

sociation, has been named a member of its Executive Committee.

THE NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL CHEMICAL CONFERENCE AND THE CHEMICAL EXPOSITION

A NATIONAL Industrial Chemical Conference will be held at the Coliseum in Chicago from November 15 to 19. The National Chemical Exposition will be held at the same time and place.

At noon on Wednesday, preceding the opening of the conference, a joint luncheon will be given at the LaSalle Hotel with members of the Chicago Association of Commerce and the Chicago Section of the American Chemical Society taking part. Following the luncheon a meeting will be held at which "New Research Developments in Industry" will be discussed by Dr. Roy C. Newton, of Swift and Company; J. K. Roberts, of the Standard Oil Company (Ind.), and Dr. Ernest H. Volwiler, of the Abbott Laboratories. M. H. Arveson, of the Standard Oil Company, chairman of the exposition, will preside.

The subject of the evening session will be "Metals, Present and Future" with Dr. C. W. Balke, of the Fansteel Metallurgical Corporation, as chairman. The following addresses are planned: "New Developments in and Future Developments for Aluminum" by Dr. P. V. Faragher, of the Aluminum Company of America; "Magnesium in Peace-Time Economy" by L. B. Grant, of the Dow Chemical Company, and "Hardenable Bands for Alloy Steels" by J. Mitchell, of the Carnegie-Illinois Steel Corporation.

At the meeting on Thursday afternoon under the chairmanship of V. Conquest, director of research of Armour and Company, the discussions will be devoted to the subject of "The Chemist in Pharmaceutical Manufacture." The speakers and their subjects will be Dr. C. R. Addinall, of Merck and Company, Inc., "Synthesis and Production of Vitamins"; Dr. D. L. Tabern, Abbott Laboratories, "The Chemist Looks at Anesthesia"; and Dr. John F. Norton, of the Research Laboratories of the Upjohn Company, "Research in the Production of Penicillin and Other Antibiotics."

A discussion on "The Achievements of the Chemical Engineer" is planned for the evening, with Dr. Gustav Egloff, of the Universal Oil Products Company, as chairman, at which Dr. George Granger Brown, professor of chemical engineering of the University of Michigan, will speak on "The Petroleum Industry" and J. Collyer, of the B. F. Goodrich Company, on "The Synthetic Rubber Industry."

A dinner at 6:30 P.M. on Friday evening will be followed at 8:00 P.M. by a joint meeting with the Chicago Section of the American Chemical Society, with R. E. Zinn as chairman. Dr. C. F. Kettering, of the Research Laboratories Division of the General Motors Corporation, will make an address entitled "Current Contributions of the Chemist and Chemical Engineer to Human Progress."

On Saturday morning Dr. C. S. Marvel, of the University of Illinois, will preside at a forum discussion at which A. L. Elder, of the Corn Products Refining Company, will speak. His address will be entitled "What Is a Chemist and Chemical Engineer?"

Personally conducted tours of the exhibits for high school and college students of chemistry and their teachers have been arranged for Saturday morning.

MEMORIAL MEETING IN HONOR OF MARIE SKLODOWSKA CURIE

To mark the tenth anniversary of the death of Marie Sklodowska Curie, a memorial meeting in her honor was held at Columbia University by the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America at 8 P.M. on Friday, October 20. Six Columbia departments, including chemistry, chemical engineering, East European languages, medicine, physics and radiology, took part.

H. E. Sylwin Strakacz, Minister Plenipotentiary and Consul General of Poland in New York, delivered an address. A message from Dr. Robert A. Millikan, of the California Institute of Technology, was read. Professor Marston Taylor Bogert, of Columbia University, president of the International Union of Chemistry and honorary member of the Chemical Societies of Poland and France, presided.

Professor W. Swietoslawski, of the Mellon Institute, Pittsburgh, vice-president of the Polish Academy and of the International Union of Chemistry, formerly rector of the Warsaw Polytechnic Institute, spoke on "The Legend of Madame Curie." Professor Casimir Fajans, of the University of Michigan, a member of the Polish Academy, gave an illustrated lecture on "The Discovery of Radium and the Modern Development of Chemistry and Physics."

Other speakers included Professor L. Brillouin, Collège de France, president of the Section of Sciences, Ecole Libre des Hautes Etudes, and the following six representatives of the cooperating departments of Columbia University: Professor Arthur W. Thomas, Professor Arthur W. Hixson, Professor Clarence A. Manning, Professor Ross Golden, Professor George B. Pegram and Professor Gioacchino Failla.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Legion of Merit has been awarded in Paris to Colonel David Sarnoff, of New York, president of the Radio Corporation of America, "for ingenuity and

resourcefulness in restoring cables severed by the enemy," and for his work with the U. S. Signal Corps of the Supreme Allied Expeditionary Force in pre-

paring news communications for the invasion and later.

THE Oak Leaf Cluster to the distinguished service medal has been presented to Brigadier General Edgar Erskine Hume, of the Surgeon General's Office, "in recognition of his highly successful administration of the City of Naples."

THE Thurman H. Bane Award, given annually by the Institute of the Aeronautical Sciences for the most important technical achievement by an officer or civilian of the Air Technical Service Command, will be conferred for 1944 on Colonel Donald J. Keirn, of Wright Field, in recognition of his work in the development and production in quantity of the turbo-jet engine.

THE Oersted Medal for 1943 of the American Association of Physics Teachers has been conferred on Dr. Roland R. Tileston, of Pomona College, Claremont, Calif., since 1943 director of the pre-meteorological program for the Air Forces, U. S. Army.

ROBERT B. HARPER, vice-president in charge of research of the Peoples Gas Light and Coke Company of Chicago, was presented with the honor scroll of the Chicago Chapter of the American Institute of Chemists at a testimonial dinner held in Chicago on October 6. He has completed almost forty years of service with that company. One of the addresses was made by Professor Harry McCormack, his former teacher, who is now director of the department of chemical engineering of the Illinois Institute of Technology.

DR. JOHN DEWEY, professor of philosophy, emeritus, of Columbia University, celebrated on October 20 his eighty-fifth birthday.

THE University of Maryland conferred on September 29 the honorary degree of doctor of science on Major General Norman T. Kirk, U.S.A., Surgeon General of the Army.

DR. KENT R. VAN HORN, of Cleveland, research metallurgist of the Aluminum Company of America, was elected at the Cleveland meeting on October 18 president of the American Society for Metals, and Dr. Charles H. Hertzy, Jr., research engineer and assistant to the vice-president of the Bethlehem Steel Company, was made vice-president.

JOHN H. BAKER, for many years executive director of the National Audubon Society, was elected to the presidency of the society at a meeting of the board in New York City on October 17. Ludlow Griscom, of Cambridge, Mass., was elected chairman of the board. Dr. William E. Wrather, director of the U. S. Geological Survey; Aubrey Drury, of San Francisco,

and Dr. E. Laurence Palmer, professor of rural education at Cornell University, were elected directors.

DR. WILSON MARTINDALE COMPTON, for the last twenty-five years director of the National Lumber Manufacturers Association, has accepted the presidency of the State College of Washington to succeed Dr. Ernest O. Holland, who retired recently after nearly thirty years service. Dr. Compton is a governor of the International Forestry Commission of Brussels and a fellow of the Royal Economic Society of Great Britain.

DR. CHARLES R. KEYES, professor emeritus at Cornell College, Mt. Vernon, Iowa, has been named visiting professor of anthropology at the State University of Iowa. According to an announcement made by Dr. C. E. Seashore, acting dean of the Graduate School, it is planned to establish a class of professors having no teaching responsibility who would be engaged entirely in research work.

DR. JAMES C. ANDREWS, professor of biologic chemistry and head of the department at the School of Medicine of the University of North Carolina, is serving from September 1 to January 1 as exchange professor of biological chemistry and nutrition at the Medical School of the National University of Guatemala.

DR. W. H. COWLEY, president of Hamilton College, formerly professor of psychology at the Ohio State University, has presented his resignation to the Board of Trustees.

DR. ALEXANDER J. ALLEN has been appointed Westinghouse graduate professor of engineering at the University of Pittsburgh.

DR. LYMAN BENSON, of Stanford University, has been appointed associate professor of botany at Pomona College on the Henry Kirke White Bent Foundation. Dr. Stanley Davis Wilson, professor of chemistry and dean of the College of Natural Science at Yenching University, has been appointed visiting professor of chemistry.

DR. THOMAS FERGUSON, deputy chief medical officer of the Department of Health for Scotland, has been appointed to the chair of public health at the University of Glasgow. He succeeds Professor James Mackintosh, who has been appointed to the newly established professorship of public health at the London School of Hygiene.

AN Associated Press dispatch from Paris, dated October 19, reports that Dr. Alexis Carrel is gravely ill.

DR. W. C. SCHROEDER, of the U. S. Bureau of Mines, has become acting chief of its newly established office

of synthetic liquid fuels. He will direct a five-year program of research and development on gasoline and oil from sources other than natural petroleum.

GILBERT J. HAEUSSLER, senior entomologist of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., has been named chief of the Division of Insect Pest Survey and Information.

At the New York meeting of the American Chemical Society it was planned to prepare a history of the society. Dr. Charles A. Browne, consultant of the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, has been appointed editor.

THE committee for medical research of the British Privy Council has appointed Dr. A. N. Drury, director of the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine, and Dr. J. C. Spence, professor of child health at the University of Durham, members of the Medical Research Council.

DR. MORRIS A. STEWART, associate professor of parasitology at the College of Agriculture of the University of California, has returned to the university after three months spent in South America, chiefly in Bolivia, as consulting parasitologist to the Government. In Bolivia, Dr. Stewart set up a public health service and a service for the protection of domestic animals, making the necessary surveys and getting the work under way. He had his headquarters in Santa Cruz, where at the Instituto Superior de Medicina Veterinaria and the Instituto Oriental de Biologia he was made honorary professor of parasitology. He spent several weeks traveling through jungles and over other parts of Bolivia. He also made a study of parasitic diseases in Rio de Janeiro and in São Paulo, Brazil, and attended conferences in Peru on plague epidemic conditions.

A. E. PORSILD, curator of the National Herbarium, and Dr. A. L. Rand, curator of the National Bird Collection, both of the National Museum of Canada at Ottawa, have returned from an expedition to the Yukon Territory. They spent four months in the country adjacent to the Canol Pipe Line, between Whitehorse and MacMillan Pass in the Mackenzie Range, where they made a detailed study of the flora and fauna and obtained extensive collections of plants, birds and mammals. From MacMillan Pass a reconnaissance trip was made down the east slope of the Mackenzie Mountains to the banks of the Mackenzie River. The expedition left Edmonton in May, traveling over the Alaska Highway and the Canol Road and returned in September over the same route.

DR. CHARLES F. KETTERING gave on October 23 an address entitled "Can the Principles of Industrial

Engineering Research be Applied to Medicine?" at the annual dinner of the Association of American Medical Colleges, which met at the College of Medicine of Wayne University.

PROFESSOR GEORGE B. CRESSEY, of Syracuse University, delivered the Haas lectures in geography at Northwestern University on October 19 and 20. His subjects were "Report from Asia," "How to Defeat Japan," and "Pictures from China," based upon his recent trip to Asia. While in the Middle West he also lectured at the University of Chicago, Cornell College in Iowa and before the Oak Park Institute of International Affairs.

THE annual meeting of the Association of Land Grant Colleges was held in Chicago from October 24 to 26 under the presidency of Dr. C. B. Hutchinson, dean of the College of Agriculture of the University of California.

A MEETING of the Eastern Section of the American Federation for Clinical Research will be held at Boston on December 9. Papers will be read at the Massachusetts General Hospital, and organized activities are planned at other hospitals. Investigators desiring to read papers on clinical research should submit an abstract of not over 200 words to Dr. Orville Bailey, Harvard Medical School, 25 Shattuck Street, Boston, before November 15. Details of the program will be announced later; the meeting will be open to members of the medical profession.

THE annual meeting of the Medical Society of Virginia was held at Richmond on October 23, 24 and 25 under the presidency of Dr. C. B. Bowyer. Guest speakers were the Honorable Colgate W. Darden, Jr., Governor of Virginia; Dr. Alexis F. Hartmann, professor of pediatrics, Washington University, St. Louis; Dr. John B. Youmans, Colonel, Medical Corps, professor of medicine, Vanderbilt University, now director of the Nutrition Division, Army Service Forces, Office of Surgeon General, and Dr. Wallace E. Herrell, consultant in medicine, Mayo Clinic, and assistant professor in medicine of the Mayo Foundation Graduate School at Rochester of the University of Minnesota. The program included a symposium on nutrition, sponsored by the Medical College of Virginia; a full program of professional papers and a scientific exhibit.

THE twenty-fourth annual meeting of the Highway Research Board, which was to have been held in Cincinnati from November 22 to 25, has been postponed at the urgent request of the Office of Defense Transportation that all conventions be cancelled for the remainder of 1944.

By the will of Mrs. James T. Pardee, of Midland, Mich., securities worth \$1,000,000 are set aside for research on the control and cure of cancer. The value of the estate is estimated at \$6,000,000.

DR. HARRY L. HOLLINGSWORTH, professor of psychology at Columbia University, has given \$51,000 to establish a fellowship at the university in memory of his wife, Leta Stetter Hollingsworth, professor of education at Teachers College, who died in 1939. The fellowship will be awarded annually to a woman graduate of the University of Nebraska who "is most likely to

emulate the character and career of the late Mrs. Hollingsworth."

THE herbarium of the late Dr. Oliver Atkins Farwell, containing some forty thousand Michigan plants, has been bequeathed to the Cranbrook Institute of Science at Bloomfield Hills, Mich.

THE Army Ordnance Distinguished Service Award was presented on October 12 to the American Society for Testing Materials, in recognition of "its contributions toward the development, manufacture and maintenance of ordnance materiel."

DISCUSSION

FUNDAMENTAL BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN WARTIME

"SCIENCE" often takes a long time to reach New Guinea. I recently received the April 7 issue, and was happy to read the results of Dr. Curt Stern's inquiry concerning the advisability of continuing fundamental biological research in wartime. Here is yet another "yes" for unqualified continuation.

I do not think any of us who favor continuation of fundamental research in wartime mean to imply that the relatively non-productive research worker, old or young, should be kept at his job when he could probably find himself a more suitable and more useful occupation in the armed services or in war work. We also do not mean to imply that a research worker of proved ability should stick to his fundamental, long-range research, if a very definite need exists for the solution of a practical problem for which he is exceptionally well suited by training and talent.

Many capable research workers will not find such an opportunity, and it is hard to see how they can do better than to continue with fundamental research. People capable of doing original, imaginative research are none too numerous. For individuals who have demonstrated such ability to do essentially laboratory technician's work in the Army or in some war research project is as much a waste as to use a six-wheeled truck to transport 20 pounds of equipment. Jeeps are usually available, and so are people who can do routine work but not original research.

Too many biologists have tended to worry too much about the "usefulness" of their research projects. The best research is generally done when the worker is doing it because he enjoys it and wants to find an answer to some question of interest to him. No one knows what findings in fundamental research will ultimately prove useful in one way or another. It is a fine thing when some discovery in fundamental research leads to an improvement in the health or general welfare of the community, or even merely to

some handy gadget. But ultimate usefulness should not be held out as the sole reason for the carrying out of fundamental scientific research. Man wants to understand his environment for the sake of the mental satisfaction such understanding brings, as well as for the sake of the material benefit which often follows such understanding.

The discovery and description of natural phenomena and their interrelationships is a cultural activity of the highest order. There is in an understanding of natural science, a sense of beauty as definite and distinct as in the appreciation of a work of art. This value of science has been too long neglected. The popularizers of science harp upon its usefulness. Behold, they say, science gives us a better toothbrush! (and, say the opponents of science, also bigger and better bombs). A better toothbrush is nice to have, and the better bombs are coming in very handy, but science involves so much more than this. The general public should be made more thoroughly aware of these other values to be derived from scientific knowledge and education. Then workers in fundamental lines of research, which do not seem to be leading to better toothbrushes, will no longer need to feel apologetic about their activities.

WILLIAM TRAGER,
1st Lieutenant Sn.C.

COMMENTS ON COMPARATIVE STUDIES IN HUMAN BIOLOGY

IN his comments on Professor Herskovits's criticism¹ of Professor Dice's remarks² Professor Strandkov writes: "If primary human stocks (Mongoloid, Negroid and Caucasoid) and if subdivisions of these major groups ('races') have any validity at all, and the author believes that Professor Herskovits will admit that they do have some, it seems almost inevitable that both physiological and inherent response differences must exist."³

¹ SCIENCE, n.s., 100: 50-51, 1944.

² *Ibid.*, n.s., 99: 457-461.