

were projected on the slides in Spanish or Portuguese for the English ones, or in English for those given in the other languages.

Earlier in the week the Latin American delegates were guests of the academy at its scientific sessions and at the annual banquet, where each was formally introduced. At the Pan American banquet held on October 11, the guests from Latin America expressed appreciation and enjoyment of the meeting. It was the general impression that the congress had brought about better understanding among the ophthalmologists of the Western Hemisphere. The Latin Americans were impressed by the meetings of ophthalmologists in this country and those of the United States were in turn impressed by the scientific ability and skill of the Latin Americans.

At the conclusion of the meeting the Latin Americans left to attend special clinics that were being held in their honor at some of the large ophthalmological centers of the East and Middle West.

THE NEW YORK MEETING OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

THE annual meeting of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers will open at the Hotel Astor, New York, on December 2, instead of at the Engineering Societies Building, the headquarters of the society, where previous meetings have been held. The sessions continue to December 6.

Registration, technical sessions and many social events, including luncheons and dinners, will be at the Hotel Astor, except as specifically noted in the official program.

There are 105 papers announced on the technical program to be read at forty-four sessions. Among the subjects to be treated are: Machine Line Production of Aircraft Materials, Elasticity and Vibration, Fuels, Machine Shop Practice, Work Standardization, Boiler Feedwater Studies, Applied Mechanics, Metals Engineering, Industrial Instruments, Mathe-

matical Statistics, Dust Collection, Power, Petroleum, Handling, Operations in Industrial Plants, Lubrication, Mechanical Springs, Rolling and Plasticity, Port and Terminal Handling, Industrial Marketing, Textile, Ammunition, Management, Safety, Fluid Meters, Training to Meet the National Emergency, Heat Transfer, Hydraulics, Rubber and Plastics, Dynamics of Vehicles, Railroad, Temperature and the Properties of Metals. There will be a symposium on Power in Ships on Thursday evening.

A memorial tablet to Dr. Calvin Winsor Rice, who was secretary of the society from 1906 until his death in 1934, will be unveiled on Monday at noon.

In conformity with usual practice, Wednesday evening will be set aside for the annual banquet at the Hotel Astor, at which Warren H. McBryde, president of the society, will make the principal address and other speakers of national reputation will be heard. Honorary memberships, medals and awards and fifty-year badges will be presented at the annual dinner. A number of other dinners and luncheons will be given during the course of the meeting.

There will be shown at the Astor the annual photographic exhibit of members of the society and other participants. In addition to photographs, there will be a display of photostats of automobiles of the eighteen-thirties, from the collection of Sidney Withington, electrical engineer of New Haven. A wide variety of illustrations, including many cartoons, relating to early self-propelled road vehicles of a century ago will be exhibited.

As usual inspection trips will be made to local plants of interest to mechanical engineers, including a visit to the largest passenger vessel built in a shipyard in the United States, the *S.S. America*. The new airport at North Beach and La Guardia Field will also be visited, as will the new Sixth Avenue Subway, the East River-Midtown tunnel and the 35-mile belt parkway. Trips to industrial and power plants covering a wide range of special interests are also being provided.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Hughes Medal of the Royal Society, London, has been awarded to Dr. Arthur H. Compton, Charles H. Swift distinguished service professor of physics at the University of Chicago.

THE George White Medal of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society has been awarded to Sir Arthur William Hill, since 1922 director of the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew, England. The Jackson Dawson Memorial Medal has been awarded to G. G. Nearing, of Ridgewood, N. J., for his work with rhododendrons. Gold medals have been awarded to A. T. De La Mare,

New York publisher of *The Florists' Exchange*, and Arthur Herrington, manager of the New York Flower Show.

DR. CARL P. HUBER, associate professor of obstetrics at the School of Medicine at Indianapolis of Indiana University, has received the 1940 award of the Central Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists for the best clinical essay. The title of the paper, which was prepared with the assistance of Dr. Jack C. Shrader, 1940 graduate of the Medical School and now an intern in the Indianapolis City Hospital, was "Blood Pro-

thrombin Levels in the Newborn." Dr. Shrader received the Ravdin Gold Medal awarded to the student with the highest rank at the June commencement.

