public and to specialists. Distinguished American and Canadian scholars will offer the results of their cultural interests and pursuits in those fields to which the university has devoted its century of service: Classics, English, Romance Languages; History, Law, Sociology, Education, Economics; Philosophy, Psychology; Biology, Chemistry and Physics. On Tuesday evening there will be a dinner at the Waldorf Astoria. On Wednesday morning, following the academic procession, delegates appointed from colleges, universities and learned societies will be presented to the president, trustees and faculties of the university, and a number of honorary degrees will be conferred.

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association reports that a grant of $52,000 from the Rockefeller Foundation for a cooperative program of research in biology and medicine to be conducted by the Mayo Foundation, Rochester, Minn., and the University of Minnesota has been received by the board of regents of the university. The gift will be used in the study of radioactive isotopes as tracers of fundamental biologic mechanisms. Under the direction of Dr. John T. Tate, members of the staff of the university and the Mayo Foundation have conducted this research since 1937, when a grant of $36,000 was awarded by the foundation. The university has also received from the foundation a grant of $17,000 to support research in the field of biophysics under the direction of Dr. Otto H. Schmitt, instructor in physics and biology.

ATLANTA UNIVERSITY, Georgia, will open this month a School of Library Science, made possible by a grant of $150,000 for endowment by the Carnegie Corporation of New York. To the income from this grant the university is adding money from other sources. The school will be of the class designated as Type II, that is, one requiring graduation from an accredited four-year college for admission, and offering a one-year professional course for the training of librarians. The annual enrolment will be limited approximately to twenty-five students whose academic records and personal qualities seem to indicate that they will succeed as professional librarians.

DISCUSSION

REORGANIZATION AT THE LOS ANGELES MUSEUM

SCIENTISTS throughout the world look to two agencies for the preservation and continuance of scientific phenomena, the great libraries and the great museums. The museum has come to be not only a place of exhibition but a repository of valuable scientific specimens, especially of types and co-types, requiring curators who are specialized in the abilities to classify and to organize such materials as may come under their stewardship. Among the several museums of America, one of the most important in many respects, because of its unique position in the Pacific Southwest, is the Los Angeles County Museum of History, Science and Art.

This museum was brought into existence on February 7, 1910, by a contract entered into between the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and four local organizations, namely, The Historical Society of Southern California, The Fine Arts League, The Southern Division of The Cooper Ornithological Club and The Southern California Academy of Sciences. According to this agreement these organizations were given the right to choose seven of the nine members of a board of governors, which was to administer the affairs of the museum. In January, 1918, this contract was amended to allow a gift of the Brea Beds, now Hancock Park, to be added under the supervision of the Los Angeles Museum.

A short time ago *Museum News* gave a very condensed account of certain changes that were to occur at the Los Angeles Museum. Because of its incompleteness, and because of the interest evidenced throughout the nation in this reorganization, it is regarded as timely to add a few remarks herein.

In 1938 the County Board of Supervisors, at the advice of counsel, declared the original contract invalid by appointing a new board of governors consisting of 15 members, none being chosen or suggested by the founding societies. Only one member on the present board remains as the chosen representative of a founding society. The same ordinance provided for the following directors: Finance and Operation, History and Anthropology, Science, Art, and Art Instruction. In 1939 a new ordinance established a director in charge and specified that the divisional directors should constitute themselves as an advisory council for the consideration of interdivisional matters and for other purposes concerning the best interests of the institution, reporting semi-monthly through the director in charge to the board of governors, its powers being recommendatory only.

In 1940 the ordinance establishing the administrative council was repealed, which made it possible to effect a complete and radical reorganization without consulting the directors of the several divisions. In April of this year the directors of history and science learned, through newspaper clippings, that such a change was scheduled to go into effect. The ordinance (as of May 22, 1941) which brings these changes provides for the abolition of the division of history, science and art and creates in lieu thereof the divisions

of exhibitions and education. The personnel of the former divisions are distributed to the two new divisions, with certain eliminations inevitable in the shake-up.

