

Originally the governing body of the Weissfluhjoch station was the Swiss Commission for Snow and Avalanche Research under the chairmanship of the head of the Federal Forestry Department and working in conjunction with many Swiss men of science, chief of whom was Professor P. Niggli, the mineralogist, of Zurich, and including many experts in cognate subjects such as Dr. Mörikofer, of the Meteorological Observatory at Davos. It was largely financed from unofficial sources. A recent press notice stated that the Swiss Government has opened a new research institute on the Weissfluhjoch, which is assumed to be a development of the earlier laboratory, perhaps more on the lines of the research institute on the Jungfrau-joch. Possibly it means the commencement of its existence as a separate department of the Ministry for the Interior, with more adequate funds for effective research than its semi-private forerunner had been able to command.

THE TROPICAL PLANT RESEARCH FOUNDATION

THE Board of Trustees of the Tropical Plant Research Foundation met in Washington, D. C., on May 21, for the purpose of dissolving the foundation and distributing its assets to other organizations that are now carrying forward the avowed functions of the foundation. They also authorized and directed the officers of the corporation to institute proceedings in the United States District Court of the District of Columbia for the dissolution of this corporation as allowed and provided for by law.

The distribution of assets were as follows: (1) The Tropical Agriculture Library now housed at the Boyce Thompson Institute, including all copyrights, was given to the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences of Turrialba, Costa Rica. This is to be dedicated and marked with an appropriate plaque as a memorial to Dr. W. A. Orton, the organizer and director and general manager of the foundation from its inception in 1924 until his death in 1930. (2) Fifty copies of "The Soils of Cuba," including the accompanying maps, were given to each of the joint authors, H. H. Bennett and Dr. R. V. Allison. Fifty copies of "Tropical Forests of the Caribbean" were given to the author, Tom Gill. The remaining copies of these books, about 550 of the former and about 225 of the latter, were turned over to the Pan American Union to be advertised and sold. The returns from these sales are to be turned over to the Division of Biology and Agriculture of the National Research Council or to some other appropriate organization to be used to further tropical agriculture. (3) All residual cash and bonds, after payment of debts and expenses of dissolution, were given to the Division of Biology and

Agriculture of the National Research Council to be used for the promotion of tropical agriculture. This contribution will net about \$4,500. (4) The furniture, bookcases, steel cabinets, etc., are left to the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research, Inc., Yonkers, New York, in appreciation of services rendered the foundation during the period following Dr. Orton's death.

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THE INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

THE Industrial Research Institute completed five years of activity with its recent annual meeting in New York on May 21 and 22. Seventy industrial executives and research directors, representing member companies, and their guests attended the meeting and participated in informal round-table conferences.

The organization of research in Great Britain and the United States, its support of the war effort and probable post-war trends, was discussed at the dinner session on the evening of May 21. Dr. G. S. Whitby, professor of rubber chemistry at the University of Akron and recently director of the chemical research laboratory of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Teddington, England, presented the British picture, and Dr. Robert W. King, assistant vice-president of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, discussed the situation in this country. Dr. Whitby explained the basic differences in the organization and effectiveness of research in Britain and the United States.

At a session on new research tools Dr. G. W. King, of Arthur D. Little, Inc., discussed improved calculating machines for scientific use, particularly in the field of chemistry. Dr. W. B. Rayton, director of the Scientific Bureau of Bausch and Lomb Optical Company, described new optical tools and their applications in various fields of industrial research.

Other sessions were devoted to discussions of industrial research management problems. R. C. Benner, director of research, and G. J. Easter, assistant director of research of the Carborundum Company, described a simple system which has proved of great help in the current control of research projects. It is based on the budgeting of time rather than money. Cooperative intra-industry research in seventeen industries represented in the institute was reviewed by J. M. McIlvain, administrative supervisor of the Research and Development Department of the Atlantic Refining Company.

The rating of research personnel was discussed in four simultaneous group conferences on Saturday morning, under the leadership of C. L. Bausch, vice-