

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

have made it an indispensable adjunct to every biological department. Individual workers are especially concerned with only a part of the whole field, however, and for them the possibility of subscribing to one or more sections has been a great advantage. For most of us, even a section is rather large, and some means of collecting references to papers in a narrower field is essential. This is usually accomplished by a card file of some sort. For a number of years the present writer has been clipping from two of the sections the abstracts in his own field of interest, and pasting them in the upper left corner of 5 x 8 cards. This provides an easily prepared and legible means of filing and a considerable space for further notes in each paper. Doubtless other workers are using the journal in a similar way. Often, of course, two abstracts which are desired will occur on opposite sides of the same sheet, making it impossible to clip both of them and requiring the copying of one. It is therefore fortunate that *Biological Abstracts* is now offering for workers who use the sections in this way two copies of any section at a much reduced rate, which will make it possible to clip abstracts regardless of their location. Many biologists will doubtless take advantage of this offer of a convenient and relatively cheap means of building their individual bibliographical files.

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THE COMMITTEE ON FOOD COMPOSITION OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

At the request of the Quartermaster General of the United States Army, the Food and Nutrition Board of the National Research Council has organized a Committee on Food Composition, Dr. C. A. Elvehjem, *Chairman*, to collect, coordinate and appraise food composition data. The committee is to act as the repository and point of dissemination for authentic data on all foods being used or considered for use by all branches of the Military Services.

Proximate and mineral composition as well as analyses for vitamins A, C, thiamine, riboflavin and niacin are required as a basis for nutritional evaluation of these foods. Data on new products, processed foods and dehydrated meats, fruits and vegetables especially are needed.

The committee has already enlisted the cooperation of Federal and State laboratories throughout the country. However, it is also aware that a great wealth of food composition data has been accumulated in the course of research and routine analyses by industrial laboratories.

It is the purpose of this communication to appeal to these laboratories of the food industries to make

their data active in the war effort. The committee assures that data received for this purpose will be handled with such reservations as should be exercised in the official utilization of this information by the Armed Services only.

Please address Dr. Paul L. Pavcek, Secretary, Committee on Food Composition, National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington, D. C.

COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL ON THE MAINTENANCE OF PURE GENETIC STRAINS

DURING the past year, the Committee on the Maintenance of Pure Genetic Strains, National Research Council, has held two meetings for the purpose of preparing a list of the more important mutant strains and inbred lines. Information gathered thus far can be summarized as follows.

"*Drosophila* Information Service," prepared by Dr. M. Demerec and issued by the Carnegie Institution of Washington at Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island, New York, lists 60 species, 2,000 different stocks and 93 laboratories throughout the world where stocks are maintained.

Mouse Genetic News, edited by Dr. George D. Snell and issued by the Roscoe B. Jackson Memorial Laboratory at Bar Harbor, Maine, lists 70 inbred strains of mice and 40 laboratories in the United States where stocks are maintained.

Dr. C. C. Little, the Roscoe B. Jackson Memorial Laboratory, has listed a few mutant and inbred strains of guinea-pigs, rabbits and rats, together with institutions in which they are being maintained.

Dr. Walter Landauer, Storrs Agricultural Experiment Station, the University of Connecticut, has prepared a list of poultry and pigeons which includes 47 or more inbred strains of fowl, 5 of turkeys, 16 inbred or mutant strains of pigeons and 17 institutions in the United States where stocks are maintained.

Dr. Myron Gordon, American Museum of Natural History, New York City, is assembling a list of cold-blooded vertebrates which includes 7 species of Xiphophorini with 28 characters and several species and genera of fish maintained in at least 10 institutions.

Dr. P. W. Whiting, Zoological Laboratory, University of Pennsylvania, is preparing a list of insects other than *Drosophila* which include Orthoptera, Lepidoptera, 3 species of Diptera with mutant types, *Apis mellifica* with mutant types, *Habrobracon juglandis* with mutant types, and 6 institutions in which one or more stocks are maintained.

L. T. WEBSTER,
Chairman

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MEDICAL RESEARCH