

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.

In addition to the above, the congress may designate honorary members.

The agenda consists of an ample coverage of various topics under eight heads as follows: Mining, Geology, Fuels, Ore Dressing and Ore Concentration, Metallurgy, Nitrate, Mining Policy, Legislation and Economy and Mining Education.

The proceedings of the congress will be conducted in Spanish, English and Portuguese, and interpreters will be made available to the members. Various tours will be arranged, which will take the members through the most interesting mining regions of Chile. The Embassy of Chile in Washington, D. C., will furnish additional information upon request.

THE ATTACK ON THE CITY COLLEGE SYSTEM OF NEW YORK CITY

DR. WALTER RAUTENSTRAUCH, chairman of the New York Branch of the American Association of Scientific Workers, has sent to *SCIENCE* a copy of resolutions passed by the branch on the situation in the colleges of the City of New York, the first and last of which read:

The New York Branch of the American Association of Scientific Workers has observed with deep misgivings the situation arising out of the proceedings of the Board of Higher Education, following the investigations by the Rapp-Coudert Committee of so-called subversive activities in the New York City Colleges. The evidence available points to the dismaying conclusion that the recommendations of the board, based on the committee's alleged findings, negate the fundamental civil and legal rights of the accused, and by tending to suppress freedom of thought and expression of both students and teachers, undermine the morale and seriously impair the educational effectiveness of the City Colleges.

In the light of these circumstances the members of the New York Branch of the American Association of Scientific Workers, as citizens concerned with the preservation of our democratic institutions, vigorously protest against the actions of the Board of Higher Education affecting the accused teachers and administrative workers of the City Colleges. As scientists, moreover, cherishing those conditions of free inquiry and adherence to objective fact so indispensable to the life of science, we are profoundly alarmed by the evidence of bias and unfairness, indeed of inquisitorial methods, in the hearings of the Rapp-Coudert Committee, which furnished the so-called evidence upon which the board acted. We consider it imperative that the Board of Higher Education reconsider its actions in this matter, and reinstate with full back pay all accused individuals pending fair and open hearings on the validity of the charges against them.

GREETINGS OF SOVIET MATHEMATICIANS TO AMERICAN MATHEMATICIANS

THERE was printed in the issue of *SCIENCE* for October 10 a letter of greetings sent to mathematicians

of Soviet Russia from ninety-three American mathematicians. An answer from Moscow dated October 7 has been received. It reads:

Your splendid message, dear colleagues, found wide response in the hearts of the scientists of our country. We read it with feelings of all the more appreciation and satisfaction in that it again emphasized the community of thoughts and the friendly ties between the mathematicians of the USA and the USSR. Many years we jointly worked with you on the development of our science, many of our American colleagues were our welcomed guests, while with a still greater number of American scientists we conduct friendly scientific correspondence. This mutual cooperation was very fruitful and led to a number of important scientific discoveries.

In recent years our country became the center of gravity for eminent European mathematicians who were forced to flee the lands downtrodden by the hell of Nazi barbarians.

Our country, too, is subjected to the invasion of these gloomy medieval forces. The Hitlerites seek to smash the USSR in order to afterwards make their forces available for also destroying your great country. The fight now being waged by our people is the fight for the progress of all mankind, for everything advanced, the fight for the flourishing of civilization and of science.

Our science, too, has been placed at the service of our country for the destruction of Nazism. Soviet mathematicians, like all Soviet scientists, participate in this fight in common with the whole people. This struggle of Soviet scientists is the common cause of the scientists of all democracies, against the fiend who shoots children, burns libraries, smashes universities and destroys science.

On this momentous day your message, dear friends, has been received by us as the proof of the unity of Soviet and American scientists and their determination to fight the twentieth century vandals till the end.

Let the friendship of the Soviet and the American scientists be the surety of the friendship of our great nations, the surety of the victory of democracy over the dark forces of Hitlerism.

Among the sixty-four are: A. Sobolev, director of the Steklov Mathematical Institute of the Academy of Sciences, USSR; P. Alexandrov, president of the Moscow Mathematical Society, and corresponding members of the Academy of Sciences, USSR, the Ukrainian Academy, professors and readers of the Universities at Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev, Odessa, Kazan, Tomsk, and professors in various other institutes.

PRIORITY RATING GIVEN TO RESEARCH LABORATORIES

THE substance of a ruling from the Office of Production Management is given in the *Bulletin* of the Society for Testing Materials. Attention is called to