SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ANKARA

Nature gives an account of the opening, in the presence of President Inönü, on November 8, 1943, of a new Faculty of Science in the University of Ankara. The president, accompanied by the Prime Minister, Sükrü Saracoglu, was welcomed at the inauguration ceremony by the chairman of the National Assembly, B. B. Abdülhalik Renda. All the members of the Cabinet were present; R. F. Lucas, of the British Council, was also invited to attend the ceremony.

The Minister of Education, Hasan Ali Yücel, in his opening address, referred to Turkish progress during the twenty years since the establishment of the Republic. The consequent changes in the national outlook have developed a need for scientific and technical training which is now enhanced by the mechanization of armed forces in a world at war. Hitherto Turkish educational institutions have lacked equipment for practical training; but Turkey has now an established policy of education based on positive knowledge to reinforce the earlier practice of theoretical training only. The nation needs mechanical engineers, mining and civil engineers, and the great problem of Turkey to-day is to find the means for training students in large enough numbers to satisfy the national requirements without reducing the educational standard. The Government is keenly aware of these needs and has sanctioned the establishment of this faculty as a step to meet them. The assembly was later addressed by the rector of the faculty, by a student and by Professor Kerim Erin, of the Faculty of Science, University of Istanbul.

The new faculty is temporarily installed in the Gazi Teachers' Training Institute. The dean of the faculty, Bay Hayri Dener, is also professor of physics and a member of the Board of Education. The chair of chemistry and the presidency of the new Chemistry Institute of the faculty is held by Dr. Avni Refik Bekman. The Ministry of Education has invited the British Council to nominate British candidates for a professorship in each of the existing departments of chemistry, physics and mathematics. The establishment of this faculty thus implements the approval of the bill recently presented by the Turkish Cabinet to the Chamber of Deputies.

THE MAY CONVENTION OF THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN BACTERIOLOGISTS

THE Society of American Bacteriologists will convene in New York City at the Hotel Pennsylvania on May 3, 4 and 5 for the first time since December, 1941. The 1942 convention, scheduled for Columbus, Ohio, was cancelled by the society at the request of the Office of Defense Transportation and no attempt was made to plan a meeting during 1943. The present officers of the society include: *President,* I. L. Baldwin, University of Wisconsin; *Past-president,* Rebecca C. Lancefield, Rockefeller Institute; *Vice-president,* Stuart Mudd, University of Pennsylvania; *Secretary-Treasurer,* W. C. Frazier, University of Wisconsin, and *Councilors-at-Large,* Martin Frobisher, Jr., the Johns Hopkins University; W. J. Nungester, the University of Michigan; N. Paul Hudson, the Ohio State University, and L. S. McClung, Indiana University.

The program will feature wartime topics and recent research in bacteriology and will include: "Recent Advances in Our Knowledge of the Physiology of Microorganisms," C. B. van Niel; "Electron Microscopy in the Field of Bacteriology," V. K. Zworykin, James Hillier and Perry C. Smith; "Antibiotic Activity as Viewed by a Mycologist," Charles Thom; "Mode of Action of Antibiotic Substances," Selman A. Waksman; "Standardization of Assay of Penicillin," Albert C. Hunter; and "An Analysis of the Therapeutic Action of Penicillin Based on the Clinical Response of Patients and Correlated Laboratory Findings," W. S. Tillett; a series of six papers in a general symposium on "Rickettsial Diseases"; a series of six papers prepared for the committee on teaching; round-table discussions on (a) "Taxonomy," A. P. Hitchens, convener; (b) "Atypical Pneumonia," Frank L. Horsfall, Jr., convener; (c) "Anaerobic Bacteria," Ivan C. Hall, convener; (d) "Airborne Infections," Alexander Hollaender, convener, and (e) "History of Bacteriology in New York City," Augustus B. Wadsworth, convener; showing of programs of films by the committee on visual instruction in microbiology, and an exhibit of a new console model of the electron microscope by the Radio Corporation of America.

In addition to the above, the program will include approximately 130 other papers on various topics as well as 25 or more exhibits by sustaining members, committees or members of the society. The Eli Lilly Award of $1,000 and a medallion will be presented to a young bacteriologist in recognition of outstanding research accomplishment. The name of the recipient will not be announced until the annual dinner. The program will open at 10:00 A.M. on May 3. All sessions will be held in the Hotel Pennsylvania. Consistent with wartime conditions, all entertainment features have been eliminated from the program except the president's reception and dinner.

Members of the society will receive copies of the program from the secretary-treasurer; others may obtain information concerning the program from the chairman of the program committee, Dr. L. S. McClung, Indiana University, Bloomington.

