

THE OLIN HALL OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERING AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY

THE cornerstone of the Olin Hall of Chemical Engineering of Cornell University, to be erected at a cost of \$700,000, was laid on June 14, during the annual alumni reunions. In the absence on account of ill health of Franklin W. Olin, the donor, the ceremony was performed by his son, John M. Olin, who made a brief address. Another son, Spencer T. Olin, was also in attendance.

President Edmund Ezra Day in his reply said:

We have had a dream of the future of engineering at Cornell. It is a dream set in an illustrious record of achievement in the past in this field. It has to be remembered that it was at Cornell University that engineering was first recognized as worthy of support by the full resources of a great educational institution and first achieved distinction at the university level. It is unbelievable that engineering at Cornell should cease to have a place of great distinction in American education, but it has been clear at the same time that if that place were to be here, the existing resources of the Engineering College here at Ithaca had to be promptly and substantially amplified. Consequently, we have been dreaming dreams. For a time they seemed to be but dreams. Then Franklin W. Olin stepped into the picture and gave us reassurance of immeasurable value. Sometimes benefactions have values which defy measurement. It is my opinion that this great gift of Mr. Olin falls in that class. Not only does it supply the need of modernized facilities for the School of Chemical Engineering; it gives reassurance of the success of the whole Engineering College program. The value of this gift is enhanced because of its timing. It comes at a time when this undertaking needed just the kind of "lift" that this edifice gives. Nothing that has happened at Cornell since I have been here has afforded so much encouragement for the future.

Dean S. C. Hollister, of the College of Engineering, who presided at the ceremony, then introduced Spencer T. Olin, who briefly substantiated the sentiments expressed by his brother; Ezra Whitman, chairman of the Trustee Committee on Buildings and Grounds; Provost H. W. Peters; Maxwell M. Upson, chairman of the Committee on Development of the Endowed Colleges of the Board of Trustees; John Lowry, of John Lowry, Inc., contractor of the building; Harold Shreve, of Shreve, Lamb and Harmon, architects of the building, and Dr. F. H. Rhodes, Johnson professor of industrial chemistry and director of the School of Chemical Engineering. It is planned to open the new building in the autumn.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF NEW YORK CITY

AN appropriation of \$100,000 is included in the 1941-42 budget of the Health Department for the new Public Health Research Institute of New York

City. It will be used exclusively for scientific research essential for the protection and the improvement of the health, safety and welfare of the people of the city.

Following favorable action by the Board of Estimate and the City Council, the Board of Estimate on June 26 authorized the city to enter into a contract with the Research Institute. This will be a scientific, non-profit organization, entirely devoted to obtaining for the city the best available biological products and advanced skill and procedures for combating disease and epidemics which occur or may occur.

In commenting on the Board of Estimate's approval of the contract, Mayor F. H. LaGuardia said:

Many public health problems that arise in this city are peculiar to this locality, and scientific research and experimentation with regard thereto must be done locally. In this the largest city in the world, disease may readily assume epidemic proportions and thus it is most essential that our municipal Health Department be fortified with the best research talent and facilities available. The Research Institute will make that possible.

Dr. John L. Rice stated that David M. Heyman, a member of the banking firm of Adolph Lewisohn and Sons, had been named president of the institute and a member of the Board of Health. The *President* of the Board of Health is David Rockefeller, son of John D. Rockefeller, Jr.; the *Vice-president*, David Morse, attorney; the *Secretary* and *Treasurer*, Edwin P. Chinlund, president of the Postal Telegraph Company. *Ex-officio* members of the board are: Mayor LaGuardia, Comptroller Joseph D. McGoldrick and the Health Commissioner.

A research council has been set up by the board, with Dr. Thomas M. Rivers, director of the Hospital of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, as *chairman*. Dr. Rivers also is a member of the Board of Health of New York City. Other medical and scientific men named to the Research Council are:

Dr. Eugene L. Opie, professor of pathology, Cornell University Medical College; Dr. Henry Clapp Sherman, professor of chemistry, Columbia University; Dr. Michael Heidelberger, associate professor of biochemistry of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia; Dr. George Baehr, clinical professor of medicine of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, who is also physician to Mount Sinai Hospital, trustee of the New York Academy of Medicine and chairman of its Public Health Relations Committee, and Dr. Ralph S. Muckenfuss, director of the Bureau of Laboratories of the Department of Health, member *ex-officio*.

