

The institute was attended by many young doctors and other scientific workers. Papers were published in its own journal, *Archives des Sciences Biologiques* both in Russian and French, and in the best foreign journals.

Here Pavlov did all his scientific work and completed classical experiments on digestion and conditioned reflexes. Many well-known scientific men graduated from the institution and many papers were published, some of them devoted to the discoveries made in the institute. A few of those who participated in its foundation are still living. Among these are Dr. S. N. Vinogradski (Paris) and Dr. V. G. Ushakov (Leningrad), who was at that time and later secretary of the council of the institute.

CONFERENCE IN HONOR OF LETA S. HOLLINGWORTH

A CONFERENCE on Education for the Gifted in honor of the late Professor Leta S. Hollingworth was held at Teachers College, Columbia University, on December 13 and 14. Dr. William F. Russell, dean of Teachers College, was honorary chairman of the conference and Dr. Herbert B. Bruner, professor of education, was chairman. The introduction to the printed program says: "This Conference on Education for the Gifted is held in honor of Leta S. Hollingworth, professor of education in Teachers College, whose untimely death last year brought to a close a brilliant career. Our discussions here are designed to promote increased activity in the discovery and education of the gifted—the task to which she so earnestly devoted herself and which she considered of paramount importance in our national life."

Speakers and their subjects at the opening meeting, over which Professor Lyman Bryson presided, included Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia University, whose address was entitled "The Basic Problem," and Dean William F. Russell, who spoke on "The Importance of Social Capillarity." They were followed by a presentation of "Major Problems Regarding the Gifted"—The Place of the Gifted in Modern Life. In this discussion Lamont du Pont spoke from the viewpoint of industry; Spencer Miller, Jr., from the viewpoint of labor, and Bishop Francis J. McConnell, from the viewpoint of the ministry. Other speakers were Robert L. Thorndike, associate professor of education; Herbert B. Bruner, professor of education, and David E. Weglein, superintendent of schools, Baltimore, Md.

Friday afternoon was devoted to seminars, of which there were thirteen as follows: Who is the Gifted Child?; What Special Problems Are Encountered by the School Administrator in Providing for the Education of the Gifted and How May These Problems Be Solved?; What Is the Place of the Gifted in Modern

Life?; Gifted Children; their Educational Needs; Education of Gifted Pupils in Secondary Schools; How Can We Best Educate Teachers for Work with Gifted Children?; What Are the Physical and Mental Health Problems of the Gifted and How Can They Best Be Met?; Home Guidance of the Gifted Child; How Can We Release the Creative Energies and Develop the Creative Capacities of the Talented Gifted Child?; Research Problems in the Study of Gifted Children; How Do the Intellectually Gifted Evaluate Their Own Educational Experiences?; What Provision Should Be Made for the Education of Gifted Persons at the College Level?; How Should a School Be Organized to Provide for the Most Effective Education of the Gifted?

At the evening session on Friday, presided over by Dr. Arthur I. Gates, professor of education, Professor Rudolph Pintner gave an address on "Superior Ability," and Dr. Edward L. Thorndike, professor emeritus, spoke on "Gifted Children in Cities and Towns."

There was a display of books and miscellaneous work of gifted children from various schools and of testing materials and cumulative records, and demonstrations of tests on children of superior intelligence and a presentation of motion pictures taken by Dr. Hollingworth, showing the work in the Speyer School.

THE JOSIAH WILLARD GIBBS LECTURES OF THE AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY

At the meeting of the American Mathematical Society held at Vassar College in September, 1923, a resolution was adopted sanctioning the establishment of an honorary lectureship to be known as the Josiah Willard Gibbs Lectureship. The first lecture given under these auspices was on February 29, 1924, by Professor M. I. Pupin, of Columbia University, on the subject, "Coordination." Professor Veblen was then president of the society, and the purpose of the lectureship can perhaps best be summed up by quoting from his remarks in introducing the speaker.

In instituting the Willard Gibbs Lectures, the American Mathematical Society has recognized the dual character of mathematics. On the one hand, mathematics is one of the essential emanations of the human spirit,—a thing to be valued in and for itself, like art or poetry. Gibbs made notable contributions to this side of mathematics in his work on vector analysis and multiple algebras.

On the other hand, mathematics is the handmaiden and helper of the other sciences, both in their most abstract generalizations and in their most concrete applications to industry. In this field Gibbs may be justly described as transcendental,—even if we think only of his work in thermodynamics. His paper "On the Equilibrium of Heterogeneous Substances" is one of the foundation stones of physical chemistry.

