

plant manager of the Upjohn Company, manufacturing druggists, died on December 4 at the age of fifty-five years.

DR. QUICK LANDIS, research chemist at the Fleischmann Laboratories, Standard Brands, Incorporated, died on November 28 at the age of forty-two years.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL TRAINING IN GREAT BRITAIN

THE Parliamentary correspondent of *The Times*, London, reports that a motion, tabled in the House of Commons, by about one hundred members of Parliament of all parties urges the Government to take bold action to encourage scientific and technological training and to stimulate and coordinate research work of all kinds as an aid to post-war reconstruction policies. Most of the members who have signed the motion belong to the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee, of which the chairman is E. W. Salt, and many of them are members of the Tory Reform Committee. The sponsors of the motion are: Mr. Salt, Lord Hinchinbrooke, Dr. A. V. Hill, M. P. Price, Sir George Schuster and H. Graham White. The motion is as follows:

That this House, recognizing that if the United Kingdom is to maintain its position in the post-war world and carry out effective plans for physical reconstruction and social betterment, research and the application of scientific knowledge in all fields must be promoted on a far bolder scale than in the period 1919-39, urges his Majesty's Government forthwith:

(1) To assure the universities that in planning future developments for research, teaching, and higher learning as a whole they will receive support from the State on a much larger scale than hitherto.

(2) To arrange that education and training in schools, technical colleges, and universities shall be directed at the earliest date towards providing a far greater number of persons highly trained in science and technology.

(3) To set in motion schemes to ensure a substantial and coordinated expansion of research activity by private firms, cooperative industrial research associations, and State and other research establishments; and to this end, to provide assistance by adjustment of taxation, by more generous financial grants and through adequate priorities both in demobilization and for materials required for building and equipment.

RUBBER FROM RUSSIAN DANDELIONS

AN account of the work being done at Kew Gardens during the war was given on November 10 at the British Ministry of Agriculture by Sir Geoffrey Evans, economic botanist at Kew Gardens, who described, as reported in *The Times*, London, an experiment in the attempt to develop additional sources of rubber.

Seeds of three plants, from which rubber has of recent years been produced in Russia, were received at Kew and cultivated there and at 22 other stations. The plants

were two kinds of dandelion—Kok-saghyz and Krim-saghyz—and a salsify, Tau-saghyz. The last was everywhere a failure, and Krim-saghyz proved rather delicate.

The most promising is Kok-saghyz, which comes from the Ukraine and Poland, and seems capable of giving as good results in Britain as in Russia—that is to say, a yield of perhaps 65 to 100 pounds of rubber to the acre, a figure which may be compared with 800 to 1,000 pounds an acre of Para rubber. These Russian dandelions contain from 2 per cent. to 17 per cent. of rubber in the dry root. No British native dandelion has been found to have more than 5 per cent. The rubber is found in the cells of the plant and can not be collected as with Para rubber from the latex or sap.

Kok-saghyz may be planted in the autumn and harvested the following August or it may be sown in the spring, and treated as an 18-month crop. The evidence is, however, that it needs good soil, and can not be grown on second-class land. Three or four crops sown in Scotland were poor.

The plant requires, moreover, a great deal of hand-weeding, which is extremely expensive. In Russia this is done by women and children on collective farms. The rubber is of reasonably good quality, but so far the authorities do not advise its general cultivation.

FINANCES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

ACCORDING to the annual financial report of Comptroller Lloyd Morey, in the seventy-five years since the University of Illinois began its educational and research activities, it has built and accumulated a plant and equipment worth \$43,971,932. For the fiscal year, ending June 30, its income, including auxiliary enterprises, was \$12,309,886, and the corresponding expenditures for all purposes were \$11,893,878.

There are outstanding bonds in the amount of \$2,233,800 on the Medical, Dental and Pharmacy Building in Chicago, and on four self-liquidating non-educational structures at Chicago and at Urbana.

The university has 2,383 acres of land, including the campus at Urbana-Champaign, the campus at Chicago, the agricultural experiment farms of 1,127 acres at Urbana-Champaign, and other farms comprising 700 acres in 24 counties; 74 major buildings and 70 others; utilities, equipment and a library containing 1,759,851 volumes, reprints, maps, etc., which make it the largest of any state university.

The portion of income used for educational and general purposes was \$11,040,392; of which appropriations from state tax revenues provided \$6,578,795