THE PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

THE twentieth annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Academy of Science will open at York on Friday

afternoon, April 7, at two o'clock, under the presidency of Dr. Clarence A. Horn, of Albright College.

At the afternoon session, the address of welcome will be given by Dr. Arthur W. Ferguson, superintendent of schools of York. A program of scientific papers will be presented by members.

On Saturday there will be a "Symposium on Burns." This is expected to attract many teachers, first aid and medical people, as well as other members of the general public.

On Friday evening, Dr. Edgar T. Wherry, professor of botany at the University of Pennsylvania, will speak on the wild flowers and ferns of the lower Susquehanna Valley, an area particularly rich in rare rock ferns. His address will be illustrated with colored slides.

With the awarding of the Academy Research Grant at the coming York meeting, $1,000 will have been provided by the American Association for the Advancement of Science to carry on scientific investigations in Pennsylvania. Since 1935, the association has made available to the academy annually a sum of fifty cents for each member who is enrolled in the association. This has averaged $100. A standing committee on grants passes on all applications and administers the fund.

All meetings will be held in the William Penn Senior High School. The public is invited to attend.

THE DRAFTING OF SCIENTIFIC WORKERS

DR. CHARLES L. PARSONS, secretary of the American Chemical Society, following a conference in Washington, called by the society, has made public a statement protesting against the indiscriminate drafting of chemists, chemical engineers and other technically trained professional workers between the ages of eighteen to twenty-six.

The chairman of the committee that prepared the statement, approved by the representatives of the eighty-two companies participating in the conference, was L. B. Morris, director of personnel contact relations, Radio Corporation of America, Victor Division. Other members were E. T. Asplundh, vice-president, Columbia Chemicals Division, Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company; M. T. Carpenter, associate director of research, Standard Oil Company of Indiana; J. N. Forker, vice-president, Koppers Company, and E. P. Wechesser, administrator of Selective Service, B. F. Goodrich Company. The statement reads in part:

> It is the duty of this conference to bring to the attention of the President of the United States, as Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, and of his principal military and production advisers, the facts governing a situation which can only be regarded as critical and as a direct threat to the successful prosecution of the war.
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> Both our enemies and our allies are deferring technically trained men, despite an unquestioned drain on their manpower. It is urgently recommended that action be taken immediately to assure the deferment of non-replaceable employees in critical occupations in essential industries, regardless of age or marital status.

It is further pointed out that

> There has never been a surplus of chemists and chemical engineers in the United States; the need for such technically trained men has always been greater than the supply; the unprecedented demand for industrial chemicals, synthetic rubber, aviation gasoline, foods and drugs, including penicillin, blood plasma, anti-malarials and the sulfanilamides, has thrust upon the chemical and allied industries a responsibility which can be met only if trained personnel is available to direct research and manufacturing operations.
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> If scientifically trained men are drafted in large numbers, production will suffer because the efforts of thousands of workers in war plants will deteriorate owing to the lack of proper supervision.

Dr. Parsons addressed a letter to President Roosevelt on March 14 in which he said that at the meeting of a hundred and twenty-five members of the American Chemical Society on the previous day it was agreed that war production "faced disaster if chemists, chemical engineers, physicists and certain other scientists were estopped from using their specific training in this war."

Mr. Roosevelt replied as follows:

> I have your letter of March 14 on behalf of the American Chemical Society. As you know, there is great demand for men under twenty-six for combat duty overseas. In order to meet that demand it may be necessary to dip into the pool of man power now being used for war production, government and agriculture. In every case there will have to be a determination as to where each man can render the best service.
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> I agree that where young men possess special skill, training and qualifications in chemistry, chemical engineering, physics or other scientific fields it would deter the conduct of the war to take them from their scientific work. This is particularly true of new scientific developments in which younger men have probably received better training than the older scientists.
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> I thank you for writing, and desire to assure you that the special need for such men in scientific work in industry will be kept in mind as we proceed to draw more and more younger men into the armed services.

The National Roster of Scientific and Specialized Personnel, which lists for war purposes scientific and technical workers, has not immediately available a count of men under twenty-six years. Those of 29 years and under as of July 1, 1943, as reported by Science Service are as follows: Aeronautical engineering, total 5,348—2,732 or 50 per cent.; chemical engineering, 14,115—9,049 or 64 per cent.; radio engineering, 5,589—1,748 or 32 per cent.; physics, 10,004—3,464 or 35 per cent.; chemistry, 65,410—28,332 or 42 per cent.; mathematics, 7,967—1,977 or 25 per