

LABORATORY OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF BIOLOGICAL STAINS

THE Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science at Philadelphia has been selected as the new location for the laboratory of the Commission on the Standardization of Biological Stains. This laboratory, until recently at the Arlington Experimental Farm (Virginia) of the Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, is now working in the department of chemistry through the cooperation of Dr. Louis Gershenfeld, head of the department of bacteriology and hygiene, and Dr. Arthur Osol, director of the chemical laboratories.

Under the direction of Mrs. Anis P. Bradshaw, formerly of Arlington, the purpose of the laboratory is to carry out the chemical analyses necessary for the certification of dyestuffs to be employed as biological stains for bacteria identification and for diagnostic determinations in the United States and in certain Pan-American countries. All dyestuffs employed for biological determinations are tested for dye content and identity. Another important object of the work is the improvement in existing products and the synthesis of new dyes for specific purposes. In addition all certified bacteriological stains are checked as to their suitability in the staining techniques in which they are to be used at the Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva, N. Y. Both the chemical and bacteriological laboratories work in close cooperation and much of the work is verified through bacteriological experimentation by specialists. The establishment of the commission dates back to 1920, when dyestuffs which had been imported from Germany were no longer available. In general the American products at that time were not satisfactory. At the suggestion of the Society of American Bacteriologists and under the auspices of the National Research Council, the laboratory was established under a grant from the Chemical Foundation. During the past two decades the work of the commission has been expanded. It is under the chairmanship of Dr. H. J. Conn, of the New York State Agricultural Experimental Station at Geneva.

The Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science recently observed the one hundred and eighteenth commencement since its founding in 1821. At that exercise, Dr. Louis Gershenfeld, under whose auspices the laboratory came to Philadelphia, was awarded the honorary degree of doctor of science.

MEETING OF THE PAN-AMERICAN CON- GRESS OF OPHTHALMOLOGY AT CLEVELAND

PLANS for a Pan-American Congress of Ophthalmology to be held at Cleveland on October 11 and 12 have been announced. The congress will be sponsored

by the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology, an organization of more than 2,500 specialists in diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat, which will hold its annual convention immediately preceding the Pan-American gathering.

The U. S. Department of State has expressed its interest, and the governments of all the countries of the Western Hemisphere have been invited to send official delegates. It is hoped that the meeting will do much toward bringing about an *entente cordiale* among scientific men of the two Americas, and it is expected that a permanent organization will be effected.

The committee that is developing the congress has the following members: Drs. Harry Gradle, Chicago; Conrad Berens, New York, and Moacyr E. Alvaro, São Paulo, Brazil. The executive secretary of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology, which will be host to the Latin-American eye specialists, is Dr. William P. Wherry, 1500 Medical Arts Building, Omaha, Nebr.

Under the direction of Dr. Berens, papers in Spanish or Portuguese will be made understandable to English-speaking ophthalmologists by the use of lantern slides projecting a synopsis of each paragraph translated into English. The reverse process will be used with the English papers. Spanish and Portuguese stenographers will be present to record the discussions in the language of the authors.

The congress is open to any ophthalmologist who wishes to register. Non-members of the Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology may register regardless of attendance at the academy meeting proper. Individual invitations have been sent to about 1,800 members of the ophthalmologic profession in the Latin-American countries, as well as to the national societies of eye specialists and the universities. Individual invitations were not sent to ophthalmologists in the United States and Canada, but official invitations to them are being printed in the various journals of ophthalmology. A fee of \$5 has been set for membership in the congress.

CONFERENCE ON APPLIED NUCLEAR PHYSICS

A GENERAL conference on Applied Nuclear Physics, sponsored by the American Institute of Physics in cooperation with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will be held during the week of October 28 to November 2, at the institute. The rapidly increasing number of applications of methods and apparatus characteristic of nuclear physics in the fields of biology, radiology, chemistry, geology and industrial physics has long emphasized the usefulness of a joint conference between physicists and their colleagues in other fields of science.

The purposes of the conference are to bring together