man, Charles W. Taussig, opened on August 17 at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. According to *The Times,* London, the British representatives included the British co-chairman, Sir Frank Stockdale, and A. J. Wakefield, inspector-general of agriculture in the West Indies, who has been nominated a British member for the meeting. There was established a Caribbean Research Council which will serve in an advisory capacity for scientific, social and economic research for the benefit of the people of the area. The main subject of the agenda was agricultural research. The commission therefore invited representatives from the agricultural experimental stations of the United States, Great Britain and the Netherlands in the Caribbean area to attend. It adopted as the basis of the discussions the recommendations and report of the United Nations Food Conference at Hot Springs with the object of providing for coordinated effort in the planning of agricultural and other research in the Caribbean by the research institutes and experimental stations represented. These recommendations will also assist the commission in its study of nutritional, agricultural and fisheries problems.

ACCORDING to *The Experiment Station Record,* largely because of the establishment of other organizations now carrying forward its avowed objects decision has been reached to dissolve the Tropical Plant Research Foundation. Its assets are to be divided, the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences of Turrialba, Costa Rica, receiving the Tropical Agricultural Library and the Boyce Thompson Institute the office equipment. The residual cash and bonds, expected to net about $4,500, are to be given to the Division of Biology and Agriculture of the National Research Council for use in the promotion of tropical agriculture.

THE Tufts College Medical School, Boston, will celebrate its fiftieth anniversary from September 15 to October 6. According to the *Journal* of the American Medical Association, the program includes an address at the medical school, on September 15, by Major General James C. Magee on "Military Medicine with Special Reference to Tropical Diseases"; a lecture before the William Harvey Society on September 16 at the Beth Israel Hospital by Dr. Timothy Leary, professor emeritus of pathology at the school, on "Excess Cholesterol as a Pathogenic Agent," and a talk on September 29 by Colonel Raymond W. Bliss. On September 22 a feature of the celebration will be the presentation and unveiling of portraits of Dr. Leary and Dr. Cadis Phipps, professor of medicine. The anniversary exercises will conclude on October 6 with a general meeting at the John Hancock Hall, at which the speakers will include Dr. Leonard Carmichael, president of Tufts College, and Captain A. Warren Stearns, of the Medical Corps, U. S. Naval Reserve, dean of the medical school, now on military leave. Another feature of the celebration will be the release of a book on the history of the Tufts College Medical School, written by Dr. Benjamin Spector, professor of anatomy and professor of the history of medicine, which is said to be the first published history of the school.

IT is stated in *The Experiment Station Record* that under appropriations of the 1943 legislature additional substations have been established in Cumberland and Robertson Counties, Tennessee, the former to serve the Cumberland Plateau and the latter the Highland Rim region of middle Tennessee. This increases the number of experimental units in the state from five to seven and has led to the provision of an assistant station director. Frank S. Chance, superintendent of the Tobacco Substation at Greeneville, has been appointed to this position.

DISCUSSION

THE DISCOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT OF POTASH IN TEXAS AND NEW MEXICO PERMIAN

DR. J. W. TURRENTINE has recently issued through the American Chemical Society a book on "Potash in North America" reviewing the developments from 1924 to the present. In addition to the records he cites there, attention should be called to the contributions of some of the early workers in this field.

Dr. C. W. Dabney, former Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, writes to me that "the biggest find of potash was the one in the Texas-New Mexico Permian, discovered by Dr. J. A. Udden, geologist of the Bureau of Economic Geology and Technology of Texas and published in *Bulletin* 17, March 20, 1917, University of Texas." He describes this as "the first discovery of potash in Texas." Dr. Dabney presented a paper on the subject at the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, in December, 1923, at Cincinnati, Ohio.

