

Isolations known to produce penicillin are especially desired.

Individuals who wish to survey other fungi for penicillin activity can obtain directions for a standard technique from the U. S. Department of Agriculture Regional Laboratory at Peoria, Illinois.

ALBERT L. ELDER,
War Production Board
Coordinator of Penicillin Program

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

DR. WILLIAM J. ROBBINS, director of the New York Botanical Garden, speaking at the annual meeting of the garden in January, outlined the projects which had been approved by the City of New York shortly before the end of the year. The work to be done out of doors is in part necessitated by the widening of highways adjacent to the grounds of the garden.

Plans for rebuilding the Museum and Administration Building are being drawn under a contract awarded jointly to the firms of Aymar Embury II and of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, architects. The remodeling of the building, erected forty-five years ago, is expected to cost \$900,000. When added to improvements on the grounds this will bring the total expenditures for alterations to be carried out immediately after the war to the sum of \$1,750,000.

The plans include the erection of a restaurant and comfort station north of the main conservatories, and complete re-landscaping of this area. Major Gilmore Clarke has been commissioned to prepare the final plans and specifications. His assignment also includes the re-designing of the system of roads and bridges through the grounds. His basic plan has already been approved by the Board of Managers. A new rose garden, the design of which was accepted at the annual meeting last year, will be established in the vicinity of the conservatories.

Preliminary plans for the reconstruction of the interior of the Museum and Administration Building call for a new main entrance which would lead visitors directly into a small museum on the ground floor. Most of the present museum exhibits will be stored for use as reference collections. The lecture hall, where many of the courses are given as well as the free lectures on Saturdays and occasional special conferences and programs, will be completely remodeled, with improved stage, seating, lighting, ventilation and projection equipment.

A self-service elevator is to be installed for the use of the staff. Increased space will be provided for the herbarium, which, with more than 2,000,000 specimens now on hand, is growing at the rate of nearly 40,000 specimens a year. The library of 50,000 bound volumes is increased each year by about 700 volumes and many thousands of periodicals, pamphlets, separates,

etc. Additional office and working space for members of the staff, classrooms for lectures and laboratory practice, are also planned. Laboratories for plant pathology, physiology and genetics, in addition to rooms for photography and photostating, as in the present building, will be provided. There will be a rare book room for the library, and arrangements will be made for fumigating all herbarium specimens.

THE OPTICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

THE winter meeting of the Optical Society of America will be held at the Hotel Pennsylvania in New York City, on March 2, 3 and 4. The Inter-Society Color Council will meet on March 1, one day earlier, at the Hotel Pennsylvania. There will be a session for the discussion of Small Color Differences at 9:30 A.M., and an afternoon session at 2:30 P.M. for the discussion of other topics and the transaction of council business.

On Thursday, March 2, at 2 P.M. there will be a symposium of invited papers given before the Optical Society on the Ostwald Color System, and on Friday, March 3, at 10 A.M. a symposium of invited papers on "Infrared and Organic Chemistry." At 2 P.M. there will be a third symposium of "ten-minute" papers on "Infrared and Organic Chemistry."

On Friday evening an informal dinner is planned at which Dr. W. W. Coblenz, physicist of the National Bureau of Standards, will present some reminiscences. The dinner will be followed by an address by Dr. R. Bowling Barnes, director of the Division of Physics of the Stamford Research Laboratories of the American Cyanamid Company, who will speak on "Natural and Synthetic Rubber, Physical Methods of Analysis." There will be sessions for contributed papers on miscellaneous topics on Saturday.

The meeting will be open to non-members. Those who desire to receive the advance program or other information should address their requests to Dr. Arthur C. Hardy, Secretary, Optical Society of America, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge 39, Massachusetts.

OFFICERS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

OFFICERS of the American Association for the Advancement of Science have been elected as follows:

President:

Anton J. Carlson.

Vice-presidents:

Mathematics, J. L. Walsh, Harvard University.

Physics, Albert W. Hull, General Electric Co., Schenectady.

Chemistry, Arthur J. Hill, Yale University.