

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

investigators who may be widely separated geographically, and to provide a forum for assembling and correlating present knowledge and difficulties, and for directing attention toward fundamental lines of research which should be the subject of future investigations.

The week's activities will be divided into separate sessions on applications to biology, chemistry, radiology, metallurgy, geology, and to general sessions relating to the production and use of radioactive and stable isotopes, and the protection of workers from radiation. The subjects to be discussed are:

October 28, Techniques and Standards in Terrestrial Radioactivity Measurements; Tracer Studies of Metal Diffusion and Corrosion; Geochemical Applications of Radioactivity; Radiography with Gamma-Rays, X-Rays and Neutrons.

October 29, Radioactive Methods of Geologic Age Determinations; Tracer Techniques in General Chemistry; General Aspects of Cancer Therapy; Geophysical Applications of Nuclear Physics; Tracer Techniques in Analytical Chemistry; Radium and Roentgen Therapy.

October 30, Production of Radioactive and Stable Isotopes and of Penetrating Radiations; Measurement of Radioactive and Stable Isotopes and of Penetrating Radiations.

October 31, Protection of Workers from Biological Effects of Radiation; Synthesis of Organic Substances Containing Tracers; Neutron and Artificial Radioactivity Therapy; Tracer Techniques in Biology.

November 1, Dosage Measurements; Tracer Studies of Plant and Animal Metabolism; Radiobiology; Tracer Studies (continued).

November 2, Tracer Studies (concluded); Contributed Papers.

The daily sessions will consist of short invited papers by leading investigators followed by discussion. Ample time will be allowed between and after regular sessions for personal and informal conferences. While the emphasis will be on the program of invited papers and the discussion of these, provision has also been made for a limited number of ten-minute contributed papers. Five one-hour evening sessions will be held, in each of which an outstanding investigator will summarize the status of the several fields which are joined together by the conference. The evening lectures will be open to the general public.

The committee in charge of the program includes Robley D. Evans, *chairman*, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Elmer Hutchisson, *secretary*, University of Pittsburgh; Henry A. Barton, American Institute of Physics; Edw. U. Condon, Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company; Lee A. DuBridge, University of Rochester; G. Failla, Memorial Hospital, New York; Clark Goodman, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Ernest O. Lawrence, University of California; Harold C. Urey, Columbia University.

Letters and inquiries should be addressed to Professor Robley D. Evans, *general chairman*, Conference on Applied Nuclear Physics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

RETIRING MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY OF THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

The Ohio State University Monthly reports that five members of the faculty of the Ohio State University retired at the close of the academic year with the title emeritus. They have served for periods ranging from twenty-six to forty-one years.

Those on whom the title was conferred are Dr. William E. Henderson, professor of chemistry; Dr. George Bolling, professor of classical languages; Dr. James E. Hagerty, professor of social administration; Dr. Edwin F. Coddington, professor of civil engineering, and Professor Alonzo Tuttle, of the College of Law.

In recognition of their services, the Board of Trustees adopted the following resolution:

Whereas, Five members of the Ohio State University faculty are retiring from active duty on September 1, 1940, with the well-merited rank of emeritus professors, and

Whereas, In their periods of university service ranging from twenty-six to forty-one years they have given unselfishly and devotedly of their time and energy in the classroom and in the laboratory, in important committee responsibilities, and in other areas of the institution's activities and relationships; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that this board express the gratitude and appreciation of the Ohio State University to the following five members of the faculty who are soon to relinquish the responsibilities of active membership on the staff.

The citations for Professor Henderson and Professor Coddington are given below:

DR. WILLIAM E. HENDERSON, professor of chemistry, who has distinguished himself in his professional field as a teacher and as an author; who has served since 1899 as a member of the faculty in the department of chemistry, with added responsibilities in the years 1921 to 1927 as dean of the College of Arts, Philosophy and Science, and more recently as a member of the faculty committee to advise with the Board of Trustees on university affairs.

DR. EDWIN F. CODDINGTON, professor of geodetic engineering; an alumnus of our own university who returned to the faculty of his alma mater in 1902 and has served it continuously and with devotion since that time, in the departments of mathematics, mechanics and civil engineering, as well as on the staff of the Engineering Experiment Station; for five years, 1915 to 1920, he was acting dean of the College of Engineering.

RECENT DEATHS

DR. SIGARD ADOLPHUS KNOPF, physician of New York City, formerly professor of phthisiotherapy at the New York Post-Graduate Medical School, died on July 15 at the age of eighty-two years.