The staffs in history and science are drastically cut by a system of transfers. Demotions of the professional and technical personnel are made in all divisions, which includes directors, senior curators and curators, the latter reduced to curatorial assistants. Without cause, men and women of high scholastic standing and national reputation have been demoted. There have been no hearings, no impartial investigations.

It becomes apparent that a complete change is effected in the basic structure and functions of the museum which is at wide variance with the plan of the founders. In effect, it becomes a museum of exhibitions, art instruction and "education." The latter function serves principally as an instructing agency for the schools, and for circulating study materials. Both of these agencies have been carried on by the museum, under other names, since 1927, and supplements a similar activity of the Visual Education Section of the Los Angeles City School system. The directors of history and science have stated to the writer that in the past there has been no dearth of instructors to meet the needs of educational groups.

Following this action of the board of supervisors there developed such an avalanche of protesting letters and resolutions that the board of governors of the museum has appointed a special committee to investigate the matter. Chief among the protesting groups are the founding societies, who have a legal as well as scientific interest in the museum and who feel that the abrogation of their contract is ill advised and is working to the detriment of science in Southern California. Other protesting groups are the Southern California Academy of Sciences and the Federation of Natural Sciences of Southern California. To date some forty organizations have joined in this crusade against the crippling of science in the Los Angeles Museum.

It is gratifying to note with what high respect the research at the Los Angeles Museum is held by scientists throughout America, and it is hoped that the administrating and legislating boards in control thereof will keep the museum out of politics and treat with due regard those scientists who are striving to create in this cultural center a respect-worthy museum.

Committee of the Founder Societies of the Los Angeles County Museum of History, Science and Art

A. W. BELL, *Chairman*

BLOOD GROUP SPECIFIC SUBSTANCES AND BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS[1]

SINCE Landsteiner's classical investigations, the human race can be divided in four main groups according to their blood properties. The importance of the group-specific differentiation becomes apparent from the fact that not only the blood cells and spermatozoa but organs and tissue cells exhibit the group-specific characteristics. Such characteristics are also demonstrable in secreta and excreta. A complex carbohydrate-like substance with A-specific activity has been isolated by several investigators.

The specificity of this substance is shown by the "inhibition of agglutination" test as the combination of the A-specific substance, and the anti-A antibody present in normal human serum is usually not followed by visible precipitation. The subsequent addition of A blood cells to such a mixture constitutes the only way to prove that neutralization of the antibody has occurred; A cells are no longer agglutinated.

Blood of a homologous group is commonly used for transfusion purposes. Some thirty years ago, Ottenberg proposed that blood of group 0 could be used as universal blood because the blood cells of group 0 are not agglutinated by any normal human serum, except in very rare instances. Some large clinics use 0 blood in emergency cases and apparently are satisfied with their results. However, there are quite a few reports in the literature on severe reactions and even fatalities following the use of 0 blood in patients not belonging to group 0. These reactions are frequently attributed to the interaction of high-titered isoantibodies present in serum of group 0 and the cell properties of the patient. As a matter of fact, many institutions have abandoned the use of universal donor's blood.

In order to overcome the objection against the use of the universal donor as far as it is based on the presence of potent isoantibodies, we tried to add the isolated group-specific substances. At the beginning of our work only the A substance was available. The addition of the isolated A substance in amounts as small as 25 mg or less proved practically to be sufficient to neutralize the anti-A antibodies present in 500 cc of 0 blood.[2]

For the neutralization of the anti-B antibody present in 0 blood fluid, the B substance was needed. However, knowledge of the B-specific substance was very scant. Hallauer[3] had reported extracts of blood

[1] From the Buffalo General Hospital and the Department of Pathology and Bacteriology, University of Buffalo School of Medicine.

[2] E. Witebsky, N. Klendshoj and P. Swanson, *Jour. Infect. Diseases*, 67: 188–192, November-December, 1940.

[3] C. Hallauer, *Zeits. Immunitätsforsch.*, 83: 114, 1934.