

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.

Nicaragua—Dr. M. A. Sanchez Virgil, director, National Institute of Hygiene, Managua.

Panama—Dr. A. Vincente Mastellari, Department of Public Health, Panama.

Peru—Dr. Telemaco Battistini, *chairman*, director, National Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Lima.

Uruguay—Dr. Estenio Hormaeche, *chairman*, professor of bacteriology, Faculty of Medicine, and associate director, Institute of Experimental Hygiene, Montevideo.

Venezuela—Dr. L. Briceno Rossi, *chairman*, formerly director of Public Health, Caracas.

In all these countries except Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Panama, committee organizations have been completed.

In Brazil, where the first Inter-American congress is scheduled to take place, the organization of the committee is under way, as is also the formulation of plans for holding the congress. Dr. A. Fontes, director of the Institute Oswaldo Cruz, will be the president of the congress.

There remain several important steps to be taken. Among these are the following: (a) Organization of the appropriate branches of the Inter-American Society in Canada and in the United States; (b) establishment of a mutually helpful relationship between the Inter-American Society and the International Society of Microbiology, looking forward to the next congress of both societies; (c) establishment in the United States of an *Inter-American Journal of Microbiology*, to be published in English and open to contributors from all American countries. Decision on these matters should be made by the microbiological societies now existing in the United States and Canada.

F. DURAN-REYNALS,
Executive Secretary

THE AMERICAN MINING CONGRESS

IN announcing the preliminary program for the seventh annual metal mining convention and exposition of the American Mining Congress, which will be held at Colorado Springs from September 16 to 19, attention is called to the program of the government for acquiring supplies of the vitally needed "strategic" minerals. It is announced that a full session of the convention will be given over to consideration of the part which minerals play in the present emergency. Another session will study and discuss the effect of the war on supplies, international movements, domestic markets, prices, etc., of each of the principal metals.

Dr. C. K. Leith, mineral adviser to the National Defense Advisory Commission, will discuss the "Role of Minerals in the Present War," followed by authorities from the U. S. Bureau of Mines and the mining industry on the nation's needs for war minerals. Ellsworth C. Alford, counsel of the American Mining

Congress, Washington, D. C., will speak on "National Defense and National Finance."

Senators James Murray, of Montana, and Key Pittman, of Nevada, will both address the meeting. Senator Murray will outline plans for the expansion of Reconstruction Finance Corporation loans for mining. Senator Pittman will address the delegates on the "Future of Gold and Silver in the Light of World Conditions." Colonel Philip B. Fleming, wage-hour administrator of the U. S. Department of Labor, will also speak.

Over a period of years, the metal mining industry has urged the Congress to amend the Wagner Labor Relations Act to provide for more equitable and just administration, and this year the industry expects to secure a full report of the activities of the special committee investigating the National Labor Relations Board from Edmund M. Toland, general counsel to this committee. Mr. Toland is expected to address the session devoted to labor problems. "Present-day Industrial Relations" will be discussed at the same session by C. S. Ching, director of industrial and public relations of the United States Rubber Company.

Progress in mine safety and health, dust control and the problem of sick absenteeism will occupy another full session. Other sessions will be devoted to reviews of the progress in mining geology, mining methods and equipment, the milling of metallic and non-metallic ores and developments in placer mining. Supplementing these discussions will be exhibits of the latest types of mining and milling equipment, participated in by nearly a hundred leading manufacturers of mining machinery. Taxation, public relations, public mineral land withdrawals and industrial uses for silver are other subjects included in the program.

THE LOS ANGELES MEETING OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ELECTRIC- TRICAL ENGINEERS

THE Pacific Coast convention of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers will be held at Los Angeles from August 27 to 30.

The address of welcome at the opening session will be given by N. B. Hinson, chairman of the convention. President R. W. Sorensen will follow with an address on "Science and Superstition"; Douglas Shearer, sound director of the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios, will also speak.

In addition to the five technical sessions and two student sessions, a technical conference will be held on the subject of governors, frequency control and load swings, with several leading engineers entering into the discussion. The subjects of the technical sessions are Protective Devices, Power Transmission and Distribution, Electrical Machinery, Instruments, Mea-