

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

At the recent annual meeting of the Board of Managers and the Corporation of the New York Botanical Garden, Dr. William J. Robbins, director of the garden, described how the war effort had been aided not only through the men from the staff who have gone into war service, but also by the furnishing of information to government agencies and to individuals concerned with effects of the war. It was made clear that it is because of the program carried on through years of peace in training men and accumulating botanical information and collections that the garden is able to respond effectively to war demands.

Dr. Robbins stated that despite the exigencies of the war situation, an effort was being made to keep the garden running on as nearly a normal scale as possible, particularly in the way of displays for the enjoyment of the public, in the pursuit of scientific work and in instruction. Because of the importance of the home culture of vegetables at this time, the garden has expanded its program in gardening education and has put on several new courses in vegetable gardening, two of which, given in cooperation with *The New York Times*, attracted audiences of 500 persons each.

In describing specific war services, Dr. Robbins said that the Office of Strategic Information had been furnished with photographs and special maps of areas in which the staff of the garden had collected plants in years past. Leaves of tropical trees for studies on camouflage have been furnished. Crude drugs, collected by the late Dr. H. H. Rusby more than forty years ago and preserved in the collections, have been supplied for chemical study. Six months from now new supplies can be obtained from South America. The only available supply of these materials at the moment is in the museum cases of the garden. Plants have been identified, information and other services pertaining to the war have been furnished to the Navy, the War Department, the Office of the Censor, to magazines, commercial firms and individuals.

In addition to the men who have joined the Army, Navy or Air Force, several in addition to former students have left for tropical regions, where they will be engaged at least for the duration of war in the study and production of critical plant products, such as rubber, quinine, sisal and many others.

Horticultural achievements of the past year include the planting of the Pelham Parkway entrance with 332 trees, the planting of 600 rhododendrons in their permanent places near the present rhododendron glade and the preparation for additional future plantings by making 29,000 cuttings of woody plants, lining out

15,000 other cuttings and setting 4,000 young plants out in the nursery.

Definite future plans include a new rose garden in the vicinity of the Main Conservatories, an addition to the greenhouse to provide for more extensive flower displays, new landscaping, a rearrangement of roadways and the construction of a restaurant and comfort station on the grounds.

THE AMERICAN PHYTOPATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

A SPECIAL committee appointed by President L. M. Hutchins opened and canvassed the official 1942 ballots of the American Phytopathological Society. As a result of this election, Dr. J. C. Walker, department of plant pathology of the University of Wisconsin, was elected president for 1943. Dr. J. J. Christensen, of the department of plant pathology of the University of Minnesota, was elected vice-president, and Dr. J. G. Leach, of the department of plant pathology and bacteriology of the University of West Virginia, was elected councilor for two years. The old and new officers and members of the council met at Columbus on February 12 and 13 to conduct necessary business. At the same time the War Committee of the society met and passed the following resolutions:

1. That in view of vital needs for increased food, feed, fiber and oil production—plant pathologists of the United States immediately undertake to get the 1943 recommendations for control of diseases of all war goal crops into active use, employing all available channels to that end.

2. The declaration of a nation-wide seed treatment campaign for the reduction of plant disease losses of the essential crops in the war production program with special emphasis on oats, barley, wheat, sorghum, flax, corn, cotton, peanuts and certain vegetable crops as a means of insuring against poor stands and as a means of stretching limited seed supplies.

3. That efforts be made to include established plant disease control recommendations into the action programs for achieving war crop goals.

4. That to prevent waste of vegetable seeds the War Committee of the American Phytopathological Society recommends that Victory gardeners protect their seed from decay and improve stands of plants by treating seeds with disinfectants known as Semesan or Spergon or in accordance with recommendations of their State Agricultural Extension Services and Experiment Stations.

5. That plant pathologists in each state be urged to make every effort to obtain information on the development of major disease hazards throughout the season with the aid of such other agencies and individuals as may be available, with a view to the issuance of timely warnings to growers and recommendations of immediate measures to be taken to check epidemics or to lessen losses that would otherwise result.