

Academy of Sciences. All the speakers brought out the fact that Bache could not become a member of a society without taking an active part in its proceedings, and that he left the imprint of his administrative ability on all the organizations with which he was connected.

The symposium on geomagnetism was planned to give a general view of the progress that has been made in our knowledge of the subject during the hundred years since Bache founded his observatory. This "century of progress" witnessed the important discoveries of earth currents, of electric currents in the upper atmosphere, of the electronic bombardment of the earth by the sun and of the cosmic rays. The influence of these factors on the earth's magnetism and on radio transmission was described in twelve papers by John A. Fleming, O. H. Gish, A. G. McNish, H. Freeborn Johnston and L. V. Berkner, of the Department of Terrestrial Magnetism of the Carnegie Institution of Washington; by N. H. Heck and H. E. McComb, of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey; by E. A. Eckhardt, of the Gulf Research and Development Company; by Carl W. Gartlein, of the Department of Physics of Cornell University; by J. H. Dellinger, of the National Bureau of Standards; by H. E. Hallborg, of R. C. A. Communications, Inc., and by Thomas H. Johnson, of the Bartol Research Foundation.

The program for the afternoon of February 15, at Girard College, was of a more popular character, the audience including about a thousand students of the college. President Merle M. Odgers, of the college, described Bache's work as an educator, and Paul R. Heyl, of the National Bureau of Standards, spoke on "Magnetism and Its Uses," giving the historical development of the subject from the earliest times.

All the papers presented at the meeting will be published by the American Philosophical Society.

PAUL R. HEYL

NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS

PAN-AMERICAN UNION AGAINST CANCER

A PAN-AMERICAN UNION AGAINST CANCER was incorporated a few days ago by a prominent group of physicians, business men and lawyers who are interested in the problems of cancer research, therapy and education as coordinated aspects of an effort which it is hoped will some day lead to the control of a disease, which is becoming more and more effective as improved methods of treatment are being developed. The organization is an offspring of the International Union against Cancer, which was formed in Paris in 1934. The president of that Union was Senator Justin Godart, French Minister of Public Health during the World War. Since the occupation of France, the Union has obviously become inactive. In order to carry on the work in which this international organi-

zation assisted, it was suggested by Senator Godart a few months ago that a Pan-American organization be started to include the same groups as were a part of the older organization. The only officials in the United States were Boris Pregel, who was one time chairman of the Finance Committee of the International Union; L. W. Tomarkin, who was executive secretary, and the writer of this note, who was a vice-president. The new association just formed will follow in the footsteps of the International Union and hold a Cancer Congress in Buenos Aires in 1942. Representatives of Canada, the Philippines and most of the South American countries have renewed their allegiance to the new representative of the old International Union. The new organization will, as effectively as possible, aid in the various problems which come up in public education, concerning cancer, in the conduct of scientific meetings and, when funds become available, the publication of proceedings. Its activities will in no way conflict with those educational and research organizations already in existence in the various countries which have joined the league.

FRANCIS CARTER WOOD

THE NINETEENTH ANNUAL PLANT SCIENCE SEMINAR

THE nineteenth annual Plant Science Seminar will be held at the Cranbrook Institute of Science during the week of August 11-15. Cranbrook is an educational center occupying 300 acres of wooded land in Bloomfield Hills, Mich., about 20 miles north of Detroit. Its Institute of Science was established as an aid to the diffusion of scientific knowledge and as an instrument of research and discovery. The Institute of Science occupies a building opened in 1938, where are provided exhibition space and well-equipped laboratories, library and auditorium. Housed in the building is the largest natural history museum in greater Detroit. Local natural history is emphasized and the museum is rapidly becoming the mecca for students and scientists of southeastern Michigan.

The region about Bloomfield abounds in variable flora and many distinct plant communities are to be found. A number of botanical excursions through this typically glaciated country are planned. Visits will be made to the Medicinal Plants Farm at Parke-dale and to the Oakview Seed Breeding Institute of the Ferry-Morse Company and a visit to the Todd Mint Farms near Kalamazoo is being tentatively arranged.

Some of the leading pharmaceutical botanists and pharmacognosists will appear as speakers on the program and their subjects will be announced in the near future.

J. Russell Anderson, 15851 Evanston Avenue, Detroit, Michigan, is the local secretary.