainly on poultry problems.

DR. MERIT SCOTT has been promoted to an associate professorship of physics at the Pennsylvania State College.

DR. ROBERT M. ZINGG has been made associate professor in the department of anthropology at the University of Denver.

PROMOTIONS at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute at Troy, N. Y., include: *From associate professor to professor*, George H. Carragan and Stanley B. Wiltse, of the department of electrical engineering and physics, and Guy M. Phelps, in charge of drawing courses. *From assistant professor to associate professor*, Harold B. Howe, drawing courses. *From instructor to assistant professor*, William H. Rauscher, chemical engineering and chemistry, and Lynn L. Merrill, Dennis B. Ames and Ralph E. Huston, mathematics.

BERNHARD H. LANE, editor of the U. S. Geological Survey, retired on September 30, after serving on the editorial staff for more than thirty-two years.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR A. S. HOUSEHOLDER, of Washburn College, who has been awarded a Rockefeller fellowship, will spend the coming year at the University of Chicago working with Professor Nicolas Rashevsky in mathematical biophysics.

S. E. MCCOLL, director of provincial surveys, has been appointed representative for Manitoba on the Canadian National Geographic Board, to succeed W. J. Healy, formerly provincial librarian.

DR. WM. P. N. CANAVAN, associate professor of bacteriology at the School of Medicine of the University of Oklahoma, sailed from New York on October 9 for San Juan, P. R. He plans to spend a year at the School of Tropical Medicine of the University of Puerto Rico.

DR. W. RALPH SINGLETON, assistant geneticist at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station at New Haven, has leave of absence for six months to work with Dr. L. J. Stadler, senior geneticist at the station of the U. S. Bureau of Plant Industry at the University of Missouri.

DR. WILBUR A. SAWYER, director of the International Health Division of the Rockefeller Foundation, gave on October 13 a lecture on "The Revelations of Research in Yellow Fever" under the auspices of the New York University Chapter of Sigma Xi.

DR. SEWALL WRIGHT, professor of zoology at the University of Chicago, will lecture on October 25 at the annual joint meeting of the Institute of Medicine of Chicago and the Chicago Society of Internal Medicine. His subject will be "The Hereditary Factor in Abnormal Development."

DR. PETER VAN DE KAMP, director of the Sproul

Observatory of Swarthmore College, lectured on October 15 before the Rittenhouse Astronomical Institute at a meeting held at the Franklin Institute. The title of his address was "Our Stellar Neighbors."

DR. C. H. DESCH, superintendent of the metallurgical department of the National Physical Laboratory, will give the Le Chatelier Memorial Lecture of the Chemical Society, London, on October 28.

THE new Edward Martin Biological Laboratory at Swarthmore College, of which Dr. Laurence Irving is director, was dedicated on October 2. Dr. James Rowland Angell, formerly president of Yale University, gave the address.

Two conferences on chemistry and chemical engineering in connection with the dedication of the new chemistry building at the University of Delaware were planned for October 15 and 16. On Friday afternoon addresses were made by Dr. The Svedberg and Dr. Frank C. Whitmore. These were discussed by Dr. E. O. Kraemer, of the du Pont Experiment Station, and Dr. Hugh S. Taylor, professor of chemistry at Princeton University. Speakers at the second conference on Saturday morning include Dr. Warren K. Lewis and Dr. James F. Norris, professor of organic chemistry at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The discussions will be by Arthur M. Greene, Jr., dean of the School of Engineering of Princeton University, and James G. Vail, vice-president of the Philadelphia Quartz Company. Dr. Harrison E. Howe, editor of *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry*, will give an address at the dinner on Saturday evening on "Chemistry and the Nation's Business."

THE twentieth annual meeting of the American Dietetic Association will be held at the John Marshall Hotel, Richmond, Va., from October 17 to 23.

THE annual convention of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists will meet in New Orleans from March 16 to 18. Roy Hazzard, Shreveport, has been named chairman of a field trips committee. Other committee chairmen include: C. I. Alexander, Lake Charles, reception committee; C. E. Cook, entertainment; T. R. Eskrigge, New Orleans, transportation; J. E. Lytle, Hattiesburg, Miss., hotels; Donald Goodwill, Jr., of the state department of conservation, golf committee; C. K. Moresi, of the conservation department, publicity, and Professor Steinmayer, finance.

