SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE AUSTRALIAN COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL PRODUCTION

THE *Australian Journal of Science* in an account of the Constitution and Work of the Australian Committee on Animal Production states that at the invitation of the Commonwealth Government, Dr. J. Hammond, of the Animal Nutrition Research Institute of the University of Cambridge, visited Australia in the autumn of 1938. He has submitted a report on the conditions of Animal Production in Australia, making the following recommendations:

> The major problems of the Australian Meat Board, the Australian Dairy Produce Export Board and the Australian Wool Board, are of general Commonwealth concern, and it would appear that the progress of the animal industry in Australia could best be served if an Advisory Committee of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research comprising representatives from these Boards, the Council, the Department of Commerce and Standing Committee on Agriculture, could be set up to make suggestions concerning work to be done in animal production, to accept responsibility for conducting the scientific work fundamental to the industry, and to coordinate the technical work going on in the different states through the research officers suggested above or by other means agreeable to the states.

This recommendation, according to the journal, sounded a rallying note welcomed by most of the bodies in question, so that at a meeting held in Melbourne and convened by the Australian Meat Board, representatives of all the State Agricultural Departments, the Australian Meat Board, the Australian Dairy Produce Board and the Council for Scienitfic and Industrial Research agreed that the establishment of such a committee would be advantageous.

The proposed body has become the Australian Committee on Animal Production. Its chairman is the Hon. H. S. Henley, a member of the Australian Meat Board. Its members are Dr. A. E. V. Richardson and Dr. L. B. Bull, of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research; W. J. Spafford, director of agriculture, South Australia; A. H. E. McDonald, of the Department of Agriculture, New South Wales; G. K. Baron-Hay, of the Department of Agriculture, Western Australia; F. W. Hicks, of the Department of Agriculture, Tasmania; H. A. Mullett, director of agriculture, Victoria; Professor Seddon, representing the Queensland Department of Agriculture; Ross Grant, of the Department of Commerce, and J. Proud, of the Australian Dairy Produce Board. A. J. Vasey, of the Division of Animal Health and Nutrition, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, is secretary.

The Animal Production Committee early appointed technical subcommittees to which were referred for consideration the report of Dr. Hammond and that of J. M. Coleman upon Fat Lamb Production in Australia.

There were five of these technical subcommittees, each of which dealt with a branch of animal production. These subcommittees dissolve automatically after their reports have been submitted.

THE DUTCH ELM DISEASE IN CONNECTICUT

DESPITE federal, state and local efforts to check the Dutch elm disease in Connecticut, the Agricultural Experiment Station at New Haven reports slow but steady increase and spread in 1940. Fourteen new towns were brought into the zone of infection as a result of summer scouting. One diseased tree was found at Preston, thirty miles from the nearest point of infection. Nevertheless efforts to save the elms continue —the federal work through the Dutch elm disease office of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and state work through the Experiment Station, represented by Dr. Roger B. Friend, state entomologist.

Altogether, Connecticut has found 1,686 cases of Dutch elm disease since the infection first appeared there in 1933. Many of the 378 diseased elms found last summer occurred outside the areas of infection. In general the spread was from adjacent towns where the disease had been found previously. The point of infection nearest to Preston, however, is Old Lyme, 30 miles away, where the last case appeared in 1937. Old Lyme lost seven trees in three years. At that time stringent measures were taken to destroy all dead and dying elms or parts of elms that might attract elm bark beetles, carriers of Dutch elm disease. Apparently the job was thorough since no more cases have been found in the vicinity.

During 1940 the U. S. Department of Agriculture has been responsible for scouting, elm sanitation and clean-up work in the state. Through its legal authority to carry on projects on private property when necessary, the Experiment Station cooperates with the federal agents by obtaining this permission for them. The station also is engaged in research, seeking a possible cure or control for the disease. This has involved an intensive study of the elm bark beetles and the materials that might repel or kill them, and the use of chemicals in disease control. So far no spray has been found that will prevent beetle feeding in the crotches of elms. However, creosote treatment of felled timber keeps them from breeding under the bark.

When trees showed outward symptoms of the disease, wilting and yellowing of foliage on terminal

twigs, the scouts took samples for further examination. Any that showed the characteristic dark streaking under the bark were sent to the federal laboratory at Bloomfield, N. J., for culture. Specimens from elms in territory never before infected were also cultured at the Experiment Station. All those found diseased have been removed and burned so that beetles under their bark can not carry infection to healthy elms.

