

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

DAMAGE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON AND ITS HOSPITALS

IN his annual report, the principal of the University of London, according to the London correspondent of the *Journal* of the American Medical Association, H. L. Earson, states that the intensive air raids on London fully justified the policy of dispersal adopted by the schools of the university in the summer of 1939. The damage to university buildings has been so severe and widespread that if the schools had been in London the work would have virtually come to an end for a time. The two most important schools are University College and King's College, which are each attached to a great hospital. University College has been repeatedly attacked by high explosive and incendiary bombs, and a large part of its buildings have been destroyed. About a hundred thousand of its books in the library have been damaged beyond repair by fire and water. King's College has been damaged to a less extent, but two of its hostels and its library have been severely damaged. About one third of Bedford College (for women) has been destroyed by fire. Birkbeck College has been damaged twice, many laboratories, the operating room, books and equipment being destroyed. Damage to a less degree has been done to King's College of Household and Social Science, the Imperial College of Science and Technology and the School of Oriental Studies. The London School of Hygiene has been severely damaged by high explosives.

The hospitals of the medical schools of the university have been severely damaged almost without exception, but, owing to the decentralization of staff, students and patients under the emergency medical service, medical education has been maintained at a high level. The Medical School of St. Bartholomew's Hospital has been almost completely destroyed, and the London School of Medicine for Women has been damaged considerably. The buildings of other medical schools have sustained little damage. Notwithstanding decentralization and delays and difficulties due to disturbance of communications, the work of the university has been maintained at a high level. The number of internal students in 1939-1940 was 25 per cent. less than in 1938-1939 and this year will probably be 40 per cent. below the prewar figure. In spite of exile in strange places and air raids, the performance of students at examinations has little changed, the percentage of passes and honors being much the same as in peacetime.

THE MOUNT DESERT ISLAND BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY

THE Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory officially closed its forty-fourth season on September

15. At the annual meeting of the laboratory corporation the following officers were elected: Ulric Dahlgren, Princeton University, *president*; Dwight E. Minnich, University of Minnesota, *vice-president*; John Whitcomb, Bar Harbor, *treasurer*; J. Wendell Burger, Trinity College, *secretary*; Roy P. Forster, Dartmouth College, director of the laboratories. William H. Cole, Rutgers University, and Homer W. Smith, New York University, were elected to serve with the president, director and treasurer on the executive committee.

At the annual meeting of the corporation the following trustees were elected to serve until 1944: U. Dahlgren, Princeton University; J. W. Burger, Trinity College; H. Bumpus, Waban, Mass.; G. Dorr and J. Whitcomb, Bar Harbor. Twelve new members were admitted to the corporation.

The laboratory plant was enlarged during the year by the construction of a new fresh-water laboratory which houses two separate research units. A plan was provided whereby the laboratory will lease some of its shore property at a nominal annual fee to active research workers for use in constructing homes. One home has been completed under this plan and another will be finished by the opening of next season.

THE PAN AMERICAN CONGRESS OF MINING ENGINEERING AND GEOLOGY

THE first Pan American Congress of Mining Engineering and Geology will be held at Santiago, Chile, during the first fortnight of January, 1942, under the auspices of the Chilean Institute of Mining Engineers, and officially sponsored by the Government of Chile.

The purposes of the congress, as stated in Article 2 of its regulations, are:

To demonstrate the progress achieved in mining and geology on the American Continent.

To analyze and consider solutions of the more important problems in this part of the world in the fields of mining and geology.

To promote a closer friendship and a permanent interchange of opinions and ideas among mining engineers and geologists of the Americas.

Attendance at the congress is open to interested parties who may register as members before December 1, in the following categories:

Official delegates designated by the various governments and duly accredited representatives of institutions.

Graduate mining engineers and geologists who may apply for membership.

Professional and non-professional persons who may be especially invited.

Persons who may wish to attend the congress and whose applications for membership may be accepted by the Membership Committee.