

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE POLISH INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

It is reported in *The New York Times* that there has been established in New York City, with headquarters at 37 East 36th Street, a "Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America," composed of members of the original Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences who are now in this country. The official opening of the institute, which has been formed to "insure continuity of Polish cultural life which the Nazis seek to exterminate," took place on May 15. Professor B. Malinowski, of Yale University,¹ represented the new board of the institute. Professor O. Halecki, formerly dean of the Faculty of Arts in the University of Warsaw and now a visiting professor of history at Vassar College, has been named director of the institute. Professor R. Taubenschlag, formerly dean of the Faculty of Law in the University of Cracow, now associate professor in the New School for Social Research, will be the associate director. After the war the institute will be taken over by the Polish academy as a permanent institution promoting intellectual cooperation between America and Poland.

The audience, numbering about two hundred, was addressed by Jan Ciechanowski, Polish Ambassador to the United States. Others who spoke were Dr. W. G. Leland, director of the American Council of Learned Societies and president of the International Union of Academies; Professor Halvden Koht, formerly Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs; Paul Super, formerly director of the American YMCA in Poland; Professor Oscar Halecki, director, and Professor Raphael Taubenschlag, associate director.

Congratulatory messages were received from leaders of the Polish Government in exile, including President Wladyslaw Raczewicz and Premier Wladyslaw Sikorski.

THE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING OF NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY, in cooperation with Adelphi College, has established a Day Division of its College of Engineering on the Garden City campus of Adelphi, and will open freshman classes for men and women on June 29.

The evening division of the College of Engineering, which was established at Adelphi in February, will be continued. The opening of the day division marks the inauguration of fully accredited engineering study for day students on Long Island, and under the plan of operation it will be the first coeducational engineering program in metropolitan New York.

The engineering classes will be conducted on the

¹ Dr. Malinowski died on May 16.

"war speed-up plan" already adopted by many engineering schools throughout the nation. Classes will begin on June 29 and run through the summer and fall terms of 1942, and through the spring and summer of 1943. After this period of 14 months, students will have completed the first two years of engineering study, and will be qualified to continue study as third-year students. At the same time, however, the 14 months of study will qualify students for many sub-professional positions with war industries, for civil service positions and for advanced study in other scientific fields. In a statement made by Dean Thorndike Saville this two-year "terminal" feature of the program has been introduced in recognition of the changing demands being made upon education.

The urgent need for engineering specialists commissioned in the military services and for technically trained personnel in our war industries makes it desirable that in carrying out the vitally important task of educating more professional engineers, we do not overlook the value of the first two years of engineering as a means of training sub-professional engineering personnel for both war and peacetime service with industry.

The administrators of both Adelphi College and New York University recognize both these national needs and hope to pioneer the field in meeting it with the establishment of the day division at Garden City, together with the operation of the evening division in engineering.

The plan provides that students will conclude their degree training at the University Heights center of the university, where junior and senior year instruction will be given, following the work at Garden City.

The need for highly specialized engineering laboratory study in the last two years makes it impossible to conduct these courses at Garden City. At University Heights the College of Engineering maintains five buildings devoted to technological and scientific laboratories, wind-tunnels, observatories, and administrative, aeronautical, chemical, civil, electrical, mechanical engineering and meteorology. The duplication of such facilities on Long Island would be impossible at this time.

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN

IN the thirty-first annual report of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, which has just appeared, the director, Dr. C. Stuart Gager, calls attention to the fact that the garden is within ten minutes' walk, or less, of the geographic center of Brooklyn. This accounts, in part, for the attendance, in 1941, of more than 1,753,000 persons. This large attendance, it is pointed out, is doubtless also due to the fact that each year the grounds become more and more beautiful. The attendance of classes from the schools of all boroughs was

more than 116,000—the largest in the history of the garden.

The services which the garden renders to the city are many and varied. During 1941, more than 1,050,000 packets of seeds were distributed to school children for planting in school and home gardens, and the amount of vegetables raised in the "Children's Garden," a special area of about three quarters of an acre, is impressive. Each year, for the past three years, the crop there has included, for example, more than a ton of tomatoes. The "Children's Garden" is, however, conducted primarily as an educational activity, the crop of vegetables and flowers being considered of secondary importance.

The Brooklyn Garden administers one of the largest programs of public education of any botanic garden in the world. The entire staff of experts functions as a bureau of free public information and the number of requests for information increases yearly in number and variety.

The work of the garden falls under two heads, the increase of our knowledge of plant life—especially the practical knowledge of plant diseases and plant breeding and the dissemination of technical and popular information to the general public. A library of more than 40,000 volumes and pamphlets on all aspects of plant life is open daily to the public.

Of an operating budget for 1941 of \$182,266, the city provided 51 per cent., and the trustees of the institute provided for the remainder out of private funds. During six of the past eight years the trustees have provided more than half the cost of maintenance and development.

The director calls attention to the urgent need of a suitable gate at the main entrance on Eastern Parkway and also to the need of an addition to the laboratory building to accommodate the rapidly expanding activities and the increasing collections of the library and herbarium and to provide for continually increasing educational demands.

THE NUTRITION FOUNDATION

DR. KARL T. COMPTON, president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Nutrition Foundation, announced on May 20 that the foundation had awarded grants of \$125,000 for fundamental research in the science of nutrition.

George A. Sloan, president of the foundation, reported the election of the National Dairy Products Corporation as a founder member and the election of its president, L. A. Van Bomel, as a member of the board of trustees. Dr. Lloyd K. Riggs, of National Dairy Products, and Dr. J. T. Knowles, in charge of the Chicago Laboratory of Libby, McNeill and Libby,

were appointed members of the food industries advisory committee.

Dr. Compton said that the board had considered a large group of applications with reference to three primary objectives, which the board wishes particularly to support under present conditions: (1) their contribution to our war effort; (2) their immediate advantage to public health; (3) their long-time advancement of the fundamental science of nutrition—the kind of exploratory research that will lay the foundation for better health and scientific guidance in the food industry of to-morrow. The grants were recommended to the board of trustees by Dr. Charles Glen King, scientific director, after appraisal by the scientific advisory committee of the foundation.

The companies whose contributions as founder members are making this program possible include, to date: American Can Company, Beech-Nut Packing Company, California Packing Company, Campbell Soup Company, The Coca-Cola Company, Continental Can Company, Inc., Corn Products Refining Company, General Foods Corporation, H. J. Heinz Company, Libby, McNeill and Libby, National Biscuit Company, National Dairy Products Corporation, Owens-Illinois Glass Company, The Quaker Oats Company, Standard Brands, Inc., Swift and Company and the United Fruit Company.

Dr. F. G. Boudreau, of the Milbank Memorial Fund, in addressing the members of the board of trustees, said:

Progress in the science of nutrition has far outrun its application for the benefit of society. Much more has been done for animals than for human beings. Scientific feeding of live stock has paid high dividends. Scientific feeding of human beings would pay big dividends of a different kind. If all that we know about nutrition were applied to modern society, the result would be enormous improvement in public health, at least equal to that which resulted when the germ-theory of infectious disease was made the basis of public health and medical work.

THE AMERICAN PHYTOPATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

THE summer meeting of the American Phytopathological Society will be held on June 25 and 26 at the Secor Hotel, Toledo, Ohio. Dr. H. C. Young, chief of the department of botany and plant pathology of the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station at Wooster, is chairman of the "program and arrangements" committee for the meeting.

The program will be based largely on the activities of the War Emergency Committee of the American Phytopathological Society. The meeting will open at 10 A.M., on June 25, with reports and discussions on "The Role of Plant Pathologists in the War Pro-