

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.

6. That the Seed Treatment Committee of the society be asked to prepare 1943 recommendations for the seed treatment of wheat, oats, barley, sorghum, flax and corn for distribution to all States.

7. That the Seed Treatment Committee be encouraged to work with seed producers and seedsmen with a view toward getting more seeds treated prior to distribution and sale, and/or getting directions for treatment printed on packages or packets and in seed catalogues.

8. That the Vegetable Seed Treatment Sub-committee of the society be asked to prepare seed treatment recommendations for Victory gardeners and for commercial vegetable growers and distribute to all States through the War Committee.

9. That the Seed Certification Committee's efforts to obtain the treatment of certified seed be endorsed.

10. That the Fungicide Committee of the War Committee be asked to distribute promptly a condensed statement of their present opinions as to measures for conserving fungicides.

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF CEREAL CHEMISTS

THE twenty-ninth annual meeting of the American Association of Cereal Chemists will be held at the Hotel Jefferson, St. Louis, from May 17 to 19. Five different phases of cereal technology will be under discussion, these being divided into the following subjects: Industrial Utilization of Cereals; Agronomy and Milling Technology; Brewing and Malting Technology; Baking Laboratory Methods and Baking Technology; The Firing Line with Cereals. The last subject will occupy the whole day on May 19.

Ex-Governor Herbert H. Lehman of New York, director of foreign relief and rehabilitation operations at Washington, will make an address on the opening day on "The Problems of Feeding Starved Nations."

Thirty-eight papers are scheduled for the program, the industrial utilization of cereals being emphasized throughout, thus giving to it a highly practical aspect. Among the topics to be discussed are The Bacterial Fermentation of Cereal Carbohydrates; The Distillation Industry in War and Peace; Industrial Utilization of Corn Proteins; Oil Products from Cereal Grains; Industrial Uses of Wheat Proteins; The Grading and Storage of Grains; Entomology and Insect Control of Grains; Practical Technical Applications and Control in Bread Baking; Macaroni and Noodle Manufacture, as well as in Cracker and Cookie Manufacture and Cake Baking, and the Application of Cereals in the Malt Industry. These general topics show the industrial character of the program. Other subjects of equal value in the chemistry of cereals and cereal technology will be presented.

A general invitation is extended to all who may be interested in attending the meetings to take part in the general discussion of the papers, for which an ample time allowance has been made.

GUGGENHEIM FELLOWSHIPS, 1943

BELIEVING that the continuous fostering of research and creative work is necessary for the development of the values that make civilization, for the sake of which the United States is at war, the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation in its annual awards of fellowships has announced the addition of sixty-four fellows to its lists. However, it is recognized that no institution can or ought to try to escape the great urgencies of these times, and accordingly all fellows have been informed that the use of their fellowships is subject to any war work or military or naval duties to which they may be called; but should any recipient of a fellowship be called into service his fellowship will be held for him until the war has been won. The number of fellowships awarded this year is considerably less than the number awarded in recent previous years and the foundation is reserving a part of its funds for fellowships for those now in the war effort who doubtless, but for that circumstance, would have applied for and have been granted fellowships this year.

The theme which underlies the diversified list of fellowships granted this year is the theme of understanding the civilization in which we live and particularly the understanding of the Americas. A group of awards is in the field of philosophy, and these fellows are planning to work in the field of moral philosophy, attempting to gain understanding of the principles by which ethical judgments or judgments of human values are formed.

This is the eighteenth annual series of awards by the foundation, which was established and endowed by the late United States Senator Simon Guggenheim and by Mrs. Guggenheim as a memorial to their son John. The Guggenheim fellowships are granted to scientific workers, scholars, artists and creative workers in all fields who by their previous work have shown themselves possessed of unusual ability, demonstrated by the previous production of contributions to knowledge or by the production of works of art. Men and women, married and unmarried, of all races and creeds who are citizens or permanent residents of the United States, citizens of Canada and of certain Latin American countries are eligible on equal terms. The fellows are normally of ages between 25 and 40 years. The stipends are usually \$2,500 a year. Since its establishment eighteen years ago, the foundation has granted 1,289 fellowships with stipends amounting to \$2,662,000.

The fellowships now announced are granted to American and Canadian scholars and creative workers and are accompanied by stipends amounting to \$140,000. A series of fellowships for Latin Americans will be granted in June. The list of fellowships now announced contains the names of eleven women. There