ject of his lecture will be "The Nature of Experimental and Clinical Hypertension."

DR. HENRIK DAM, associate professor at the Biological Institute of the University of Copenhagen, will give the Cutter Lecture on Preventive Medicine at the Harvard Medical School on Thursday, January 30. His subject will be Vitamin K—(a) Its General Significance in Biochemistry, and (b) Its Role in Human Pathology and its Application in Therapeutics. The Cutter Lectures have been given each year since 1912.

DR. DAVID A. TUCKER, professor of the history of medicine at the University of Cincinnati, gave the annual Alpha Omega Alpha initiation address on December 13, at the Ohio State University. The lecture was entitled "The Physician in Historical Retrospect."

THE sixth International Congress for the Unity of Science will be held at the University of Chicago from September 2 to 6 in connection with the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the university. The program will consist mainly of symposia devoted to the discussion of central and frontier problems in the present state of the unification of scientific knowledge. Those who plan to attend or who wish to receive further notices of the congress are asked to communicate with Professor Charles Morris, University of Chicago.

THE tenth anniversary of the opening of the School of Medicine and Hospital of Duke University was celebrated, and the new Department of Neuropsychiatry was dedicated, on November 29 and 30. A hundred and twenty medical alumni and former members of the house staff were present. Dr. Adolf Meyer, Henry Phipps professor of psychiatry, of the School of Medicine of the Johns Hopkins University, gave an address entitled "Considerations on Psychiatry or Ergasiatrics as an Essential and Natural Part of All Medical Training and Practice." Special clinics and talks were given by Drs. R. L. Flowers, F. M. Hanes, D. T. Smith, Deryl Hart, Bayard Carter and W. C. Davison.

THE University of California has received a bequest of $1,000,000 under the will of the late Michael J. Connell, Los Angeles banker and philanthropist. The estate was left to the M. J. Connell Charities Company and to the University of California. Most of the property consists of buildings in downtown Los Angeles, the M. J. Connell Company, various securities and other properties. The M. J. Connell Company, which manages the estate to produce revenue for the M. J. Connell Charities Company, the university and other organizations, is conducted by a board of directors. While the bequest was made some time ago, no report could be made to the Board of Regents because under terms of the will the property was not available until recently.

DR. JOHN F. FULTON, Sterling professor of physiology at Yale University, has presented to the Yale Medical Library a collection of books and government documents bearing on military medicine published in England since the beginning of the war. There are some fifty items in all, plus a collection of Medical Research Council reports on various phases of industrial medicine. In this latter series there are some seventy titles. These collections are now available to readers in the new reading room of the General Medical Library of the Sterling Hall of Medicine.

Torreya reports that the Herbaria of the Muséum d'histoire Naturelle, Paris, which after the outbreak of the war was divided among three castles near Paris for safe keeping, is in good condition and has been returned to the museum.

A CORRESPONDENT writes to SCIENCE that owing to the national necessity for the strictest economy in paper, and in order to reduce the expense of printing and publication, the Royal Society of Edinburgh has decided that, as from vol. 61, 1940–41, the *Proceedings* shall be published in two sections, namely "A" (Mathematical and Physical—including Astronomy, Chemistry, Mathematics, Metallurgy, Meteorology and Physics) and "B" (Biological—including Anatomy, Anthropology, Botany, Geology, Pathology, Physiology and Zoology). Fellows of the society, and institutions with which the society exchanges publications, will benefit under this arrangement by having, in smaller compass, papers dealing with the subjects in which they specialize. No change is proposed in the present form or in the arrangement for the distribution of the society's *Transactions*. The obituary notices of fellows, proceedings of meetings, list of fellows, prizes, etc., formerly published as appendixes at the end of each session's volume of *Proceedings*, will, under the new scheme, be published separately, and will be sent normally to all fellows and to those exchanges specially desiring to receive them.