THE council of the British Institution of Mechanical Engineers has awarded the James Watt International Medal to Professor Aurel Stodola, of Zurich, on the recommendation of the Engineering Institute of Canada, the Czechoslovak Society of Engineers and the Swiss Society of Engineers and Architects. The medal, which was founded in 1936 to commemorate the bicentenary of the birth of James Watt on January 19, 1736, is awarded every two years to an engineer of any nationality who is deemed "worthy of the highest award that the institution can bestow and that a mechanical engineer can receive." In making the award the institution has secured the cooperation of engineering institutions and societies in all parts of the world.

THE Crompton Medal of the British Institution of Automobile Engineers has been awarded to Dr. J. S. Clarke, of Birmingham Corporation Gas Department, for a paper entitled "The Use of Gas as a Fuel for Motor-vehicles."

A DINNER in honor of Dr. Harry Stoll Mustard, the new director of the De Lamar Institute of Public Health of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University, was given on November 19 by the Alumni Association at the Hotel George Washington. Dr. Leonard J. Piccoli, president of the association, presided. Speakers at the dinner were Dr. Wilson G. Smillie, professor of public health and preventive medicine at the Cornell University College of Medicine; Dr. Harry Stoll Mustard and Commander C. S. Stephenson, an alumnus in charge of the Division of Preventive Medicine, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery of the United States Navy.

PROFESSOR FREDERICK G. SWITZER, who has resigned as head of the department of mechanics in the Sibley College of Engineering at Cornell University to become a division engineer with the New York City Board of Water Supply, was honored by members of the faculty at a dinner on November 5 at Willard Straight Hall. Director William N. Barnard, of Sibley College, spoke of Professor Switzer's twenty-four years of service at the university, and Dean S. C. Hollister expressed the loss of the college at Professor Switzer's departure.

W. C. BROWNING, general manager of the Golden Queen Mining Company, Los Angeles, has been elected chairman of the western division of the American Mining Congress. He will serve for one year and will take charge of plans for the eighth annual metal mining convention and exposition of the division, which will be in San Francisco from September 29 to October 2.

DR. J. C. MILLER, assistant professor of animal industry at the Louisiana State University, has resigned to become professor of animal husbandry in charge of sheep work at the Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College.

ROBERT M. SALTER, associate director and chief in agronomy of the Ohio Experiment Station and chairman of the department of agronomy at the Ohio State University, became director of the Experiment Station of North Carolina College on October 1. Dr. L. D. Bayer, associate in agronomy of the Ohio Station and professor of agronomy at the Ohio State University, has been appointed associate director.

EUGENE SCHOFIELD HEATH, of Atlanta, has been made director of the new Georgia Botanical Garden which is in process of development on a four hundred and fifty-nine acre tract about eight and a half miles west of the business center of Atlanta. At present he is engaged mainly in the making of a species survey of the area.

Museum News states that Francis A. Young, who was acting director of the New England Museum of Natural History, Boston, during the absence last summer of Director Bradford Washburn, has been appointed assistant director.

DR. SIDMAN P. POOLE, associate professor of geology and geography at Syracuse University, major in the Army Reserve, has been called for duty in the Army Intelligence Division. He will be engaged in geographic work.

N. W. PIRIE, Rockefeller demonstrator in the School of Biochemistry of the University of Cambridge, has been appointed head of the Biochemical Section of the Rothamsted Experimental Station.

THE Lord President has appointed Dr. A. V. Hill, Foulerton research professor of the Royal Society; Sir Felix Pole, chairman of Associated Electrical Industries, and Sir Robert Robinson, Waynflete professor of chemistry at the University of Oxford, to be members of the Advisory Council of the Committee of the Privy Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. They succeed Dr. W. H. Mills, Professor A. Robertson, Sir Albert Seward and Sir Harry Shackleton, who have retired from the council on completion of their terms of office.

DR. HILDRUS A. POINDEXTER has recently returned to Washington after spending six months in South America and the Caribbean. Two months were devoted to visiting bacteriological and research laboratories in Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Ecuador, Republic of Panama and Caribbean republics. The other four months were spent in the study of protozoology at the School of Tropical Medicine at San Juan, Puerto Rico.

DR. KIRTLEY F. MATHER, professor of geology at Harvard University, was the guest of the department of geology and geography of the Michigan State College on November 19. In the afternoon he gave a lecture entitled "Plumbing the Depths of the Earth."