It is hoped that the Willard Gibbs Lectures will remind

the mathematicians of something that we fear they sometimes forget,—the existence of an outside world. It is equally hoped that they will remind the outside world that mathematics is a going concern,—not a pedantic exercise for the torment of school boys, but a living organism growing larger and stronger each year.

Since this first lecture by Professor Pupin, the following scientific men have accepted the invitation of the society to speak under the auspices of this lectureship:

Robert Henderson: Life Insurance as a Social Service and as a Mathematical Problem.

James Pierpont: Some Modern Views of Space.

H. B. Williams: Mathematics and the Biological Sciences.

E. W. Brown: Resonance in the Solar System.

G. H. Hardy: An Introduction to the Theory of Numbers.

Irving Fisher: The Application of Mathematics to the Social Sciences.

E. B. Wilson: Reminiscences of Gibbs as a Student and Colleague.

P. W. Bridgman: Statistical Mechanics and the Second Law of Thermodynamics.

R. C. Tolman: Thermodynamics and Relativity.

Albert Einstein: An Elementary Proof Concerning the Equivalence of Mass and Energy.

Vannevar Bush: Instrumental Analysis.

H. N. Russell: Model Stars.

C. A. Kraus: The Present Status of the Theory of Electrolytes.

Theodore von Kármán: The Engineer Grappling with Non-linear Problems.

The next lecture will be given by Professor Sewall Wright, of the department of biology of the University of Chicago, at the time of the summer meeting of the society and the Mathematical Association of America to be held at the University of Chicago next September.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

At the annual dinner of the Geological Society of America to be held in Austin, Texas, on December 27, the Penrose Medal will be presented to Dr. N. H. Darton, consulting geologist, who from 1886 until his retirement in 1936 was geologist of the U. S. Geological Survey.

DR. T. HARPER GOODSPEED, professor of botany and director of the botanical gardens of the University of California, has been elected a foreign correspondent of the Argentine Scientific Society.

G. WALTER DITTMAR, professor emeritus of the College of Dentistry of the University of Illinois, will be the guest of honor at a banquet to be held at the Lake Shore Club of Chicago on February 15. Dr. Dittmar is a past president of the American Dental Association. He retired from active teaching last September.

THE honorary fellowship of the Canadian Public Health Association has been conferred on Dr. E. W. Montgomery, emeritus professor of medicine at the University of Manitoba, formerly Minister of Health and Public Welfare of the Province of Manitoba, and on Dr. J. M. Ulrich, Minister of Public Health and Provincial Secretary of the Province of Saskatchewan.

DR. RICHARD S. WEISS, professor of clinical dermatology of the School of Medicine of Washington University, St. Louis, was elected at the Chicago meeting president of the American Academy of Dermatology and Syphilology.

At the thirty-sixth annual meeting of the American Society of Tropical Medicine, which was held in Louisville, Ky., from November 12 to 15, in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Southern Medical

Association, the following officers were elected: *President*, Thomas T. Mackie, New York City; *President-elect*, Ernest Carroll Faust, New Orleans, Louisiana; *Vice-president*, Fred L. Soper, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; *Secretary-Treasurer* for three years, E. Harold Hinman, Wilson Dam, Ala.; *Editor* for three years, Colonel Charles F. Craig, San Antonio, Texas; *Councilors* for four years, R. E. Dyer, Washington, D. C., and T. J. LeBlanc, Cincinnati; *Member of the editorial board* for five years, John F. Kessel, Los Angeles, Calif.

R. E. ZIMMERMAN, vice-president of the United States Steel Corporation, was elected president of the American Standards Association at the annual luncheon meeting held on December 11 at the Hotel Astor, New York City. Mr. Zimmerman has served as vice-president of the association since 1938, and has been a member of the Board of Directors since 1937, when he was nominated for membership by the American Iron and Steel Institute. He will succeed Edmund A. Prentis, of the firm of Spencer, White and Prentis, who has served as president of the association for the past two years. R. P. Anderson, of the American Petroleum Institute, was reelected chairman of the council, which is in charge of the technical work of the association.

DR. JAMES L. BRAKEFIELD, professor of biology and head of the department at Howard College, will complete his second term as president of the Alabama Tuberculosis Association at the annual meeting to be held on January 23. During Dr. Brakefield's administration local county and municipal organizations for the study and control of tuberculosis have been formed