DISCUSSION

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE PERIODICAL LITERATURE OF SCIENCE

IN a recent discussion[1] of the publication of scientific research, attention was called to the disadvantages resulting from the diversity of the contents of scientific periodicals. It was suggested that some form of supervision of the range of subjects covered by the papers

[1] Seidell, SCIENCE, 92: 345–7 (Oct. 18). (This article was criticized by Dr. Richard L. Sutton, Jr., SCIENCE, 92:

published in a given journal should be exercised. Although the advantages to be gained in this manner would certainly be very great, it may well be questioned whether the necessary cooperation for such reforms could be secured even in one country, much less throughout the world. In view of this it has appeared of interest to consider whether better utilization of the literature of science might not be achieved by improvements in the means of distribution of the papers published under present conditions.

It is apparent that persons engaged in scientific research must both learn of the existence of the reports of others and have access to or be able to obtain copies of the original publications. The problem then is to satisfy these two needs in a better manner than at present.

Acquaintance with the source literature of science is usually obtained by means of abstract journals, reviews, bibliographies or the references given in each paper to preceding publications. These resources serve admirably for the prior literature but not for the currently appearing contributions. It is these that many investigators are especially anxious to have brought promptly to their attention.

In the larger research centers, such as that composed of the governmental laboratories in Washington, the system in operation is the circulation of the current issues of the journals among the workers. Each one is thus permitted to successively examine the contents of the periodicals he selects. This plan, however, has the serious disadvantage that while the journal is circulating it is not available for reference. Furthermore, each worker must peruse the copy during the brief period it is at his disposal, and may sometimes be forced to neglect more important work in order not to delay the circulation of the periodical. There is also the disadvantage that the contents of each number is usually so varied that much time may be wasted in scanning articles of no immediate interest while searching for the rare ones directly bearing upon a given problem.

A far better plan would be the publication of current classified catalogues of the titles of papers appearing in scientific periodicals. The only question is whether such publications can be produced at not too great an expense, and, when coupled with microfilm copying service, will they satisfy the needs of workers not adequately supplied with journals or abstracts.

The necessary conditions for launching such a project are adequate library collections of periodicals in given fields of science, and properly qualified persons to select and classify the titles to be included in the published catalogues. Microfilm services have been developed sufficiently to meet the needs in respect to microfilm copying. There is, however, the accompanying requirement that the journals from which microfilm copies are to be made shall not circulate.

Fortunately there is a library where all these conditions are fulfilled, and it is probable that a trial of the plan can be made there. This is the Army Medical Library of Washington. Its collections of medical periodicals are among the most complete in the world and are circulated to only a very limited extent. The Library also collects directly from the current journals the titles of the articles subsequently used in compiling its Index Catalogue of Medical Literature. The cards thus made are available for preparing at small expense a classified catalogue of the currently appearing papers. The Library is also provided with a microfilm copying service and thus combines all the elements required for inaugurating the suggested system of disseminating current periodical literature.

There is one additional question which arises in connection with the catalogues of current titles and that is whether they can also be conveniently used for searching the prior literature. For this purpose indices will be required, but their preparation need not add greatly to the expense, and with them it should certainly be possible to trace desired references to articles of which the titles have been recorded in the preceding issues of the catalogue.

It may be concluded, therefore, that this improved means of acquainting research workers with the current periodical literature, and promptly supplying them with microfilm copies of it, will enable many more persons to undertake research than can now do so with profit, and permit everyone to make better use of the published work of others for the advancement of science.

ATHERTON SEIDELL
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

478 (Nov. 22) on the basis that it "describes the scheme one would expect of a Totalitarian State or the U. S. S. R." Dr. Sutton overlooks the fact that the freedom of the press to which he refers has a very different purpose than the publication of scientific research for the benefit of those able to use it for the advancement of science. It is needless to mention that the purpose of my article was to call attention to the chaos which exists in the periodical publication of science and suggest that something be done about it.

VITAMIN L AND DEXTRIN DIET

IN a previous note in SCIENCE, incidental to pointing out the non-identity of vitamin L and filtrate factor, we[1] referred to Sure,[2] who stated that an attempt to rear young of the albino rats with supplements of crystalline thiamine, riboflavin, vitamin B_6, choline

[1] W. Nakahara, F. Inukai and S. Ugami, SCIENCE, 91: 431, 1940.

[2] B. Sure, *Jour. Nutrition*, 19: 57, 1940.