

of zoology and comparative anatomy at the University of Zurich, and of Professor A. K. Cajander, formerly professor of forestry in the University of Helsinki and director-general of the State Board of Forestry in Finland, Prime Minister of Finland from 1922 to 1924 and from 1938 to 1939, on January 21, aged sixty-three years.

THE New York Academy of Medicine, in cooperation with the State Department of Health, the City Department of Health and six of the leading voluntary organizations in the fields of maternal welfare and child health, celebrated on February 19 the one-hundredth anniversary of the publication by Oliver Wendell Holmes of his paper entitled "The Contagiousness of Puerperal Fever." In connection with this celebration a full day's program of conferences and discussions was held. The principal speakers at the evening meeting were Dr. Reginald Fitz, of Boston, and Dr. Benjamin P. Watson, director of the Sloane Hospital for Women, New York.

*Nature* reports that to commemorate the birth, on March 3, 1843, of the distinguished metallurgist, Sir William Chandler Roberts-Austen, the British Insti-

tution of Mechanical Engineers, the Iron and Steel Institute and the Institute of Metals have arranged a lecture on his life and work, to be given by Dr. S. W. Smith.

THE section of historical and cultural medicine of the New York Academy of Medicine sponsored a Vesalius Celebration on January 13 to honor the quadricentenary of the publication of "De Humani Corporis Fabrica (1543)." The speakers were Drs. Arturo Castiglioni, Baltimore, on "Andreas Vesalius, Professor in the Medical School in Padua" and Henry E. Sigerist, of the Johns Hopkins University, on "The Position of Vesalius in the History of Medicine." There was an exhibit of books of Vesalius from the library of the academy.

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association states that the chancellor and president of the University of Toronto and members of the university staff recently accompanied Lady Banting to Mount Pleasant Cemetery to place a wreath on Sir Frederick's tomb. The occasion marked the fifty-first birthday anniversary of Sir Frederick, codiscoverer of insulin.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### BRITISH COLONIAL PRODUCTS RESEARCH

THE Colonial Office has announced the appointment of a Colonial Products Research Council, with Lord Hankey as chairman. *The Times*, London, states that one of the functions of the Colonial Research Committee, which was set up last year under the chairmanship of Lord Hailey, was to review the whole field of research as it affects the Colonial Empire and to make recommendations for filling gaps in the existing organization for conducting such research. The new council fills one such gap.

Unlike the Colonial Research Committee, the council will be an executive body. It will consider what colonial raw materials may be made of value for the manufacture of intermediate and other products required by industry and it will initiate and supervise researches, both pure and applied, on such products, and generally consider how by the application of research greater use can be made of them.

In framing its program the council will have as its principal objective the promotion of the welfare and prosperity of Colonial peoples, and will endeavor also to increase the colonial contribution to the welfare and prosperity of the British Empire and of the world as a whole.

In carrying out its program, the council will cooperate with existing institutes, such as the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, the Medical Re-

search Council and the Agricultural Research Council, to the greatest possible extent, and will "farm out" work to these and other bodies by arrangement; it will set up facilities of its own only for work which can not be done by other means. It will be appreciated of course that so long as the war continues, the investigations which the council will be able to undertake will necessarily be limited.

The council is composed as follows: Eric Barnard, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research; G. L. M. Clauson, Colonial Office; Aneurin Davies; Dr. J. J. Fox, Government Chemist; Professor W. N. Haworth; Sir Harry Lindsay, director of the Imperial Institute; Sir Edward Mellanby, Medical Research Council; Professor Sir Robert Robinson; G. W. Thomson, and Dr. W. W. C. Topley, Agricultural Research Council. Professor J. L. Simonsen, lately of the University College of North Wales, has been appointed director of research.

Certain members of the council are also members of the Colonial Research Committee and the council will work in close touch with that body. It will be financed out of the provision for research in the Colonial Development and Welfare Act.

### BIOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS

THE wide field which *Biological Abstracts* covers and the promptness with which its abstracts appear