DR. HAROLD W. MANTER, professor of zoology at the University of Nebraska, gave the Sigma Xi lecture at the Iowa State College on November 4. He spoke on "The Galapagos Islands, with Special Reference to Their Biological Significance."

A LECTURE entitled "The Use of Isotopes in the Study of Metabolism" was given on November 19 by Dr. Rudolf Schoenheimer, associate professor of biological chemistry of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University, before the Kappa Chapter of Sigma Xi of the university.

DR. CYRIL N. H. LONG, Sterling professor of physiological chemistry at the School of Medicine of Yale University, delivered the fifth Renziehausen Memorial Lecture at the meeting of the Allegheny County Medical Society on November 19. His subject was "The Endocrine Control of Metabolism."

BRADFORD WASHBURN, executive director of the New England Museum of Natural History, will lecture at the museum on January 8 on "The Conquest of Mount Bertha." He will describe the Glacier Bay Expedition, during which he and his party camped for nearly a month among the mountains west of the bay, making the first exploration of the eastern ramparts of the Fairweather Range.

PROFESSOR DOUGLAS JOHNSON, of Columbia University, on November 12 addressed the Science Association at Wesleyan University on "The Mysterious Craters of the Carolina Coast." Later the same evening he was a guest of the Honors College, where he talked informally on our current international problems. On November 15 he spoke before the Research Laboratory Colloquium of the General Electric Company at Schenectady on research in the natural sciences, with illustrations from studies of the Carolina "bays."

DR. R. RUGGLES GATES, professor of botany in the University of London, lectured recently at the University of Colorado, the University of Denver and the University of Utah on "The Significance of the Blood Groups." He also gave lectures and addresses at the University of Denver on "The Amazon," on "India," on "Recent Progress in the Study of Evolution" and on "The Nature of Racial Differences in Man." He plans to lecture at the University of California in the departments of botany, zoology and anthropology, and in the Medical School and the School of Agriculture.

THE annual dinner and meeting of the New York Academy of Sciences will be held on the evening of December 11. It is requested that those planning to attend assemble at the Broadway Theater, Fifty-third Street and Broadway, at six-thirty o'clock, where a preliminary showing of "The Origin of the World and the Evolution of the Dinosaurs" from the "Rite of Spring," a fantasia by Walt Disney, will be presented by courtesy of the Walt Disney Productions. "The Methods of Walt Disney Productions" will be demonstrated by Barnum Brown, of the American Museum of Natural History, immediately after the annual dinner. An address entitled "Biological Bases of Democracy" will be made by Dr. Edwin Grant Conklin, professor of biology emeritus of Princeton University and executive vice-president of the American Philosophical Society. Following Dr. Conklin's address, Dr. Harold E. Vokes, who returned recently from the French mandates of Syria and Lebanon, will describe his experiences there. His address will be entitled "Around the War to Syria and Lebanon." It will be illustrated by color motion pictures and lantern slides, which will be shown for the first time at the dinner.

THE seventh annual meeting of the American Academy of Tropical Medicine was held on November 14, in conjunction with the American Society of Tropical Medicine, meeting with the Southern Medical Association in Louisville, Ky. The presidential address, entitled "Some Contributions of United States Naval Medical Officers to Science," was delivered by Dr. Charles S. Butler, Rear Admiral, Medical Corps, U. S. Navy, Retired. The following officers were elected for the year 1941: *President*, Dr. Marshall A. Barber; *Vice-president*, Dr. Herbert C. Clark; *Secretary*, Dr. Ernest Carroll Faust; *Treasurer*, Dr. Thomas T. Mackie; *Councilor* (5-year term), Dr. L. L. Williams; *Councilor* (3-year term), Dr. Harold W. Smith.

ACCORDING to *Museum News*, the Michigan-Indiana-Ohio Museum Association has been reorganized and the name has been changed to the Midwest Museums Conference of the American Association of Museums. The Wisconsin Museum Association is taking action to join, and museums in Illinois, Missouri, Minnesota and Rochester, N. Y., are also affiliated with the conference. Dr. Carl E. Guthe, director of the University Museums of the University of Michigan, has been elected president.

THE Rockefeller Foundation has made a grant of \$17,000 to support the researches of Dr. Peter J. W. Debye, professor of chemistry at Cornell University.

