SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

ADVISORY RESEARCH COUNCIL OF THE CHEMICAL SOCIETY, LONDON[1]

AT the annual general meeting of the Chemical Society held on April 4, the president, Sir Robert Robinson, dealt at some length with the activities of the Advisory Research Council of the Chemical Society which was formed in September, 1939, its object being to act as a liaison between chemists engaged in unremunerated research who are seeking guidance as to subjects for investigation of potential value to the national war effort and government departments or industrial organizations in a position to suggest such topics. Sir Robert said that the response to the suggestions made and invitations issued by the Advisory Research Council has been very gratifying, and that he is sure that the initiative will continue to receive the generous support of the society's fellows. The situation in regard to scientific research in its application to the war is very different from that of 1914. This is due, partly to the effort made in the War of 1914–18 itself, partly to the intensive work of the intervening years, and in part to the unanticipated course of the present emergency, which has not yet thrown up so many new problems as might have been expected. Nevertheless, there are clear indications that the original work of research chemists will be needed in the present struggle, possibly to a greater extent than in the past, and the relative slowness of the start should deceive nobody in regard to the vitally important part which may be played by the Chemical Society. Certain research committees under Government auspices are already showing a marked tendency to make full use of the society's facilities in connection with the longer-range investigations in which they are interested.

It has been laid down by the Advisory Research Council of the Chemical Society that the only subjects to be studied should be such as have a definite relation to the conduct of the war. It is, however, generally agreed that the maintenance of our export trade in a flourishing condition is of the utmost importance, and therefore the council is prepared to assist the chemical industry so far as lies in its power. Here the attack must be on a broad front and, as it is impossible to spot the winners before the race, there must be losers also. Cooperative effort is essential, and this reflection should console those who are unable to see in what way the suggestions made to them could have any influence on the fortunes of the nation. Fellows may rest assured that more urgent needs will be made known to them when they become apparent to the council, and all suggestions of a specific nature are welcomed and carefully examined. The council does not supervise or direct work undertaken at its suggestion, and the results may be used or published in any way that the investigator desires, subject of course to his own private commitments to firms which may have given material assistance or confidential information. Similarly, it can accept no responsibility for the accuracy of the work or for losses sustained or accidents to personnel. As an advisory body the council is prepared to give any assistance in its power to investigators who wish to ensure that their work is utilized to the full in the national interest. When work is undertaken on behalf of a government department, this fact is clearly stated, and fellows need not be reminded of the existence of the Official Secrets Act. The council has no funds at its disposal, but workers on projects suggested by the council may make application at any time to the research fund committee of the society. Finally, Sir Robert emphasized that the council is always available for consultation if any fellow is doubtful of the proper procedure at any stage of his work.

[1] From *Nature*.

FIELD WORK OF THE U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

THIS season's geologic field work of the U. S. Geological Survey, already under way or soon to begin, includes the following projects:

Studies of Pleistocene deposits and of faulting of the intermontane basins, mainly in that part of Montana west of Butte, by J. T. Pardee, who will also give attention to manganese in the Philipsburg district in connection with drilling of the deposits by the Bureau of Mines, under the strategic minerals program.

An examination of the Ivanhoe mercury district, near Winnemucca, Nev., R. J. Roberts.

A study of the Coso quicksilver district, Inyo County, Calif., by C. P. Ross, who later in the summer will probably make examinations of mercury districts in southeastern Oregon and adjacent parts of Nevada, including the Bretz and Opalite properties in Oregon and the Cordero property in Nevada, in addition to prospects on and south of Steens Mountain, Ore.

An extension by Eugene Callaghan of the areal map previously prepared by him of the Marysvale alunite region, southwest-central Utah.

Resumption of a study of the geology and mineral deposits of the Irwin quadrangle, Ida.-Wyo., by L. S. Gardner.

A study by W. C. Warren of the stratigraphy and structure of the Forks area on the west slope of the Olympic Mountains, Washington, with special attention to its petroleum possibilities.

A field examination of the coal lands in southwestern Powder River County, Montana, by R. P. Bryson.

