

laboratories link up with the farm work in many directions. Thus "take-all," one of the foot-rot diseases of cereals, is intensively studied in the Plant Pathology Department, where many of the conditions of the survival of the fungus in the soil have been worked out, and control methods are being developed. In the Entomological Department a technique for measuring the wire-worm population of the soil has been perfected and used to assess the value of the various soil insecticides tested in the plots. Various methods put forward for predicting the manurial requirements of soils on the basis of their chemical analyses are being examined in the Chemical Department. A wider range of soils than the Rothamsted Farm can provide is necessary for this work, and in recent years an increasing number of outside centers have been established, each providing the results of a precise and comprehensive fertilizer test and the corresponding sample of soil for laboratory examination.

The Rothamsted Centenary is due in 1943, and the committee proposes to celebrate it by putting the laboratories, farm buildings and other equipment into complete order for the work that awaits them. The director announced the present position of the Appeal Fund, and said that although good progress has been made in very difficult times, £7,000 is required to complete the first part of the scheme costing £60,000.

#### ENGLISH NEUROLOGIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE

THE opening of a new well-equipped building for investigation into the causes of mental defects and abnormalities and borderline conditions which has been opened at Bristol by the secretary of state for the Dominions in the presence of a distinguished company of neurologists is described in the *Journal* of the American Medical Association. It is called the Burden Neurological Research Institute because it has been made possible by the cooperation of Mrs. R. G. Burden, warden of Stoke Park Colony for Mental Deficients, within the grounds of which the new building has been erected. Professor Golla is to be the director, and the staff will consist of Grey Walter, electrophysiology; Dr. Max Reiss, a Czech endocrinologist; N. S. L. MacLeod and A. Tingey, biochemists, and Dr. Wylie McKissock, visiting surgeon.

Among those present was Dr. P. O'Brien, representative in Paris of the Rockefeller Foundation, which has made a generous contribution to the neuro-surgical department. The Medical Research Council has also made a grant in support of some of the research work. The director, Professor Golla, said that only those who had realized how the multiplicity of competing claims hampered the work of the large hospital clinics would fully appreciate the advantages of

such a research institute, which was equipped in the very best way for the investigation not only of the functions of the nervous system but of the body as a whole. In the preoccupation with the brain there was some tendency to forget the bodily stratum of mental disease. It was intended to take a few carefully selected cases and investigate them by every means available to electrophysiologic and endocrinologic research. An immediate occupation would be the study of the varied group of pathologic states of the brain which were responsible for epileptic seizures. What the neurologist called epilepsy was the least understood of the common nervous diseases. It was hardly an exaggeration to say that our knowledge had received little addition since the time of Galen until certain researches, carried out chiefly in America and England, had given hints for further investigation. There were now good grounds for hoping that certain electrophysical methods would enable us to understand and combat this distressing disease.

#### THE SOCIETY OF THE SIGMA XI

THE Case Chapter of the Society of the Sigma Xi held its annual initiation on the evening of June 2. Twenty-eight students were elected to full membership. Officers elected for the next year were Professor Francis Whitacre, *president*; Professor Robert Shankland, *vice-president*; Dean T. M. Focke, *treasurer*, and Professor Richard S. Burington, *secretary*. Following the ceremonies, at which Professor G. E. Barnes, retiring president, presided, Dr. Zay Jeffries, technical director of the Incandescent Lamp Department of the General Electric Company, spoke on "New Light Sources."

The Sigma Xi Club of Peking held its annual meeting on May 4. Dr. Eugene L. Opie, of Cornell University Medical College, was the guest speaker. He gave an address on "The Study of Tuberculosis." New officers were elected as follows: *President*, Professor K. P. Young, Peiping Research Institute; *Vice-president*, Dr. H.-C. Chang, Peiping Union Medical College; *Secretary-Treasurer*, Dr. Peter P. T. Sah, Fu Ren University. The printed membership list of the club gives the number of active resident members as twenty-nine with twenty-seven non-resident members.

A Sigma Xi Club of Hawaii has been formed, with a charter membership of fifty. The first officers are: *President*, Dr. C. J. Hamre; *Vice-president*, Dr. Martha Potgieter; *Secretary-treasurer*, Dr. S. S. Ballard; *Councillors*, Dr. H. E. Gregory and C. E. Pemberton. The first regular meeting of the club was held on June 7 at the University of Hawaii, when Dr. R. N. Perlstein, of Leahi Home, spoke on "Epidemiological Study of Tuberculosis Families in Hawaii."