

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

CHEMISTRY EXHIBITS OF THE CHICAGO MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY

DR. C. ROBERT MOULTON, curator of chemistry at the Museum of Science and Industry in Jackson Park, has announced the opening of a new series of exhibits in the chemistry sequence.

In the first room of this new series are exhibits designed to show how the chemist distinguishes various kinds of matter by such properties as color, taste, flavor, odor, appearance, density, crystalline form, hardness, malleability, ductility, heat and electrical conductivity, solubility and chemical activity.

In the second room are shown the natures of, and differences between, atoms, molecules, elements, compounds, pure substances and mixtures. Here, too, is shown the history of atomic theories from ancient Greece to the present day, including the contributions of Dalton and Langmuir.

The third room contains a picturesque reproduction of a sixteenth century alchemical laboratory with its strange collections of glass retorts and odd materials, where the eternal search for the philosopher's stone to turn base metals into gold went on. Adjacent to this is a 20th century chemical laboratory furnished with the most modern equipment.

The visitor passes next through a series of exhibits, many of which he may operate by pushing a button, on the fundamental laws, relationships and classification of chemistry.

Next comes a room full of rather spectacular exhibits showing typical chemical reactions, procedures and processes such as the burning of iron in oxygen, the making and burning of gunpowder, potassium burning on water, the violent heat reaction of thermit which makes it so useful in welding, electricity used to decompose water, growing crystals by electricity and many other chemical experiments.

Here a transition occurs from chemistry as a pure science to its industrial applications. Such applications of chemistry to industry as the manufacture of salt, phosphorus and phosphates, carborundum and aloxite abrasives, industrial alcohol, carburized water gas and coal gas are shown.

THE CONCILIUM BIBLIOGRAPHICUM

THE National Research Council is informed that the Concilium Bibliographicum, the headquarters of which have been in Zurich, Switzerland, is desirous of disposing of the materials which it has acquired since its establishment by Dr. Herbert H. Field in 1895. This is necessitated by decision to terminate the operations of the concilium this summer. The materials to be disposed of consist of valuable card indexes to biological literature for the period of existence of the con-

cilium, arranged both taxonomically and by authors' names, and covering the fields of paleontology, general biology, zoology, microscopy, anatomy and physiology; and also the catalogue of this literature published in book form as the "Bibliographia Zoologica" (Vols. 23-43; 1912-1934), and a large library of biological periodicals.

The attention of American biologists and librarians is called to this matter, since this appears to be the final opportunity at which it will be possible to obtain the card catalogues published by the concilium, or sections of these catalogues, and since from the library of the concilium it may be possible to obtain sets of important scientific journals desired by institutional libraries in the United States.

It is suggested that any one interested in acquiring these materials address Professor Doctor Johannes Strohl, director, "Concilium Bibliographicum," Waldmannstrasse 12, Zurich, Switzerland.

INTER-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MICROBIOLOGY

DURING the period since September, 1939, when, at the close of the third International Congress of Microbiology, the initial steps were taken for the establishment of the Inter-American Society of Microbiology, work has been actively progressing toward the formation and organization of the committees throughout Latin-America which will foster the interests of the society in their several countries. These committees will also determine the final form which the society is to take in order that it may be of the utmost service to all workers in the microbiological sciences.

The following list records the chairmen of the National Committees thus far established:

Argentina—Dr. Alois Bachman, *chairman*, professor of bacteriology, Faculty of Medical Sciences, Buenos Aires.

Chile—Dr. Eujenio Suarez, *chairman*, director of the Bacteriological Institute of Chile, Santiago.

Colombia—Dr. Bernardo Samper, director, National Institute of Hygiene, Bogota.

Costa Rica—Dr. Clodomiro Picado, bacteriologist-in-chief, San Juan de Dios Hospital, San Jose.

Cuba—Dr. Pedro Kouri, *chairman*, professor of parasitology, School of Medicine, Havana.

Ecuador—Dr. Juan Antonio Montalvan, professor of hygiene, Faculty of Medical Sciences, Guayaquil.

El Salvador—Dr. Salvador G. Aguilar, director, Laboratories of Public Health, San Salvador.

Guatemala—Dr. Carlos Estevez, *chairman*, director-general of Public Health, Guatemala.

Mexico—Dr. Jose Zoyaya, *chairman*, director, Institute of Hygiene, Popotla, Mexico, D. F.