Continuation of field work on the west side of the Big Horn Basin, Wyoming, by W. G. Pierce, who plans to extend westward the mapping in Sunlight Basin to include the remainder of the sedimentary rocks not covered by volcanics, and to extend mapping of the Heart Mountain thrust northwestward up Clark Fork Valley.

An investigation of the stratigraphy and fuel resources of the Durango and Red Mesa quadrangles, Colorado, by C. H. Dane.

Continuation of the examination by A. A. Baker of the geology and mineral resources of the Wasatch Mountains-Strawberry Valley region east of Provo, Utah.

Resumption of field work under the supervision of L. W. Currier in the Lowell and Blue Hill quadrangles, the Cape Cod area and in western Massachusetts, in cooperation with the State Department of Public Works.

Continued investigation of the tin resources of the York region, western Seward Peninsula, Alaska, by J. B. Mertie, Jr.

Geologic investigations in a number of Alaskan areas, including portions of the Copper River, upper Yukon and Juneau districts, by J. S. Williams.

An investigation of the chromite deposits of southwestern Kenai Peninsula, Alaska, by P. W. Guild.

SYMPOSIUM ON QUANTITATIVE BIOLOGY OF THE BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY, COLD SPRING HARBOR

As part of its policy of fostering a closer relation between biology and the basic sciences, the Cold Spring Harbor Biological Laboratory invites each summer a group actively interested in a specific aspect of quantitative biology, or in methods and theories applicable to it, to carry on their work and to take part in a symposium at the laboratory. The aim is that every important aspect of a given subject should be adequately represented, from the physical and chemical, as well as from the biological point of view. The symposium this year will deal with permeability. The participants will be in residence at Cold Spring Harbor during all, or an appreciable part, of the five weeks' period.

Investigators interested may attend and take part in the discussion of papers without further invitation. Those coming from a distance should make certain that there has been no change in the program. Those planning to stay at the laboratory over night or longer should make arrangements in advance. Those not able to attend, but wishing to contribute to the discussion may, upon communication with Dr. Eric Ponder, at the laboratory, receive copies of manuscripts, and send their discussion by mail.

The symposium lasts from June 18 to July 17. Each day's program begins at 10:30 A.M. When two papers are scheduled for the same day, the second one will be read at 2:15 P.M.

Those taking parts in the symposium include Kenneth C. Blanchard, New York University; Arthur K. Parpart and A. J. Dziemian, Princeton University; N. Rashevsky, University of Chicago; M. H. Jacobs, University of Pennsylvania; Rudolf Höber, University of Pennsylvania; W. J. V. Osterhout, the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research; Henry B. Ball, Northwestern University Medical School; Harold A. Abramson, Manuel Gorin and Eric Ponder, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, and the Biological Laboratory; Hans Neurath, Duke University School of Medicine; Francis O. Schmitt, David F. Waugh and Kenneth J. Palmer, Washington University, St. Louis; G. W. Scarth, J. Levitt and D. Siminovich, McGill University; Kenneth S. Cole, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University; Balduin Lucké, University of Pennsylvania; M. J. Kopac, New York University; Robert Chambers, New York University; S. C. Brooks, University of California; D. R. Hoagland, University of California; Daniel Mazia, University of Missouri; L. R. Blinks, Stanford University; B. W. Zweifach, New York University; Robert F. Furchgott, Northwestern University Medical School; H. Burr Steinbach, Columbia University; Hugh Davson, Dalhousie University, and John Scudder, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University.

The papers of these Symposia, together with edited discussions, are published as Cold Spring Harbor Symposia on Quantitative Biology.

HONORARY DEGREES CONFERRED BY PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

AMONG honorary degrees conferred at the commencement exercises of Princeton University on June 11 was the doctorate of science on Dr. John Howard Northrop, the doctorate of letters on Dr. Arthur Oncken Lovejoy and the doctorate of laws on Dr. Abraham Flexner. The candidates for honorary degrees were presented to President Dodds by Professor Luther P. Eisenhart, dean of the Graduate School.

The citations follow:

DOCTOR OF SCIENCE

John Howard Northrop, member of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research in Princeton; a graduate of Columbia and member of the National Academy of Sciences; awarded the Stevens Prize and the Chandler Medal in recognition of his contributions to the physiology of living cells, his success in the crystallization of en-