

### MATHEMATICIANS AND THE WAR

THE following cablegram has been sent to SCIENCE from Dr. A. Kolmogorov, a member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR at Moscow:

All trials of the patriotic war which our country is waging against Hitlerism haven't stopped the intensive work of Soviet mathematicians. In Moscow and in all other towns mathematical research institutes are working full speed, lectures are being delivered at universities, scientific societies are meeting, mathematical journals are being printed.

Many young Soviet mathematicians are bravely fighting German vandals at the front. Nevertheless they keep in touch with science. In the last issues of *Doklady* of the Academy of Sciences, USSR, several notes have been printed by W. Smulian, "Acting Red Army," which he has written at the front. The last works by D. Raikov were written in the hospital where he was recovering after having been wounded at the battle of Moscow in the autumn of 1941.

The number of mathematicians that are working at mathematical war problems necessary for defense of our country increases daily. Stalin prizes were assigned in 1941 to mathematicians Christianovitch and Kelych for works on aerodynamics connected with problems of plane structure. Many mathematicians who had formerly devoted themselves to the purely abstract domains of our science—number theory, mathematical logic, topology, functional analysis—are now steadily working on problems of aerodynamics. Many of our well-known mathematicians are working at military plants and artillery polygons. We are full of admiration for the splendid and productive work of American mathematicians in all branches of our science. We are enchanted with the careful, irreproachable issues of English mathematical journals throughout all the terrible air raids, but we are especially satisfied when we read in the *Bulletin* of the American Mathematical Society that American mathematicians are beginning to concentrate their attention on war problems. All the future of our splendid science and the fate of humanity depend now on success in the struggle against war, and, in the first place, against German aggression. The sooner the aggressors are crushed,

the sooner shall we mathematicians be able to meet at our next international congress and freely renew our peaceful work.

### IN HONOR OF HENRY GRANGER KNIGHT

THE American Institute of Chemists has passed the following resolution in honor of Henry Granger Knight, past president of the institute.

WHEREAS, We, the National Council of The American Institute of Chemists, Inc., have learned with deepest sorrow of the death of our associate and friend, Dr. Henry Granger Knight, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Knight as a teacher has imbued many young men with an enthusiasm for chemistry and an appreciation of its importance to humanity, and

WHEREAS, as Chief of the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, now the Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering of the United States Department of Agriculture, he has been of inestimable value to the agricultural industry of the United States and through it to every American citizen, and

WHEREAS, as President of The American Institute of Chemists, he gave evidence of his interest in the individual chemist as a medium for the advancement of successful civilization, and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his noteworthy and outstanding service to the science of chemistry and the profession of the chemist in America, The American Institute of Chemists, Inc., did bestow upon him its annual medal, and

WHEREAS, his high sense of honor, his upright character and his clear judgment will ever be an inspiration to us, and

WHEREAS, his lovable nature, his cheerfulness, and his kind and thoughtful qualities will ever be remembrances of his friendliness,

Therefore, be it Resolved, that the Council of The American Institute of Chemists, Inc., hereby records its lasting appreciation and deep sense of loss of one who has been a true friend of chemists; and that our sympathy be extended to his family; and that a copy of these resolutions be spread upon the minutes of the National Council of The American Institute of Chemists, Inc.

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DURING his visit to Mexico, Peru, Chile, Argentina and Uruguay from February to August, 1942, Dr. George D. Birkhoff, Perkins professor of mathematics at Harvard University, attended the inaugurations of the Observatories at Tonantzintla, Mexico, and Busque Allegre in Argentina, as delegate, and gave lectures on mathematical, physical and philosophical topics in a number of universities in these countries. He was incorporated formally as honorary member of the faculties of the National University of San Marcos at Lima and of the University of Chile, and received

the degree of doctor, *honoris causa*, at the University of Buenos Aires. He was also made a corresponding member of the National Academy of the Mathematical, Physical and Exact Sciences at Buenos Aires, and was incorporated as honorary member of the Peruvian Philosophical Society, of the Scientific Union of Argentina and of the Mathematical Society of Argentina.

RALPH W. FREY, research chemist of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, has been given the W. K. Alsop Award by the American Leather Chemists As-