The contract between the city and the Research Institute, approved by the Board of Estimate, became effective on July 1. Neither members of the Board of Directors nor of the Research Council will receive

salaries, the province of the former being to assure sound business management and of the latter to retain the necessary scientific personnel. The institute will be housed in the William Hallock Park Laboratory in the Bureau of Laboratories of the Health Department.

MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN MEXICO CITY

ON the invitation of the Mexican Government the International College of Surgeons will hold its fourth international assembly in Mexico City from August 10 to 14.

Surgeons from most of the countries of the western hemisphere and also from England, Holland, Palestine, Portugal, Switzerland and Turkey will participate. Many of the Pan-American countries are sending official representatives. Sessions will be conducted in both English and Spanish.

More than one hundred and twenty speakers will

describe the latest advances in surgery of their particular countries. Especially emphasized will be military surgery, and the lessons learned from the Spanish civil war, current British campaigns and civilian experiences during air raids. There will also be numerous exhibits of recent surgical research, operative clinics at many hospitals and demonstrations by leading manufacturers of newly developed equipment. Headquarters are at the Hotel Reforma.

Among the lecturers will be Dr. Francisco Castillo Najera, Mexican Ambassador to the United States; Dr. Fred H. Albee, New York, international president of the college; Dr. Manuel A. Manzanilla, Mexico City, president of the Mexican Committee of Organization; Dr. Desiderio Roman, Philadelphia, president of the United States Chapter, and Dr. Max Thorek, Chicago, international secretary.

The International College of Surgeons was founded at Geneva, Switzerland, in 1935, and has chapters in most of the nations of the world.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE autumn meeting of the National Academy of Sciences will be held at the University of Wisconsin on October 13, 14 and 15. This is the first meeting of the academy to be held west of Chicago since 1925. The address of welcome will be made by Dr. Clarence A. Dykstra, president of the university, to which Dr. Frank B. Jewett, president of the academy, will respond.

THE Ward Burdick Gold Medal, presented annually by the American Society of Clinical Pathologists for an "outstanding contribution in the field of pathology," has been awarded to Dr. Harry P. Smith, of the University of Iowa, in recognition of his work on vitamin K as a blood-clotting agent.

THE Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education has awarded the Lamme Medal for 1941 to Dr. Anson Marston, dean emeritus and for fifty years a member of the faculty of the Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts at Ames. The award is the fourteenth made by the society for achievement in engineering education in memory of Benjamin G. Lamme, a pioneer in the engineering development of electric power.

THE Council of the London Mathematical Society has awarded the De Morgan Medal to Professor Louis Joel Mordell, of the University of Manchester.

AT the anniversary meeting of the Linnean Society of London, its Gold Medal was presented to Professor A. G. Tansley, emeritus professor of botany in the University of Oxford, in recognition of his contribu-

tions to ecology, and particularly to the development of the subject in Great Britain. The medal is awarded annually to "an eminent biologist as an expression of the society's estimate of his services to science." The Carnegie Corporation of the United States has recently granted to the society the sum of £2,000 for the purpose of photographing the manuscripts and natural history specimens in the collections of Linnaeus. The following have been elected officers of the society: *President*, Dr. E. S. Russell; *Treasurer*, Major F. C. Stern; *Secretaries*, I. H. Burkill (botany), and Dr. Malcolm Smith (zoology); *New Members of the Council*, Dr. B. Barnes, Professor F. T. Brooks, J. E. Dandy, A. C. Gardiner and Douglas M. Reid.

THE Council of the Royal Society of New South Wales has awarded the Clarke Memorial Medal to Professor F. Wood-Jones, now professor of anatomy at the University of Manchester, in recognition of his researches in zoology in Australia.

DR. CARL J. WIGGERS, professor of physiology of the School of Medicine of Western Reserve University, was awarded the honorary degree of doctor of science by the University of Michigan at its commencement exercises on June 21.

MICHIGAN STATE COLLEGE, at its eighty-third annual commencement on June 14, conferred the honorary degree of doctor of agriculture upon John A. Hannah, president-elect of the college, and on Howard E. Babcock, president of the Board of Trustees of Cornell University, and, as recorded in the last