

tion under the terms of the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act of June 25, 1938.

It is the intention of the Food and Drug Administration to perpetuate the food standards committee which has functioned in promulgating administrative standards for the last twenty-five years. This committee has consisted of representatives from the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists, the Association of Dairy, Food and Drug Officials of the United States and the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Members of the committee are:

For the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists:

C. D. Howard, director and chief, Division of Chemistry and Sanitation, State Board of Health, Concord, N. H.; Guy G. Frary, state chemist, Vermilion, S. D.

For the Association of Dairy, Food and Drug Officials of the United States: J. J. Taylor, state chemist, Department of Agriculture, Tallahassee, Florida; Mrs. F. C. Dugan, director, Bureau of Foods, Drugs and Hotels, State Board of Health, Louisville, Ky.

For the Food and Drug Administration: W. B. White, chief, Food Division; W. S. Frisbie, chief, Division of State Cooperation.

The work of the committee will be to formulate definitions and standards both of identity and of quality, including fill of container, after consideration of all the data—analytical and inspectional—deemed essential to support them. The committee will meet in the Food and Drug Administration at Washington at intervals to review the data which have been assembled, draft tentative standards, and then upon the conclusion of public hearings, required by the act, make its final recommendations. Under the new act these definitions and standards when promulgated by the Secretary will have the full force and effect of law.

The first committee to consider food standards was one appointed by the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists in 1897. This committee was originally headed by Dr. Harvey W. Wiley. By virtue of the congressional appropriation act of June 3, 1902, the Department of Agriculture was authorized to investigate food standards and the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists committee was named for this purpose. This committee was supplemented in 1905 by the appointment of a representative of the Association of Dairy, Food and Drug Officials. The tripartite form of the committee was established as the result of a general conference between State and Federal food and drug officials held in November, 1913.

THE AMERICAN CONGRESS ON OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY

THE first American Congress devoted to a consideration of medical, nursing and other problems associated with human reproduction will be held in Cleveland, Ohio, from September 11 to 15, 1939, inclusive.

It will be designated the American Congress on Obstetrics and Gynecology. The promotion and sponsorship of the congress has been delegated to the American Committee on Maternal Welfare, which includes the following organizations in its membership:

American Association of Obstetricians, Gynecologists and Abdominal Surgeons.
American College of Surgeons.
American Gynecological Society.
American Hospital Association.
American Nurses Association.
American Protestant Hospital Association.
American Medical Association, Section on Obstetrics and Gynecology.
American Public Health Association.
Central Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.
Chicago Maternity Center.
Maternity Center Association of New York.
National Medical Association.
National League of Nursing.
National Organization for Public Health Nursing.
New England Obstetrical and Gynecological Society.
Pacific Coast Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology.
Southern Medical Association.
U. S. Bureau of the Census.
U. S. Children's Bureau.
U. S. Public Health Service.

The purpose of the congress is to afford opportunities for discussing and publicizing the problems associated with human reproduction and the health of women and new-born babies. The value of more generally disseminated knowledge about the processes and problems of human reproduction and of the special diseases of the female generative organs and of the new-born is important in the maintenance of public health and therefore the interest of woman's welfare extends not only to the medical profession but to associated groups, including nurses, public health officials, hospital administrators, eugenists and many others.

The last International Congress of Obstetrics and Gynecology was held in Amsterdam in May of the present year. Its success stimulated a desire to hold a subsequent one in five years in another European country. It is felt that the difficulties associated with an international assembly, such as languages, expense, long distance travel and limited participation, lack of common interest, call for a regional gathering in which opportunities for more general discussions would prevail. The proposed American congress will therefore be modeled on different lines and includes participation not only by medical groups but by those devoted, as already stated, to nursing, public health and institutional administration.

In addition to the scientific sessions it is planned to provide for several evening meetings at which speak-

ers of prominence will discuss the broader aspects of the subjects for the lay public. There will also be prepared a comprehensive exhibit—scientific, educational, technical and commercial.