During the cold months the federal men will engage in elm sanitation work. This consists of looking for elm material infested by bark beetles and material which may be attractive for beetle breeding next spring. When it is necessary to remove trees, owners have the choice of cutting the wood and storing it in an approved manner, or of turning the job over to the government completely. Logs may be stored in tight cellars or bins from which the beetles can not escape, or debarked and left outdoors. The federal method is to burn all the elm wood.

EXPEDITION TO THE BADLANDS OF SOUTH DAKOTA

ACCORDING to a bulletin of the National Geographic Society, after three months spent in prospecting and in excavating fossil bones in the Badlands of South Dakota, an expedition, sent out jointly by the National Geographic Society and the South Dakota State School of Mines, has completed its season's work with an unusually large and valuable collection of specimens. The one hundred and seventy-five or more specimens, weighing several tons, are now at the School of Mines in Rapid City, S. D., where the work of preparing and mounting them for exhibition is being carried on. Preliminary investigations indicate that they include several species and genera new to science. Probably included in that category will be a rhinoceros represented by a skull twenty-eight inches long, and a pig (also represented by a skull) which, when alive, measured fully eight feet from snout to tail.

Among other specimens found by the expedition were fossil bones of tapirs, little three-toed horses (the remote ancestors of present-day horses), protoceros (remotely related to deer and antelope), the little-known ancodus and a number of small rodents. Rarest of the specimens are bones of birds—only a few have previously been found in the Badlands. The principal find in this group was a fossil egg still firmly held in its matrix of rock. A few plant fossils were found of fossil hackberry seeds and petrified hackberry wood.

The expedition, led by Dr. Joseph P. Connolly, president of the School of Mines, and James D. Bump, curator of the School of Mines Museum, including seven other members, established camp in an eroded region twenty-five miles from the nearest highway. Its work was carried on in the summer sunshine where mid-afternoon temperatures frequently reached 120 and 130 degrees Fahrenheit. Some of the heaviest specimens were found near the tops of high, slender pinnacles and had to be lowered by block-and-tackle.

The material collected by the expedition is particularly rich in rare specimens because the work was confined to geological formations in which very little work had been done heretofore. These are the Channel Sandstones, so called because the beds were formed by deposits filling stream channels worn in the clay surfaces in Oligocene times, probably thirty million years ago. The surrounding clay—now turned to shale—is softer and much more easily worked, and from it have come most of the specimens previously collected.

PORTRAITS OF DISTINGUISHED CHEMISTS

The News Edition of the American Chemical Society states that "Portraits of Distinguished Chemists," published by the *Journal of Chemical Education,* consists of reprints of particularly important frontispieces which have appeared in the journal from time to time. These pictures, carefully printed on the finest grade of coated paper, in addition to their chemical interest have an artistic quality that entitles them to a place in a living room or library.

"There are 48 portraits, divided into three series of 16 each, printed on separate sheets, 8 by 10.5 inches in size, and similar in every respect. Their instructive value is increased by descriptive legends stating the important facts of each man's career, his dates and reference citations. These legends are visible when the portraits are framed."

Each series is enclosed in a portfolio of deep red cover stock on which are printed the names of the chemists whose portraits it contains. A list of these names follows:

SERIES A

Svante Arrhenius, Adolf von Baeyer, M. Berthelot, Robert Boyle, Stanislao Cannizzaro, Madame Curie, J. H. van't Hoff, Michael Faraday, H. Le Châtelier, Justus von Liebig, Dmitri Mendeléeff, Louis Pasteur, Sir William Perkin, Joseph Priestley, Sir William Ramsay, Friedrich Wöhler.

SERIES B

Francis W. Aston, Robert W. Bunsen, James Mason Crafts, John Dalton, Emil Fischer, J. Willard Gibbs, W. F. Hillebrand, Irving Langmuir, Henri Moissan, Walther Nernst, Wilhelm Ostwald, T. W. Richards, Benjamin Rush, Paul Sabatier, Benjamin Silliman, Benjamin Thompson.

SERIES C

Joseph Black, Herman Boerhaave, Irène Joliot Curie, Sir James Dewar, Victor Grignard, Fritz Haber, Charles