

manufacturers under the leadership of C. Stewart Lee, of the Pusey and Jones Corporation of Wilmington, Del. Following this action, the Georgia Legislature made an appropriation of \$20,000 at its special session, this being in addition to the \$10,000 appropriated in the preceding regular session. These funds, with the continued contribution by the Industrial Committee of Savannah, ensured the financing of the laboratory for the current year.

The Georgia Legislature, looking to the future, created by special act the Herty Foundation, authorized to take over the equipment and operation of the laboratory and to receive contributions from other states and subdivisions thereof, individuals and corporations. The board of trustees of the foundation is made up as follows: Jas. Fowler, *chairman*; G. M. Bazemore, *vice-chairman*; Elliott W. Reed, *secretary-treasurer*; Harley Langdale; and G. E. Maddox.

It was determined to continue the past policies and purposes of the laboratory, making the information developed available to all and to cooperate with all agencies engaged in this field of work centered on systematic research to determine, with the use of standard paper-mill equipment and chemicals, what modifications are necessary to employ the fast-growing woods of the southern states for pulpwood and products manufactured therefrom.

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Herty Foundation on August 6, at Lakeland, Fla., it was voted to carry out the work of the laboratory, according to the plans and intentions of the late Dr. Herty. Supervision of the business of the foundation will be in the hands of the chairman of the Board of Trustees and the secretary-treasurer. Charles Carpenter, assistant director of the laboratory since January, 1938, will continue in charge of the experimental operations.

THE FIVE-THOUSAND-YEAR TIME CAPSULE OF THE WESTINGHOUSE ELECTRIC COMPANY

THE Westinghouse Electric Company has made public letters that were placed in the 5,000-year time capsule to be deposited by the company on September 23 at the site of the New York World's Fair.

Dr. Einstein's letter, written in German, sums up his impression of the modern age in 161 words. The authorized English translation follows:

Our time is rich in inventive minds, the inventions of which could facilitate our lives considerably. We are crossing the seas by power and utilize power also in order to relieve humanity from all tiring muscular work. We have learned to fly and we are able to send messages and news without any difficulty over the entire world through electric waves.

However, the production and distribution of commodities is entirely unorganized, so that everybody must live

in fear of being eliminated from the economic cycle, in this way suffering for the want of everything. Furthermore, people living in different countries kill each other at irregular time intervals, so that also for this reason any one who thinks about the future must live in fear and terror. This is due to the fact that the intelligence and character of the masses are incomparably lower than the intelligence and character of the few who produce something valuable for the community.

I trust that posterity will read these statements with a feeling of proud and justified superiority.

Dr. Millikan wrote:

At this moment, August 22, 1938, the principles of representative ballot government, such as are represented by the governments of Anglo-Saxon, French and Scandinavian countries, are in deadly conflict with the principles of despotism, which up to two centuries ago had controlled the destiny of man throughout practically the whole of recorded history. If the national, scientific, progressive principles win out in this struggle there is a possibility of a warless, golden age ahead of mankind. If the reactionary principles of despotism triumph now and in the future, the future history of mankind will repeat the sad story of war and oppression as in the past.

THE FEDERAL HEALTH PROGRAM AND THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

THE House of Delegates of the American Medical Association met in emergency session on September 17 with one hundred and seventy-five members in attendance. The meeting was called for consideration of the proposed Federal medical care program which was submitted at the National Health Conference in Washington in July and which requires an expenditure of \$850,000,000 a year. The President's committee urged establishment of a Federal department of health, the secretary of which would be a member of the Cabinet. To this the association agreed, with the proviso that the secretary "must be a physician."

The report, adopted unanimously by the delegates, according to *The New York Times*, read in part:

We approve the principles of hospital service insurance which is being widely adopted throughout the country. We particularly recommend it as a community project. Experience in the operation of hospital service insurance or group hospitalization plans has demonstrated that these plans should confine themselves to provision of hospital facilities and should not include any type of medical care.

We recognize that health needs and means to supply such needs vary throughout the United States. Health needs usually depend on local conditions and therefore are primarily local problems. We therefore encourage county or district medical societies, with the approval of their state medical societies, to develop appropriate means to meet their local requirements.

