

He was a member of the Bureau of Chemistry of the U. S. Department of Agriculture from 1892 to 1913, the last ten years as assistant chief.

DR. FERDINAND VON LINDEMANN, professor of mathematics emeritus of the University of Munich, died on March 7 in his eighty-seventh year.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

WORK OF THE SCHOOL OF TROPICAL MEDICINE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO

THE School of Tropical Medicine of the University of Puerto Rico under the auspices of Columbia University, according to the annual report of Dr. George W. Bachman, director of the school, has completed twenty-five research projects out of fifty-eight undertaken. Current investigations include nutrition and malnutrition, parasitism, epidemiological surveys, skin and fungi studies, immunological response to infections, biological properties of various agents of disease, pathological and blood examinations and clinical work.

A survey of the health and socio-economic conditions found in the tobacco, coffee and fruit regions of Puerto Rico was carried on by the department of bacteriology in cooperation with the Puerto Rico Reconstruction Administration. The department also investigated streptococcus infection in the tropics. It has commenced a study on the incidence of pneumococcus with relation to the cultural and biological characteristics of the flora of the respiratory tract of normal Puerto Ricans.

A study of tuberculosis in tonsils was carried forward in collaboration with the Henry Phipps Institute of Philadelphia, and a study of the prevalence of abortion diseases in cattle of the Island was made in cooperation with the Bureau of Animal Industry of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. A joint investigation by the department of chemistry and the Agricultural Experiment Station was made of forage crops.

The department of medical zoology made a study of vitamin A and the part it plays in immunology to invasion by schistosomes or blood flukes. An extensive survey was conducted in several sections of the Island to find the breeding places of the sandfly.

An epidemic of black "piedra," a disease of the hair marked by small stony nodules never before reported in North America, was traced by the department of mycology and dermatology to a fungus classified as "*Piedraia hortai*." A parasite survey of mice, never before attempted in Puerto Rico, but facilitated during the year by quantities of rodents brought into the department of pathology, brought to light several parasites previously unrecorded in the Island, and one trematode, or fluke, hitherto considered only an Old World inhabitant. The chance finding in the laboratory of a wild brown mouse, sickly and deformed and presenting all the characteristics of the musculotaneous

variety of leprosy, as seen in rats, opened a new problem of investigation on the character of spontaneous leprosy in mice. The department of pathology made a further study of the problem of internal hydrocephalus of rabbits.

Research on the medicinal properties of Puerto Rican plants is now being conducted at the University of Wisconsin by Conrado Asenjo, Jr., fellow of the Guggenheim Foundation and a member of the chemical staff of the school. Under the guidance of Professor Karl P. Link, of the University of Wisconsin, plans for a laboratory of phytochemistry are being elaborated for the continuation of this work at the school.

Reforestation of the Island of Santiago off the Eastern coast of Puerto Rico is under way in preparation for use of the island as a free range for apes. Gibbons collected for breeding purposes from the mountains near Chiang Mai, Siam, by Dr. C. R. Carpenter, of the Columbia University School of Medicine, will be transferred from the modern cages now housing them to the Island, and a field laboratory will be constructed.

Occupancy of the University Hospital in San Juan, which is being remodeled under the supervision of the Puerto Rico Reconstruction Administration, will be effected by March, 1939.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS IN THE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY

BEGINNING next September, a more comprehensive and closely controlled plan of selective admission will be adopted in all four schools of the College of Engineering at Cornell University, according to an announcement made by Dean S. C. Hollister. The School of Chemical Engineering has had such a system since its establishment last July, when it was decided that available facilities for instruction could accommodate only about a hundred of the more than three hundred applicants for admission to the freshman class. Increased enrolment in the Sibley School of Mechanical Engineering this year has produced another serious problem, and similar conditions are foreseen in the Schools of Civil and Electrical Engineering.

The number of applicants admitted to the several schools of the college is limited by the facilities available for adequate instruction. Since the number of applicants exceeds these limits, the Committee on Admissions in each of the schools will exercise discretion-