Members of the executive committee are: Fred L. Adair, Chicago, *general chairman*; Robert D. Mussey, Rochester, Minnesota, *vice-chairman*; Sara B. Place, Chicago, *secretary*; Rudolph W. Holmes, Chicago, *treasurer*, and Frederick H. Falls, Chicago, *assistant treasurer*.

National, sectional and local specialist societies have approved the congress and have made contributions for its support. It is desired that a wider representation be secured through the medium of contributing memberships, the cost of which has been placed at five dollars. Application may be made at the office of the congress at 650 Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois.

SYMPOSIUM TO COMMEMORATE THE CENTENARY OF THE CELL THEORY

It has been decided to hold a symposium at the Richmond meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Sections L, G and F collaborating, to commemorate the centenary of the cell theory. The major lines of this symposium have been determined as follows:

a. Four to six papers are to be presented by men of sound judgment and thorough knowledge of the facts, so

that the symposium may represent an outstanding contribution to the history of the subject.

b. Biographical accounts are to be limited though not omitted; a broader base than the work of Schleiden and Schwann alone will be looked for in developing the foundations of the theory (by including the work of such a man as Purkinje); and stress will be laid upon what the cell theory is to-day.

The program for this symposium is in process of being developed by the chairmen and secretaries of sections F, G and L and by other officers of the association. At the same time, it has seemed desirable to appeal through the pages of *SCIENCE* to all scholars who may be interested in the symposium for further suggestions, particularly for the names of outstanding men who might be invited to participate.

The Mexican Society of Natural History is offering awards for the best scientific papers celebrating the centenary of the foundation of the cellular theory and will publish a commemorative volume. Papers presented in the symposium of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Richmond can presumably be submitted for these awards also, and for a place in the commemorative volume, if that seems desired.

Please send suggestions either to the permanent secretary of the association or to the undersigned, Dr. Joseph Mayer, Secretary of Section L, Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.

JOSEPH MAYER

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

SIR ALBERT SEWARD, from 1906 to 1936 professor of botany at the University of Cambridge, was elected president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science at the Cambridge meeting. Sir Albert was master of Downing College, Cambridge, from 1915 to 1936, and was vice-chancellor of the university from 1924 to 1926. Two members of the council were elected, Dr. Charles E. Spearman, emeritus professor of psychology at the University of London, and Dr. C. R. Fay, reader in economic history at the University of Cambridge. The meeting in 1939 will be held at Dundee. The places of meeting for 1940, 1941 and 1942 will be Newcastle, Belfast and Birmingham.

DR. MAJOR GREENWOOD, professor of epidemiology and vital statistics at the School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine of the University of London, has been awarded the Bisset Hawkins Gold Medal of the Royal College of Physicians for his researches in statistics.

Nature reports that the joint committee of representatives of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, the Royal Physical Society and the Royal Scottish Geographical Society has awarded the Bruce Memorial Prize (1938) to Alexander R. Glen for his work in Spitsbergen, in-

cluding survey in New Friesland and the completion of the map of North East Land. The council of the Royal Society of Edinburgh has awarded the David Anderson-Berry Prize (1938) to Miss Mary A. C. Cowell, of the Holt Radium Institute, Manchester, for her essay entitled "An Investigation into some of the Factors affecting the Response of Human Skin and Human Skin Tumours to Radiation."

At the annual dinner on August 31 of the San Francisco meeting of the American Society of Bacteriologists Dr. Jerome T. Syverton, assistant professor of bacteriology at the University of Rochester, in recognition of his work on filterable viruses, was presented with the prize of \$1,000 and a medal, founded by Eli Lilly and Company. The award is given annually to an investigator under thirty-one years of age who has made outstanding contributions to knowledge in the fields of bacteriology and immunology.

DR. WALLACE E. HERRELL, of the Mayo Foundation, has received the first award of the Foundation Prize of the Association of Obstetricians, Gynecologists and Abdominal Surgeons. His paper, entitled "Studies of