

While no provision was made in 1939 for the contingencies that have arisen, it is felt that those elected should serve until successors are elected. Professor R. E. Buchanan has been asked to act as chairman *pro tem.* of the Judicial Commission as there is no possibility of securing an election under the rules as adopted.

R. ST. JOHN-BROOKS (London),
ROBERT S. BREED (Geneva, N. Y.),
Joint Permanent Secretaries, International Committee on Bacteriological Nomenclature

INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

THE *Experiment Station Record* reports that, according to a recent article in *Agriculture in the Americas*, a site for the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences has been selected on the outskirts of Turrialba, a town in the interior of Costa Rica approximately midway between the national capital of San José and the principal port of Puerto Limón. The tract chosen for the main buildings and campus consists of 1,235 acres adjoining the Costa Rica Rubber Experiment Station of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Most of the land has an elevation of about 2,000 feet, but wet lowland areas are included. The soils of the region are volcanic, temperatures average in the middle 70's, rainfall amounts to around 110 inches a year, and the humidity is high. The site is regarded as suitable for experimental cultivation of practically all tropical crops, for experimental work on livestock and dairying under tropical conditions, for the study of tropical reforestation and erosion control problems and for investigation of drainage practices. Near-by areas are well suited for the development of tropical crops not adapted to the lowlands.

The institute is to be managed by a corporation, directors of which will be the members of the Pan-American Union Governing Board, which consists of the United States Secretary of State and the diplomatic representatives in Washington of all the Latin-American republics. Projects will be recommended by a technical advisory committee composed of a member from each of the countries participating. At the outset, the organization will be financed largely by the United States, but it is expected that the other countries will join in the financing later under a convention to be signed.

The institute is conceived as a combination school of agriculture and agricultural research center, the facilities of which will be used by all the American republics. Its objectives, as generally agreed upon by agricultural leaders of the hemisphere, are to provide a place for research on tropical agriculture under favorable conditions, to furnish facilities for training

scientific personnel grounded in tropical agricultural problems, to develop mutual understanding among agricultural students of the Americas, to serve as a center for cooperative research projects and to strengthen cultural relations among the American republics.

Plans for the institute contemplate utilization of research facilities offered by the governments of several Latin American republics as well as those of Costa Rica. Among the organizations whose facilities have been offered are the experiment stations of Puerto de Díaz (in Salta) and Loreto (in Misiones), Argentina, situated in the subtropical region of the country; the station located at Chulumani near La Paz and the farms of Trinidad and of Palermo in Santa Cruz, Bolivia; the Agronomical Institute in Belém, State of Pará, Brazil; the experiment station at Palmira, Colombia; the experimental fields situated in the region between the capital and Santa Ana in the large region of Tapachula, State of Chiapas, Mexico; the experiment station at Tingo María, Peru; the Agricultural Experiment Station at Santiago de las Vegas, near Habana, Cuba; and the Institute of Tropical Agriculture at Mayaguez, Puerto Rico.

As previously announced, the director of the institute is Dr. Earl N. Bressman, whose headquarters are expected to be in Washington, D. C., with a small administrative staff. José L. Colom, chief of the division of agricultural cooperation of the Pan American Union, has been appointed secretary of the organization; Rex A. Pixley, business manager of the institute, and Robert A. Nichols, agriculturist in charge of field operations.

THE STUDY OF MEDICINE AND THE CHANGING ORDER

A COMMITTEE to study medicine and the changing order has been organized by the New York Academy of Medicine. The objectives of this committee are defined as follows:

To be informed on the nature, quality and direction of the economic and social changes that are taking place now and that are clearly forecast for the immediate future; to define in particular how these changes are likely to affect medicine in its various aspects; to determine how the best elements in the science of medicine and its services to the public may be preserved and embodied in whatever changed social order may ultimately develop.

Members of the committee include:

Drs. Malcolm Goodridge, *Chairman*; Arthur F. Chase, James Alexander Miller, Alan Gregg, George Baehr, Harry Aranow, I. Ogden Woodruff, Paul Reznikoff, Henry W. Cave, Tracy J. Putnam, Wilson G. Smillie, Jean A. Curran, Herbert B. Wilcox, Howard Craig, E. Tolstoi, E. H. Pool, Robert Pound and Iago Galdston, *Secretary*.

The committee plans to survey the changes that are currently taking place in our economic and social or-