

life is saved by methods discovered by Landsteiner, once an Austrian. Does a Japanese complain of a bewildering dizziness caused by disturbance of the internal ear? He will be in debt to Bárány, a Hungarian investigator. Does an Italian doctor wish to know whether a patient has typhoid fever? He applies observations first made by Vidal, a Frenchman. Is one of our children in danger of diphtheria? His resistance to infection is tested by a process invented by Schick. Goldberger, an immigrant to New York's East Side, provided a simple preventive and treatment of pellagra, which made possible the lifting, from hosts of miserable people, the blight of that dreadful disease. And no matter in what country they may be, the tens of thousands of victims of syphilis must rest their hope of relief on a method of diagnosis first devised by Wassermann, and on a curative method discovered by Ehrlich, both Germans at a time when Germany recognized, without contempt and malignity, the value of ingenious devotion to human welfare. All these contributors to medical knowledge have been citizens of various lands, but they would all be classed as belonging to one people. And though in

the last years their people have been again savagely and sadistically persecuted, no nations, however hostile, can take from these medical representatives the honor and glory of having served as saviors of their fellow men.

The attractions and the rewards of medical investigators have been described in some detail because the problem of filling the ranks of those who engage in medical research is of primary importance. Unless the ranks can be kept unbroken, unless well-equipped recruits can be attracted to the career of the investigator, progress ends. The opportunities for long-enduring service to humanity should be widely known. Gifted young men should be aware of the chances which are opened to them and should prepare themselves accordingly. Universities should remove any financial obstacles which may confront the productive scholar looking forward to decades of medical investigation. The conquest of a disease, it should be remembered, is a permanent conquest. Humanity will be protected thereby through indefinite future time. An immortality of blessed memory awaits those who bring to mankind further respite from debility and pain.

## THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

### SPECIAL RESEARCH CONFERENCES ON CHEMISTRY

By Dr. F. R. MOULTON  
PERMANENT SECRETARY

In each of the past four summers special research conferences on chemistry have been held at Gibson Island, Md., under the direction of Dr. Neil E. Gordon, secretary of the Section on Chemistry of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. With the recent purchase of a property by the association for the use of the conferences they are now put on a permanent basis.

The Gibson Island conferences are unusual if not unique in character. Each conference, devoted to a single well-defined subject, occupies a period of five days from Monday to Friday, inclusive, during which ten sessions are normally held. The first session begins at 10 o'clock on Monday morning and consists of only one or two formal papers. The remainder of the time until adjournment for lunch at 12:30 is available for discussions. Usually no program is scheduled for the afternoon, but discussions by small groups often continue. A second program of one or two papers is held in the evening, followed by discussions often continuing until a very late hour.

Similar schedules are followed during the remainder of the week.

The Gibson Island special conferences on chemistry owe their excellence and popularity to careful planning of the programs by experts, the choice of the invited contributors, the freedom with which contributors make excursions along, and sometimes beyond, the frontiers of the known, the opportunities for abundant discussion, the limitation of participants to sixty, the mingling of chemists from industrial and university laboratories and the delightful surroundings. At its business meeting each conference determines the subject of the corresponding conference for the following year and nominates its chairman and vice-chairman, who are formally appointed by the association.

The subjects of the conferences so far held and the names of their chairmen are as follows:

1938

A. Relation of Structure to Physiological Action.  
Harold C. Urey, *chairman*.

B. Cellular Metabolism and Tissue Respiration. C. G. King, *chairman*.

1939

A. Resinous Polymers. H. L. Bender, *chairman*.

B. Vitamins. C. G. King, *chairman*.

C. Relation of Structure to Physiological Action. Walter H. Hartung, *chairman*.

1940

A. Frontiers in Petroleum Chemistry. C. R. Wagner, *chairman*.

B. Catalysis. E. C. Williams, *chairman*.

C. Organic High Molecular Weight Type Compounds. H. L. Bender, *chairman*.

D. Vitamins. C. G. King, *chairman*.

E. Relation of Structure to Physiological Action. Walter H. Hartung, *chairman*.

F. Applications of X-ray and Electron Diffraction. Maurice L. Huggins, *chairman*.

1941

A. Frontiers in Petroleum Chemistry. C. R. Wagner, *chairman*.

B. Catalysis. E. C. Williams, *chairman*.

C. Organic High Molecular Weight Compounds, S. S. Kistler, *chairman*.

D. The Structure and Chemistry of Textile Fibers. Milton Harris, *chairman*.

E. Vitamins. C. G. King, *chairman*.

F. X-ray and Electron Diffraction. Maurice L. Huggins, *chairman*.

G. Corrosion. R. M. Burns, *chairman*.

H. Photosynthesis. O. L. Inman, *chairman*.

It is expected that ten conferences will be held in 1942, probably beginning on June 22.

Gibson Island is situated in Chesapeake Bay about 20 miles south of Baltimore. It is approximately 1,000 acres in area and is connected with the mainland by a causeway. The island is privately controlled and admission to it is only by card from the Gibson Island Club. In addition to the club and the property purchased by the association, there are about 80 private residences on the island, leaving most of it quite uninhabited and covered by forests. The island offers opportunity for golf, tennis, both salt and fresh water bathing, fishing and sailing.

The property purchased by the association consists of a large residence and auxiliary buildings on a wooded lot 3.6 acres in area situated on the highest hill on the island. The conferences are held on a large

screened porch that can be darkened enough to permit of the use of projection equipment in the day time. The house provides accommodations for about 25 men. Others attending the conferences, including those who are accompanied by their wives, live at the club. All meals are taken at the club.

Substantial gifts by industrial companies whose laboratories have been represented at the Gibson Island conferences have enabled the association to purchase the property. Each contributing company has the right to have a representative at each conference. This is a substantial right because there have been many more applicants for admission to the conferences than can be accepted unless the limit of 60 that has been set is exceeded. It has been felt by the participants that to make the conferences larger would take from them something of the informality and intimate contacts that have made them valuable. The companies that have so far contributed to the project are as follows:

Atlantic Coast Fisheries Company, New York City.

The Barrett Company, New York City.

Davison Chemical Corporation, Baltimore, Md.

Distillation Products, Inc., Rochester, N. Y.

Ethyl Gasoline Corporation, New York City.

General Electric Company, Schenectady, N. Y.

B. F. Goodrich Company, Akron, Ohio.

Hereules Powder Company, Inc., Wilmington, Del.

Merek and Company, Inc., Rahway, N. J.

Monsanto Chemical Company, St. Louis, Mo.

Norton Company, Worcester, Mass.

Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company, Barberton, Ohio.

Standard Brands, Inc., New York City.

Standard Oil Development Company, Elizabeth, N. J.

The Texas Company, New York City.

Since the conferences have now been provided a permanent home it has been suggested that the whole project be known as the *A. A. A. S. Research Institute*. In order that it may be guided with the maximum wisdom a Policy Committee has been set up, consisting of the director of the conferences, the chairman and vice-chairman of each conference, representing the association, and a representative appointed by each of the contributing companies. The first meeting of the Policy Committee will be held on September 9 at Atlantic City at the time of the meeting of the American Chemical Society.

## THE SOUTHWESTERN DIVISION

By Dr. FRANK E. E. GERMANN

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

THE twenty-first annual meeting of the Southwestern Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science was held in conjunction with

nine associated societies at Lubbock, Texas, during the week of April 28, 1941. The associated societies were the Council of Texas Archaeologists, the Clearing