matter of fact there is no day without small shocks in this narrow belt. However, there need not be any excessive damage connected with these shocks, even the greatest, as the science of engineering has made such progress during recent years that earthquake resistant structures can be built at a cost not exceeding much the cost of ordinary buildings. Just as large parts of California have been made "drought-proof," so that even in the driest years no lack of water is to be feared, all works of construction in the circum-Pacific belt should be made "earthquake proof," thus providing another triumph of science.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE CITY AND RURAL HEALTH CONSERVATION CONTEST

THE Chamber of Commerce of the United States in cooperation with the American Public Health Association has announced awards for the 1938 City Health Conservation Contest and the 1938 Rural Health Conservation Contest. These contests are said to be the most effective means of stimulating adequate health protection and health promotion services yet devised in this country.

Awards are made not necessarily to the healthiest communities, but rather on the effectiveness with which a community is meeting its health problems. Each city or county is appraised by a grading committee consisting of a group of carefully selected health experts from all parts of the country. Each community is appraised on what measures it takes: (1) to provide and safeguard its water supply; (2) to furnish adequate and safe sewerage disposal; (3) to reduce infant and maternal deaths; (4) to combat tuberculosis and syphilis; (5) to protect its citizens against other communicable diseases; (6) to insure healthy children; (7) to protect and safeguard its milk and other foods; (8) to promote effective cooperation with its physicians and dentists in furnishing necessary services to all those who need them; and (9) to enlarge and improve its lay-understanding of ways and means of preventing sickness and death and of maintaining good health.

The City Health Contest is financed by a group of life insurance companies. The Rural Health Contest is financed by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Michigan. The contest in Canada is sponsored jointly by the Canadian Public Health Association and the American Public Health Association.

Two special contests, one on tuberculosis and one on syphilis, are carried on in conjunction with the City Health Contest. Awards are made to those competing cities which appear to have the most comprehensive and effective programs for combatting tuberculosis and syphilis as follows:

In Group I (cities over 500,000 population) Cleveland, Ohio, wins the first award. Awards of merit in this population group go to Buffalo, N. Y., and Pittsburgh, Pa.

In Group II (cities of 250,000 to 500,000 population) Providence, R. I., is the winner. Awards of merit in this group go to Memphis, Tenn.; Louisville, Ky.; Dallas, Texas, and Cincinnati, Ohio.

In Group III (cities of 100,000 to 250,000 population) the winner is Grand Rapids, Mich. Awards of merit go to Reading, Pa.; Yonkers, N. Y., and Erie, Pa.

In Group IV (cities of 50,000 to 100,000 population) the winner is Newton, Mass. Awards of merit go to Madison, Wis., Greensboro, N. C., and Evansville, Ill., tied.

In Group V (cities of from 20,000 to 50,000 population) the winner is Plainfield, N. J. Awards of merit go to Winona, Minn.; Orange, N. J., and Stamford, Conn.

In Group VI (cities of less than 20,000 population) the winner is Englewood, N. J. Awards of merit go to Hibbing, Minn., and Virginia, Minn.

In the 1938 Special Contest for Tuberculosis Control Hartford, Conn., and Newton, Mass., tied for first place. In addition a certificate of merit was awarded to New Haven, Conn. In the 1938 Special Contest for Syphilis Control the winner was Louisville, Ky.

THE EXPEDITION TO HUDSON BAY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

THE University of Minnesota Expedition to Hudson Bay returned to Minneapolis on September 18. It left Senneterre, P. Q., by plane on June 25, arriving at its objective, Richmond Gulf, on June 26.

Richmond Gulf is a large, triangular body of salt water in Lat. 56° 15′ N. and Long. 76° 30′ W. It is surrounded by hills rising 800 to 1,500 feet above sea level, making this region relatively rugged for the east coast of Hudson Bay. The thoroughly glaciated hills are composed of sedimentaries of various kinds overlaid or penetrated by diabase trap, and also are composed in some cases of Archaean granites.

Botanically, the area is significant not only because it has needed thorough botanical exploration, but also because it has a great diversity of habitats and lies at the transition from coniferous forest to the barren grounds.