Dr. W. B. Phillips, the chemist and director of the bureau, was at one time associated with Dr. Dabney in North Carolina. Dr. Dabney took a great interest in the search for American sources of potash and did everything in his power to interest the U. S. Geological Survey and to help the survey to obtain appropriations to make an adequate survey. The chief of the survey, George Otis Smith, sent a survey party to investigate. They reported that they found potash in some one hundred places where drillings had been attempted.

Udden's discoveries, according to Dr. Dabney, were

fully described by Mansfield and Long in *Bulletin* 3401 of the University of Texas, and by H. I. Smith, of the U. S. Geological Survey, and in an article on "Potash in the Permian Salt Basin" in the *Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry,* Vol. 30, page 854.

Dr. Dabney interested Senator Morris Sheppard and Representative Ganner in the subject and a bill authorizing $2,500,000 for surveys passed the Senate. The House Committee was ready to recommend a similar bill, but the Bureau of the Budget advised that the program was not in accord with the program of the President, so nothing further was done. What was accomplished was done with meager funds available from the U. S. Geological Survey and the State of Texas.

I am calling attention to these facts so that due credit may be accorded to these pioneer workers.

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"CHEMICAL" SEED TREATMENTS

AN item in SCIENCE-SUPPLEMENT of January 29, 1943, indicates that chemical treatment of seed offers little hope for increasing crop yields. Although the following context of the item makes it sufficiently clear to those familiar with the various types and purposes of seed treatment that treatment with growth-regulatory substances is in question, this item and others constantly appearing in the press indicate the need for more explicit reference to seed treatment if an important wartime contribution of science is not to suffer.

Several types of chemical seed treatments with several purposes are in common use or experimental stages to-day. Seeds may be treated with disinfestant chemicals to rid their surfaces of the organisms of disease and furnish chemical protection against such organisms in the soil; they may be treated with corrosive chemicals to alter the permeability of the seed coats and facilitate germination, a common practice in tree propagation; they may be treated with rodent-repelling chemicals as kerosene, turpentine or creosote; they may be chemically treated in the very doubtful, but commercially exploited, hope of thus imparting insect resistance to the resulting plants; they may be treated with growth-promoting substances in the expectation of thus increasing growth and yields; and leguminous seed are commonly treated with dusts containing nodule bacteria for increasing nitrogen fixation. It is important that these types of treatment be clearly differentiated in publicity.

Disinfestant seed treatments are of well-established value in the production of many crops and represent one of the most useful devices for increasing wartime production. It would indeed be unfortunate if the efforts of crop scientists and agricultural extension specialists to promote further adoption of them were to be thwarted by public statements, however correct, that chemical seed treatments (of certain other types) are useless or harmful.

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MINERAL DEPOSITS

MAY I make a suggestion that, if followed, may prove extremely valuable to our country and at the same time increase the contributions made by science to the war effort?

Vast quantities of ores and minerals are necessary to carry on the war. Commercial development after we win this war will likewise require mineral products in quantities that we may find difficult to supply.

Men in the Armed Forces will probably travel very nearly all over the world before the present war is finished. Would it not be wise, therefore, to give all officers of the Army and Marine Corps a short but intensive course in the recognition or identification of the ores of the more important metals. Thus equipped, they would constitute searching parties or prospectors, some of whom certainly might discover mineral deposits that would prove valuable or even vital to our cause. If all members of our Army and Marine Corps who will be going afield could be given this training, instead of just the officers, it should obviously increase our chances of finding these much-needed minerals.

Colleges and universities that teach geology, mineralogy, etc., could give such training, as could most commercial geologists and others who are familiar with rocks and minerals. If it is not practicable to give this training at the colleges and universities, then training centers manned by competent instructors could be set up in connection with already established Army and Marine Corps camps.

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QUOTATIONS

THE RETIREMENT OF PROFESSOR RAYMOND C. ARCHIBALD

FEW scholars have a larger circle of personal friends among mathematicians on both sides of the Atlantic than Professor Raymond C. Archibald, whose impending retirement is announced from Brown Uni-