In addition to insurance for hospitalization we believe it is practicable to develop cash indemnity insurance plans

to cover the costs of emergency or prolonged illness. Agencies set up to provide such insurance should comply with state statutes and regulations to insure their soundness and financial responsibility, and should have approval of county and state medical societies.

We are not willing to foster any system of compulsory health insurance. We are convinced that it is a complicated, bureaucratic system which has no place in a democratic state. It would undoubtedly set up a far-reaching tax system with great increase in the cost of government. That it would lend itself to political control and manipulation there is no doubt.

We recognize the soundness of the principles of workmen's compensation laws and recommend the expansion of such legislation to provide for meeting the costs of illness sustained as a result of employment in industry.

In urging full use of existing hospital facilities rather than building additional ones, the delegates reported that the stability and efficiency of many existing church and voluntary hospitals could be assured by payment to them of the costs of the necessary hospitalization of the medically indigent.

Concerning appropriation of funds for the indigent, the delegates said:

Since the indigent now constitute a large group in the population, we recognize that the necessity for state aid for medical care may arise in poorer communities and the Federal Government may need to provide funds when the state is unable to meet these emergencies.

In the face of the vanishing support of philanthropy, the medical profession will welcome the appropriation of funds to provide care for the needy, providing first, that the public welfare administrative procedures are simplified and coordinated, and second, that the provision of medical services is arranged by responsible local public officials in cooperation with the local medical profession and its allied groups.

We feel that in each state a system should be developed to meet the recommendation of the national health conference in conformity with its suggestion that: The rôle of the Federal Government should be principally that of giving financial and technical aid to the states in their development of sound programs through procedures largely of their own choice.

Seven physicians were appointed as a body to consult with Federal authorities on the national health program. They are: Dr. Irvin Abell, of Louisville, Ky., president of the association; Dr. Edward H. Cary, of Dallas, Texas; Dr. Walter E. Vest, of Huntington, W. Va.; Dr. Walter Donaldson, of Pittsburgh, Pa.; Dr. Fred Rankin, of Lexington, Ky.; Dr. Frederick Sondern, of New York City, and Dr. Henry A. Luce, of Detroit, Mich.

THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS

At its Cambridge meeting (July 17-24) the British Association for the Advancement of Science took

two actions which promise to have important effects upon its future activities and influence. The first relates to proposed reciprocal relationships between it and the American Association for the Advancement of Science; the second, to its obligations to society. It is doubtful whether decisions of equal importance have been taken previously by the British Association in the more than one hundred years since its organization.

For several years the question of possible closer cooperation between the British and American associations has been discussed informally without any definite conclusion having been reached. These discussions do not imply that there has been any lack of cordiality between the two associations. In fact, their organizations are similar and for 90 years since the founding of the American Association (British Association, founded in 1831; American Association, in 1848) the members of each association have been welcomed at the meetings of the other. British scientists have frequently attended meetings of the American Association, and American scientists in considerable numbers, especially in recent years, have attended meetings of the British Association. At the recent Cambridge meeting 62 scientists from the United States and 19 from Canada were registered, or a total of 91, out of a total registration just under 3,000.

Last June at the Ottawa meeting of the American Association a committee was appointed to confer with representatives of the British Association respecting possible closer relations between the two associations. The British representatives at the conferences, which were held just before the Cambridge meeting, were Lord Rayleigh, president for 1938; Professors F. T. Brooks and Allan Ferguson, general secretaries; Dr. O. J. R. Howarth, secretary, and Sir Richard Gregory, editor of *Nature*. The American representatives were George D. Birkhoff, president for 1937; Harold G. Moulton, vice-president and chairman of the Section on Social and Economic Sciences for 1936; Herbert E. Ives, vice-president and chairman of the Section on Physics for 1934, and F. R. Moulton, permanent secretary. The conferences of these committees led to the passing of two resolutions by the council and the general committee of the British Association. Upon the passing of similar resolutions by the American Association the proposed reciprocal arrangements between the two associations will go into effect.

Under the terms of the first resolution, each association will invite, on alternate years, a distinguished representative of the other association to deliver a principal address. The invited British scientist will deliver the principal address at the summer meeting of the American Association, and the invited American scientist will deliver an address second in rank only to the presidential address at the annual meeting of