drying oils and drying oil seeds, 21 per cent.; medicinal materials and crude drugs, 10 per cent.; and gums, resins, balsams and waxes, 8 per cent.

Imports of fertilizer materials, not including tankage, showed little change in the first half of the current year, compared with the same period of 1938, remaining at about 800,000 tons valued at about $19,000,000, but imports of tankage increased sharply to 33,072 tons valued at $1,224,000 from 13,648 tons valued at $432,000 in the first half of last year.

Some changes occurred in the drying oil and drying oil seed group, due to disturbances in China, which reduced that country's exports of tung oil, but the aggregate for the whole classification advanced approximately 13 per cent., due to heavier imports of perilla and oiticica oils and flaxseed. In this group imports of tung oil decreased from 50,400,000 pounds in the first half of 1938 to 39,500,000 pounds in the current year period; but receipts of flaxseed increased from 7,383,000 to 10,763,000 bushels; perilla oil, from 15,571,000 to 23,000,000 pounds, and oiticica oil, from 1,360,000 to 9,019,000.

Among the medicinal and related product materials, receipts of cod-liver oil increased from 2,381,500 to 2,896,500 gallons; crude drugs, including cinchona bark, from $3,906,000 to $4,744,000 in value; and medicinal materials, including cinchona products, from $2,323,000 to $2,593,000, according to preliminary statistics.

Imports of coal-tar products increased sharply in the first half of the year to $10,742,000 in value from $7,330,600 in the same months of 1938, due to the heavy receipts of dyes, colors and stains from Germany.

Other items on the chemical and related product import list recording gains in the first half of the current year, compared with the 1938 period, included beeswax, receipts of which increased in value from $298,000 to $447,500; gums, resins and balsams, from $4,825,000 to $5,828,000; carnauba wax, from $2,494,000 to $2,844,000; vegetable wax, from $152,000 to $347,000; essential oils, from $2,285,000 to $2,755,500; vegetable dyeing and tanning materials, from $2,466,000 to $3,573,000; industrial chemicals, from $7,822,000 to $9,899,000; and soap and toiletry raw materials, from $1,132,800 to $1,310,000.

Other items recording decrease included glue stock, imports of which declined in value from $1,539,500 to $919,680; agar-agar, from $201,000 to $158,000; and industrial explosives, from $475,500 to $270,000.

BIOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS

Biological Abstracts is undertaking a more complete abstracting and segregation of the current research literature in bioclimatology and biometeorology. The section Bioclimatology-Biometeorology will appear within the section Ecology, and will be under the editorship of Robert G. Stone, of the Blue Hill Observatory of Harvard University.

Attention is called to the increasing interest in climatic and meteorological factors in their relation to biology, medicine and agriculture. It is pointed out that ecologists have long appreciated the importance of temperature, humidity, radiation, barometric pressure, wind movement and meteorological factors generally as important factors in controlling the distribution and abundance of animals and plants, and that foresters, horticulturists and entomologists have likewise been concerned with the interrelationships of climatic and meteorological factors to the organisms with which they work. The developments of air conditioning and aviation have brought other research groups into the field, including individuals and groups the results of whose work frequently appears in periodicals not commonly consulted by biologists. The announcement reads:

> In all civilized nations diverse research groups have sprung into being which, though they often devote much attention to the same fundamental natural forces, still work in practical isolation from each other, with a different background of training and associations, belonging to different societies meeting at different times and places, publishing in different journals, reading different literature, investigating different types of things. These groups, however, are beginning to apply common ideas and common methods to the study of situations that are basically similar. For example, techniques and concepts derived from a study of the influence of weather factors on the spread of influenza or the common cold are likely to have a very high transfer value as applied to the study of the spread or survival of plant disease or economic insects. Conversely, it should be possible for research workers in the field of public health to make use of many findings of the entomologists, foresters, ecologists, plant pathologists and other biological groups.
>
> The abstracting journals of broad scope, like *Biological Abstracts*, are admirably suited to the sort of synthesis of fundamental knowledge that this situation demands. In inaugurating this service *Biological Abstracts* will be fulfilling one of the functions for which it was originally intended: that of providing an effective tool for research workers by coordinating the literature of border-line fields.

Under the sectional publication plan this material will be found, at present, not only in Section A, General Biology, but also under section B, Experimental Animal Biology; Section D, Plant Sciences, and Section E, Animal Sciences.