The members of the expedition collected flowering plants, ferns and some mosses, lichens and hepatics in the Richmond Gulf area until August 13. At this time the party left by canoe for Great Whale River. Collections were made in the vicinity of Great Whale River and along Manitounuck Sound until the arrival of the Hudson's Bay Company's vessel on August 22. The opportunity was taken to accompany the vessel on its annual visit to the Belcher Islands, where further collections were made. The return trip on the vessel was completed on September 11 upon arrival at the

end of the railroad at Moosonee (Moose Factory), Ontario.

During the summer there were collected 1,336 numbers of flowering plants and about 400 numbers of lower plants, the number of herbarium specimens being about 8,000. In addition, about 250 tree borings and wood specimens from 80 trees were collected by John Marr for a study of tree growth climatic correlations.

The party was composed of Dr. Ernst C. Abbe, Mrs. Lucy B. Abbe and Mr. John Marr, a graduate student at the University of Minnesota.

The expedition was supported by funds from the Graduate School of the University of Minnesota, supplemented with liberal grants from the National Academy of Sciences (Bache Fund), the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Penrose Fund of the American Philosophical Society, the Smithsonian Institution, the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University and the Minnesota Academy of Sciences.

ERNST C. ABBE

THE IMPORTATION OF FOREIGN BOOKS AND PERIODICALS

THE Executive Board of the American Library Association on October 3 arranged for the appointment of a Joint Committee on Foreign Importations to act on behalf of the association and also of the Medical Library Association, the Special Libraries Association, the Association of Research Libraries and the Association of College and Reference Libraries. One or two other organizations may join in the project later. The following, of whom the first four form the executive committee, have accepted appointment to membership in the committee:

Harry Miller Lydenberg, New York Public Library, *chairman.*
Robert Lingel, New York Public Library, *vice-chairman.*
Keyes D. Metcalf, Harvard University Library.
Thomas Paul Fleming, Medical Library, Columbia University.
Dr. William Warner Bishop, General Library, University of Michigan.
Lawrence Heyl, Princeton University Library.
Bernhard Knollenberg, Yale University Library.
Harold L. Leupp, University of California Library.
Dr. Phineas Lawrence Windsor, University of Illinois Library.

Messrs. Lydenberg and Lingel conferred in Washington on November 4 with Dr. Archibald MacLeish, librarian of Congress, and B. L. Hunt, assistant legal adviser of the Department of State. Dr. MacLeish assured them of the willingness of the Library of Congress to aid American Libraries if it became necessary to lay their case before diplomatic authorities. Mr. Hunt is acquainted with the library situation. He agreed to consider on behalf of the Department of State any statements forwarded by the Library of Congress and to see that action was taken through appropriate channels as the circumstances might warrant.

Present conditions facing American libraries may be summarized as follows: publications of all kinds will be irregular because of war conditions; shipments are subject not only to wind and weather but to transportation irregularities both on sea and land. So far as the committee can learn, however, no embargo on shipments of books and periodicals has been laid. Restrictions on exports of books from Italy were limited to a short period after the war began. On September 28, the Department of State cabled to the American Embassy in London, with a view to making some general arrangement for the transmission of general publications from Germany. As soon as a reply has been received by the Department of State, the committee will be advised. There seems, however, at the present time, to be no difficulty in exporting books and periodicals from Germany in neutral vessels. The report states that agents seem so far to have been able to make their shipments with no more delays or difficulties than one must expect under such circumstances. Further announcements will be made by the committee which has its headquarters at 476 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

The American Documentation Institute of the library of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, requests that failure by a subscriber to receive European scientific journals be reported promptly. The cultural relations committee of the institute hopes to be able to surmount such war obstacles as interrupted transportation, embargoes and censorship, which seriously affected the progress of research during the last war. It is hoped that the principle will be established that materials of research having no relation to war shall continue to pass freely, regardless of the countries of origin or destination. Reports with full details of where subscription was placed and name and address of subscriber, volume, date and number of the last issue received should be addressed to the American Documentation Institute, Bibliofilm Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture Library, Washington, D. C.

LECTURES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

DURING the academic year 1938–39 and the summer of 1939 the following speakers from out of town gave talks before faculty members and graduate students of the department of physics at the University of Wisconsin: