

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

cent.; mechanical engineering, 24,651—7,008 or 28 per cent.; electrical engineering, 20,818—4,595 or 22 per cent.

THE WORCESTER FOUNDATION FOR EXPERIMENTAL BIOLOGY

THE Worcester Foundation for Experimental Biology, at Clark University, has recently been incorporated. The purpose of this organization is "to carry on investigations in the biological sciences, including the medical sciences." Professor Harlow Shapley, director of the Harvard Astronomical Observatory, is the president of its board of eleven trustees. Others on the board are Dr. R. G. Hoskins, director of the Memorial Foundation for Neuroendocrine Research; Dr. W. J. Crozier, professor of general physiology at Harvard University, and Dr. William Malamud, clinical director of the Worcester State Hospital and professor of psychiatry at Tufts College. Professor Hudson Hoagland, on war leave from his work at Clark University, is executive director of the foundation, and Dr. Gregory Pineus, visiting professor at Clark University, is director of laboratories. Researches sponsored by the foundation are being carried out by some dozen investigators.

The foundation is primarily interested in the general physiology and biochemistry of the hormones and respiratory enzymes and their possible interrelations. It is also concerned with applications of such work to studies of psychomotor fatigue, particularly in in-

dustrial, and to neuropsychiatric problems. Extensive clinical facilities for the latter work are available at the Worcester State Hospital, where the research staff, including members of the Memorial Foundation for Neuroendocrine Research, are cooperating closely with the work of the foundation.

THE NAPLES ZOOLOGICAL STATION

SOME time ago the National Research Council received information that the Naples Zoological Station was physically intact and its staff still on the ground, with Dr. G. Montalenti as acting director. The following additional information has now been received: The aquarium is now open to Allied officers and soldiers on the payment of an admission fee. The Military Services have assisted the aquarium in its publicity and the promotion of visits by groups of soldiers.

Certain funds have been made available to the aquarium to replace the former state and city subsidies.

The Royal Society of London also has made a grant of £1,000 to the station for its 1944 program of research.

The Army has been assured by the acting director that with the above-mentioned assistance the aquarium and zoological station can now carry on an active program of research in which certain professors of the University of Naples and their students are participating.

ROSS G. HARRISON

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Eli Lilly and Company Prize of \$1,000 for 1944 will be presented on April 5 at the one hundred and seventh meeting of the American Chemical Society at Cleveland to Dr. Joseph Stewart Fruton, of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, New York, in recognition of his "fundamental studies on the isolation, purification, mode of action and specificity of proteolytic enzymes of both plant and animal origin. The use of synthetic peptides as a tool in studying the specificity of enzymes was developed to a high degree and has afforded a new insight into the role of enzymes in the hydrolysis and synthesis of proteins."

At the same meeting the Borden Company Prize for 1944 of \$1,000 for research in the chemistry of milk will be presented to Dr. William Mansfield Clark, DeLamar professor of physiological chemistry at the Johns Hopkins University and chairman of the Division of Chemistry and Chemical Technology of the National Research Council, for his contributions to the application of acid-base theory to laboratory and plant practice. "As a result of his work and writings," according to the citation, "the old haphazard and often

irrational procedures in the dairy industry and other industries have been fruitfully transformed during the past years to precise scientific manipulations."

OFFICERS of the Ecological Society of America have been elected for 1944 as follows: *President*, Robert F. Griggs, National Research Council; *Vice-president*, Alfred C. Redfield, Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole; *Treasurer*, H. J. Oosting, Duke University; *Executive Committee Member*, J. M. Aikman, Iowa State College; *Editorial Board Ecology*—for Botany, Paul B. Sears, Oberlin College, and Hardy L. Shirley, Allegheny Forest Experimental Station; for Zoology, P. L. Errington, the Iowa State College; and G. E. Hutchinson, Yale University; *Editorial Board Ecological Monographs*—for Botany, F. W. Albertson, Kansas State College; for Zoology, H. E. Ewing, National Museum and U. S. Department of Agriculture; *Representative, Union of American Biological Societies*, Robert E. Coker, University of North Carolina; *Representative, National Research Council*, H. A. Gleason, New York Botanical Garden; *Chairman*,