

Also many of the leading chemical manufacturers in this district arranged exhibits in the chemical laboratory illustrating the industrial progress brought about by chemistry in the last one hundred years.

The culminating event of the celebration was a public address on the evening of April 12 by Dr. Harrison E. Howe, editor of the *Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry* in Severance Hall, home of the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra, on "Modern Chemistry and the Next One Hundred Years." Preceding the address, the faculty of the department of chemistry entertained Dr. and Mrs. Howe at dinner at the Cleveland Club.

O. F. TOWER

APPOINTMENTS IN THE REGIONAL LABORATORIES OF THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

THE Department of Agriculture will make a large number of appointments in the new regional Laboratories for Research on Utilization of Farm Products as a result of examinations to be announced by the Civil Service Commission in the near future. These examinations will be held in the grades from P-2 (\$2,600), assistant chemist and assistant chemical technologist, to P-5 (\$4,600), senior chemist and senior chemical technologist.

Dr. Henry G. Knight, of the Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering, calls especial attention to the significance of the fact that these examinations are the first to be held for chemists and chemical technologists in these particular grades since the establishment of the regional laboratories in July, 1938. Ever since that time the Department of Agriculture and the Civil Service Commission have been flooded with requests for information about appointments to vacancies in the laboratories. All such requests have been answered with the statement that appointments to the laboratories would be made from Civil Service registers set up by examinations to be held at the proper time.

These examinations will soon be announced. During the next two years about four hundred appointments to the regional laboratories will be made from Civil Service registers established through these new examinations. Positions will be filled requiring the services of organic, physical and analytical chemists, and others in the fields of carbohydrate chemistry, protein chemistry, oil chemistry, cellulose chemistry and chemical engineering as well as in a number of other fields. It is hoped that every person who is now interested or is likely to be interested in the future in a position in these laboratories will avail himself of this opportunity to become eligible for appointment, even though he may not be able to accept a position at the present time.

It should be emphasized that appointments in these laboratories can be made only as a result of Civil

Service eligibility established through examination, and that these examinations are the ones through which the largest part of the staff of the laboratories will be selected.

All inquiries should be addressed to the United States Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C.

THE EIGHTH AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS

THE Eighth American Scientific Congress will be held in Washington, D. C., from May 10 to 18. According to the official bulletin the congress has two cardinal purposes:

To advance scientific thought and achievement; to assist in celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Pan American Union.

Present also are the basic purposes of all inter-American meetings, namely, the examination of problems peculiar to this hemisphere and the promotion of better understanding among the American republics. It is particularly fitting therefore that this assembly of distinguished scientists and scholars should join with the Pan American Union in celebrating the completion of a half century of invaluable service to the governments and peoples of the Americas. The promotion of friendlier relations between the nations themselves may be beyond the competence of the individual scientist, but it is undeniable that the confraternity of nations is immeasurably advanced through the collective efforts of those men who, marching ever in the vanguard of civilization, maintain that science knows no national boundaries.

In a letter to Secretary of State Cordell Hull, President Roosevelt writes:

Our debt to the men and women of science defies computation. The generous contributions which scholars and technicians have made to our twentieth century civilization have earned for them a position of influence and respect unparalleled in any other period of the world's history. The path of the scientist and scholar is the path to peace and prosperity which lies open to all nations and all peoples, but which unfortunately has recently been spurned by some who still cling to the archaic standards of human conduct prevalent before the very dawn of science.

It is hardly necessary to delineate here the obvious benefits resulting from a meeting of these unselfish benefactors of mankind in an atmosphere of true fraternity such as the Eighth American Scientific Congress offers. I sincerely hope that professional leaders in all the Americas will avail themselves of this opportunity to share the experiences and friendship of their colleagues throughout the hemisphere.

Dr. Alexander Wetmore, assistant secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C., is secretary general of the congress, which is divided into eleven sections as follows:

Section I, Anthropological Sciences, *Chairman*, Dr. Herbert J. Spinden, curator, division of American Indian Art and Primitive Cultures, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, N. Y.