THE SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMS OF THE CHICAGO MEDICAL SOCIETY

THE Chicago Medical Society is planning a series of all-day programs for the consideration of various diseases to be held on the third Wednesday of each

month from October through April. In the morning and afternoon, there will be clinics, demonstrations, lectures and round table discussions on the general subject selected, certain aspects of which will be presented at the evening meeting. The day-time part of the program will be held in one or another of the teaching institutions of the city, but will be a program of the society presented in the institution, rather than a program of the institution presented to the members and guests of the society. The evening meetings will be held at 8:30 P.M. at the Chicago Woman's Club Theater on Eleventh Street near Michigan Boulevard. Detailed programs will be furnished each month.

The topics to be considered at these meetings are as follows:

October 18—Fractures at the Cook County Hospital; The Treatment of Skull Fracture, Harry E. Mock, Chicago.

November 15—Nutritional Deficiency Diseases at Thorne Hall on the Chicago Campus of Northwestern University; The Vitamin B Complex and Pellagra, Tom D. Spies, Cincinnati, Ohio.

December 20—Cardiovascular-Renal Diseases at One of the Institutions in the West Side Medical Center; Arteriosclerosis Obliterans: The Modern Conception of its Social Significance, Diagnosis and Treatment, Irving S. Wright, New York City.

January 17, 1940—Industrial Medicine and Traumatic Surgery at St. Luke's Hospital; The Evaluation of Disability Due to Cardiovascular Disease.

February 21—Topic and speaker to be selected.

March 20—Endocrinology at the University of Chicago Clinics; The Misuse of Biologicals in Medical Practice.

April 17—Obstetrics and Care of the New Born; Maternal and Infant Mortality in Chicago, 1935–39.

A luncheon for members and guests will be arranged at or near the institution in which the clinical program is to be presented, and a dinner will be held at the Chicago Woman's Club before the evening meetings.

THE RELATIONS OF SCIENCE TO SOCIETY

THE American Association for the Advancement of Science has adopted two minutes on the relations of science and scientific men to the social order, which are here reproduced. The first was adopted at the Boston meeting in December, 1933, the second at the Indianapolis meeting in December, 1937.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science feels grave concern over persistent and threatening inroads upon intellectual freedom which have been made in recent times in many parts of the world.

Our existing liberties have been won through ages of struggle and at enormous cost. If these are lost or seriously impaired there can be no hope of continued progress in science, of justice in government, of international or domestic peace; or even of lasting material well-being.

We regard the suppression of independent thought and of its free expression as a major crime against civilization itself. Yet oppression of this sort has been inflicted upon investigators, scholars, teachers and professional men in many ways, whether by governmental action, administrative coercion or extra-legal violence. We feel it our duty to denounce all such actions as intolerable forms of tyranny. There can be no compromise on this issue, for even the commonwealth of learning can not endure "half slave and half free." By our life and training as scientists and by our heritage as Americans we must stand for freedom.

WHEREAS, Science and its applications are not only transforming the physical and mental environment of men, but are adding greatly to the complexities of their social, economic and political relations; and

WHEREAS, Science is wholly independent of national boundaries and races and creeds and can flourish permanently only where there is peace and intellectual freedom; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the Council on this thirtieth day of December, 1937, that the American Association for the Advancement of Science makes as one of its objectives an examination of the profound effects of science upon society; and that the Association extends to its protype, the British Association for the Advancement of Science, and to all other scientific organizations with similar aims throughout the world, an invitation to cooperate not only in advancing the interests of science but also in promoting peace among nations and intellectual freedom in order that science may continue to advance and to spread more abundantly its benefits to all mankind.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

A TESTIMONIAL dinner marking the completion of the first ten years of the administration of Dr. Alexander G. Ruthven as president of the University of Michigan will be given on October 27. Two thousand, six hundred alumni and others are expected to be present. Dr. Ruthven was from 1911 to 1929 professor of zoology at the university.

DR. LEE DE FOREST was honored at the New York World's Fair on September 22 at ceremonies marking Radio Pioneers Day. He addressed scientific men in Paris, via a short-wave broadcast from the French Pavilion. He was the guest of honor and made an address at a luncheon at the Ford exhibit.

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association reports that the American Legion of South Carolina will confer its 1939 plaque for distinguished service to the state on Dr. Robert Wilson, dean and professor of medicine at the Medical College of the State of South Carolina, Charleston.

THE French Academy of Medicine has awarded the