THE seventh International Congress for Entomology, under the presidency of Professor Martini, of Hamburg, will be held in Berlin from August 15 to 20, 1938. The following sections are provided for: *General entomology*: (1) Systematic entomology and

zoogeography, (2) Nomenclature and bibliography, (3) Morphology, physiology, embryology and genetics, (4) Oecology. *Applied entomology*: (1) Medical and veterinary-medical entomology, (2) Apiculture and sericulture, (3) Forest entomology, (4) Agricultural entomology—(a) Viticulture and pomiculture, (b) Agriculture and oliculture, (c) Stored products insects, (d) Means and methods for fighting vermin. The Secretary-General of the congress is Professor Dr. Hering, Zoologisches Museum der Universität, Invalidenstrasse 43, Berlin, N 4.

THE eighth annual meeting of the U. S. Institute for Textile Research, Inc., will be held at the Hotel Commodore, New York City, on November 4. In addition to the regular meeting of members in the morning for the presentation of annual reports and the election of directors, there will be an open research conference in the afternoon and a dinner in the evening. It is hoped that at the research conference representatives of other bodies engaged in textile research will report on progress and on future plans. There will also be an opportunity for members to suggest new subjects to the research council of the institute. At the dinner, in addition to the opening address of President Garvan, there will be given a report by Dean Joseph H. Willits and his associates on "Progress of the Survey of Production and Distribution Organization in the Textile Industries," and a report on "Cellulose Analyses," by Dr. Wanda K. Farr, director of research on the chemistry of cellulose at the Chemical Foundation, which is being conducted at the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research.

GABRIELE D'ANNUNZIO has been named president of the Royal Academy at Rome to succeed the late Guglielmo Marconi. Marshal Pietro Badoglio, veteran of the Ethiopian campaign, has been made president of the National Council of Research, also succeeding Marconi. In accepting the appointment Sr. D'Annunzio sent the following message to Mussolini: "Great comrade, head of Italy's combatants, my chief: Knowing my aversion for holding office and having proved it in more peaceful times, you appoint me

to-day president of the Italian Academy, as though to bring forth again fifty years of Latin culture and of pure devotion to my Latin fatherland. The new academy welcomes and gathers to it the flower of our genius and our scholarships, embellishing our *alma parens*. From those genii I learned to compose my human doctrine, from those scholars I learned the earliest beginnings and divined the future development of the nobility and richness of the language I speak and write. Thus designated by you, I enter this renowned laboratory whence the most brilliant work surges from the hardest of toil. So, comrade, I press to my faithful breast you, most Italian of heart, most unvanquished of destiny."

LORD NUFFIELD, the automobile manufacturer, has announced a gift of £300,000 to the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, England. He previously had given £150,000 to the hospital. The second donation is in the form of an endowment fund, the income from which is to be devoted to raising the standard of the infirmary. Lord Nuffield's benefactions in the last eleven years amount to about £8,000,000, including a gift of £2,000,000 to the University of Oxford.

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association states that plans formulated by the alumni council of Tufts Medical Association for the erection of a new medical school building at the New England Medical Center, Boston, have been approved by the trustees. A fund of \$2,000,000 will be raised by public appeal among the alumni of the school and the people of New England, to be used for the building and endowment of various professorships and for the creation of a surgical unit at the Boston Dispensary.

A BASE hospital for Navajo and Hopi Indians, built at a cost of \$450,000, is expected to be ready for occupancy by November 5 at Fort Defiance, Ariz. There will be private rooms, wards, isolation wards, a maternity unit and a nursery with facilities for fourteen patients. The Navajo-Hopi reservation of 25,000 square miles is the largest of 199 Indian reservations in twenty-two states. It has a total population of about 45,000 Navajos and 3,000 Hopis.

DISCUSSION

CAN WE ABANDON THE VITAMIN ALPHABET?

ONCE upon a time in the days of the Indians and Cartier life with the vitamins was simple. One drank pine needle tea or vitamin C extract to cure his scurvy (or his syphilis) according to Cartier. Then came Magendie with his dog experiments more than a hundred years ago, and vitamin A was born. More than

a half century later Forster tried to feed his dogs on salt-free diets and produced typical symptoms of "B" deficiency. Finally the twentieth century arrived with the creation of the term "vitamin" and the use of a few letters to differentiate these essential factors.

The twentieth century is still young, but the average vitamin student is now afflicted with as many alphabetical vitamins as Job was with boils. Vitamin B