THE Charles W. Hargitt research fellowship in zoology at Duke University becomes available for the year 1941-1942. The fellowship, which carries a

stipend of \$1,000, is restricted to research work in the field of cytology. It is open to those who have already received their doctor's degree and have worked in this field. Appointment is for a single year with the possibility of reappointment; no teaching or assistance is required of the holder of the fellowship. Applications must be made before March 1, accompanied by statements of investigations, publications or work in progress. Inquiries and applications should be sent to Dr. Geo. T. Hargitt, Biology Building, Duke University, Durham, N. C.

THE geological courses at Upsala College, East Orange, N. J., have been discontinued. Its geological collections have been divided among the U. S. Military Academy, the Smithsonian Institution and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Museum News states that in accordance with a measure passed by the City Council in August the Cleveland Museum of Natural History took over control of the Brookside Park Zoological Garden in Cleveland at the beginning of October. Harold T. Clark, president of the museum, invited thirty citizens of Cleveland to serve on a board of control for the zoo. The museum now has control of the Holden Arboretum, the trailside museums in the parks and the Zoological Garden. The contract with the city provides that the mayor, director of public properties and president of the City Council be members of the board of trustees.

The city provides \$50,000 annually for the operation of the park by the museum, provides repairs and policing and furnishes public utility service without cost. The museum is given full authority to manage and develop the garden.

GLENCOE, a seven-acre estate at Irvington, N. Y., valued at \$50,000, and originally a part of the Alexander Hamilton family holding, has been given to Columbia University by Mr. and Mrs. John W. Donaldson, of Millbrook, N. Y. It will become part of the arboretum being developed for use by students in landscape architecture at Columbia. Glencoe borders Nevis, the sixty-eight acre estate presented to the university in 1935 by the late Mrs. T. Coleman du Pont, of Wilmington, Del., widow of the former United States Senator from Delaware and mother of Mrs. Donaldson. The grounds of Glencoe will be adapted to the general scheme of the Nevis Arboretum.

THE Board of the Nobel Foundation at Stockholm, on October 11, asked the Swedish Government to allow a postponement in conferring the 1940 Nobel Prizes for literature, physics and chemistry until the 1941 prizes are conferred. The prize in physiology and medicine has also been reserved until 1941 by the Faculty of the Carolean Medico-Surgical Institute in Stockholm. The Peace Prize, which the Nobel Committee of the Norwegian Storting has to confer, also can not, for obvious reasons, be conferred this year.

DISCUSSION

PROBLEMS OF AGING

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH of the United States Public Health Service is organizing a new unit for research into some of the many problems of aging. With the conspicuous shift to greater age in the population, senescent individuals are becoming increasingly significant in the national economy and defense. Preventive medicine must attack the practical problems of the rising proportion of deaths attributable to diseases of middle and later life and energetically attempt to augment the health and vigor of those past the meridian. Aging is a continuous biologic phenomenon which starts upon creation of a new individual and continues at variable rates until death. The problems of aging (gerontology) are not limited to the diseases of the aged (geriatrics), for the latter are the consequences of senescence. In man, probably the most significant period of life for gerontologic study is late maturity, approximately the two decades between 40 and 60.

The problems of aging are logically divisible into three major fields of investigation: (1) the biology of senescence as a process, (2) the human clinical problems of aging and of diseases characteristically asso-

ciated with advancing years which include the mental changes of senescence and senectitude as well as the physical changes, and (3) the socio-economic problems of a shifting age distribution in the population. The National Institute of Health is concerned with the first two of these divisions of the science.

In order to advise this new unit, there has been formed a National Advisory Committee on Gerontology, representative of the scientific thought of the nation. The membership of this advisory committee includes: L. R. Thompson, director, National Institute of Health, U. S. Public Health Service; Anton J. Carlson, physiologist, University of Chicago, National Research Council; Charles L. Christiennin, Association of Life Insurance Medical Directors of America; medical director, Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.; Robert A. Coker, zoologist, University of North Carolina; William Crocker, botanist, Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research; Lawrence K. Frank, sociologist, Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation; A. Baird Hastings, biochemist, Harvard University; Ludvig Hektoen, pathologist; consultant, National Cancer Institute, U. S. Public Health Service; Winfred Overholser, psychiatrist, superintendent, St. Elizabeths