

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

APPROPRIATIONS OF THE BRITISH COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

THE British Colonial Development Advisory Committee, according to the *London Times*, has recommended appropriations from the funds at its disposal of £781,698. Plans for which assistance is recommended include the development and conservation of the water and forest resources of Tanganyika; the further development of water supplies in the Bechuanaland Protectorate and Swaziland; and the construction of a water supply system in Malta designed to increase the irrigated area by about 45 per cent. Anti-soil erosion measures bulk largely, particularly in proposals for reclamation and land drainage in the Machakos district in Kenya.

The *Times* states that the committee regards the tsetse fly problem as a matter of supreme importance to the British Empire. Two thirds of the total area of Tanganyika Territory are still infested with the fly, and the remaining third is threatened with rapid infestation. Huge areas in other African dependencies are similarly infested, the result being that pressure of human beings and stock on the fly-free areas constantly increases and brings with it dangers of over-grazing and consequent soil erosion. The Tsetse Research Department in Tanganyika is the central organization, and the work carried out there benefits all African territories affected by the fly. The committee has recommended a free grant to this organization of £207,974, spread over the next seven years.

Other grants are made for the development of peasant agriculture in the Leeward Islands; the recruitment of probationers for the Colonial Forest Service; and the improvement of transport and communications in various West Indian islands.

CONTROL OF EROSION IN NORTH CAROLINA

AN official statement given out by the Department of the Interior reports that out of the North Carolina Beach Erosion Control Project, now well under way with Emergency Relief Appropriation funds, an unusual and valuable possibility is being developed by the National Park Service. This is expected to have far-reaching effect in protecting the Atlantic Coast in the Cape Hatteras area from further depredations through storms.

The area embraced in the project is that section of the sea-coast lying south of the Virginia-North Carolina line and extending to Coraco Inlet, comprising some 175 miles of ocean front. It entails the creation of protective foredunes and dune ranges over approximately 70 per cent. of the area. This will be followed

by sand fixation through protective planting and reforestation, to correct the devastation that has been in progress for more than a century. The entire project is under the control of the National Park Service.

The area consists chiefly of a barrier spit between sound and ocean varying from several miles to a few hundred feet. It has been provided by Congress that ultimately this coast may be set aside as a national seashore recreational area, the first of its kind on the Atlantic coast. For this purpose the Cape Hatteras section was selected as one of the most promising for development, because of its nearly primitive character and its historic value. Before the national seashore can be established, however, the enabling legislation provides that the lands involved in the project must be donated to the Federal Government.

From the new nursery of the Park Service already have come thousands of seedlings to plant many acres on the beach. Since the spring planting additional thousands of seeds have been planted in the nursery and new beds are now being prepared for next fall. If the nursery is successful in providing seedlings for each planting, a considerable amount of money will be saved on the project. It is believed that seeds collected locally probably have a better chance to survive the exposure to which they are subjected than seeds purchased from other sources.

INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL COMMISSION OF PHARMACOPOEIAL EXPERTS

At the recent session of the Health Organization of the League of Nations a commission was appointed to carry on the work of the Brussels conference for the establishment of standards for potent medicines. The committee consists of: Dr. C. H. Hampshire, chairman, London; Professor H. Baggesgaard, Copenhagen; Professor V. E. Zunz, Brussels; Professor M. Tiffeneau, Paris; Professor R. Eder, Zurich; Professor L. van Itallie, Leyden; Professor E. Fullerton Cook, Philadelphia; a member of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

The conference was the outgrowth of earlier efforts to establish an International Pharmacopoeia. In 1902 a group of pharmacists from Brussels, in the name of the Belgian Government, issued invitations to practically all nations of the world to participate in a conference for the purpose of establishing uniformity in the definition and strength of the more potent medicines in use throughout the world.

At that time, the Pharmacopoeia of the United States was officially represented by Dr. H. C. Wood, Sr., and by Dr. Frederick B. Power. The chairman of the committee of revision, Professor Joseph P. Remington, was at that time greatly interested in this