

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

the fact that this rating recognizes the great importance of scientific research in the present National Defense program. The priority rating of A-2 was granted for equipment needed by research laboratories.

The Priorities Division has secured the assistance of the National Academy of Sciences in the operation of the new Research Laboratories Supplies Plan. The academy will advise upon applications from laboratories for assistance under the plan.

A laboratory experiencing difficulty in securing essential materials, and wishing to qualify for the A-2 rating, should apply to the Chemical Branch, Office of Production Management, Washington, D. C., on Form PD-88.

The preference rating may be extended as far as necessary to assure ultimate delivery of scarce materials to the laboratory. A laboratory, when applying for the rating, should specify the number of copies of the order which will be necessary to enable its suppliers to serve them upon their own sub-suppliers. No extensions of the rating to suppliers will be made directly by the Priorities Division. This must be done by the laboratory itself.

In the event that the laboratory finds itself unable to obtain some essential material with the A-2 rating, it should file an application with the Priorities Division on Form PD-1. If the research project is deemed of sufficient importance, the Priorities Division will issue an individual preference rating certificate, assigning a higher rating to a particular delivery of specified material.

All correspondence should be with the OPM Chemical Branch, and not with the National Academy of Sciences.

It is also stated in the *Bulletin* that the fourth in the group of subcommittees which comprises the Advisory Committee on Metals and Minerals appointed by the National Academy of Sciences to cooperate with the Office of Production Management has been organized and the personnel announced; this is the subcommittee on nonmetallic minerals. Groups were formed previously on ferrous minerals and ferroalloys, metals conservation and substitution and tin smelting. Clyde E. Williams, director of the Battelle Memorial Institute, is chairman of the main advisory committee.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Frederic Ives Medal of the Optical Society of America was presented on October 24 to Dr. Selig Hecht, professor of biophysics in Columbia University, in recognition of "distinguished work in the field of optics" at the twenty-sixth annual meeting of the society in New York City. Dr. Kasson S. Gibson, president of the society, presented the medal, which was founded in 1928 by Dr. Herbert E. Ives, of the Bell Telephone Laboratories, in memory of his father. Previous recipients of the medal include Professor A. H. Pfund, the Johns Hopkins University; Dr. Herbert E. Ives; the late Professor George Ellery Hale, the Mount Wilson Observatory; Professor Robert W. Wood, the Johns Hopkins University; Professor Theodore Lyman, Harvard University, and the late Professor Edward L. Nichols, Cornell University.

D. ROBERT YARNALL, mechanical engineer of Philadelphia, Pa., has been selected as the fifth recipient of the Hoover Medal. The medal will be presented to Mr. Yarnall during the annual meeting of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers in New York City, which will be held from December 1 to 5, with the following citation: "D. Robert Yarnall, humanitarian, engineer and a leader in the engineering profession, who rendered outstanding service as a member of a mission that fed the children of Germany at the end of the World War and that is now aiding

refugees in this country and Europe and providing food and relief for the children and mothers of France. These distinguished public services have earned for him the Hoover Medal for 1941." The medal was formally instituted on April 8, 1930, during the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, to commemorate the civic and humanitarian achievements of Herbert Hoover, to whom the first award was made. It was awarded to Dr. Ambrose Swasey in 1936, to John Frank Stevens in 1938 and to Gano Dunn in 1939.

DR. GEORGE W. CORNER, director of the department of embryology of the Carnegie Institution of Washington at Baltimore, has been elected a foreign corresponding member of the National Academy of Medicine of Argentina.

DR. CARL EPLING, professor of botany of the University of California at Los Angeles, will give the Faculty Research Lecture for the academic year 1941-42. This lecture is given annually by "an outstanding scholar or scientific man who has made significant contributions to the world's knowledge."

At Yale University Dr. Alan M. Bateman, professor of economic geology, has been made Silliman professor of geology. Emeritus professors Horace S.