SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE AID OF SCIENCE IN INDIAN DEVELOPMENT

AN article by Professor A. V. Hill, M.P., secretary of the Royal Society, on the role of science in the development of India, is printed in *The Times*, London, for September 20. He gives the following particulars of the advances made during the present century and particularly during the last fifteen years.

Science in India, in spite of relative poverty and isolation, has shown remarkable progress. The standards of scientific research are rising steadily—there are now seven Indian F.R.S.s. and plenty more coming on—and the educated public has become notably aware of science as an essential ingredient in modern civilization.

On the unofficial side, the foundation of national scientific bodies is a good index of healthy growth. Of specialist societies, those in geology (1906), in mathematics (1907), in botany (1921), in chemistry (1924) and in physics, physiology and soil science (1934) may be mentioned; of general scientific societies, the Indian Science Congress Association (1914) and the National Institute of Sciences (1935) founded respectively on the model of the British Association and the Royal Society. On the government or official side the greatest recent developments have been in agricultural and industrial research and in connection with medicine, nutrition and war equipment. The Imperial Agricultural Research Institute was founded at Pusa in Bihar in 1905 and transferred to Delhi in 1936, the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research was established in 1929, and many research stations and organizations have been set up all over India; the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research was founded in 1940 and considerable developments are now in prospect, for example, the building of national laboratories, for physics, chemistry and the like; the admirable Ordnance Laboratories at Cawnpore were opened in 1943.

THE PROPOSED MEDICAL-DENTAL CENTER AT NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

IN the course of an address made on October 26 by Dr. Harry Woodburn Chase, president of New York University, at a dinner in honor of Dr. Samuel A. Brown and Dr. George B. Wallace, of the College of Medicine, both of whom had reached the age of seventy years, he outlined plans for the development after the war of a medical-dental center in the Bellevue area by the New York University College of Medicine in cooperation with the City of New York and Bellevue Hospital.

The plan as described by Dr. Chase provides for three units:

I. *A University Hospital and Diagnostic Clinic* which would offer all methods of modern diagnosis, together with in-patient facilities, to families of the middle-low income group. Such a health center would be in line with the newest concepts of the prevention of ill health. Under the guidance of some of the leading professors in medicine, it would open up a new field of study of the environmental and social factors which lead to the earliest signs of disease. It would place emphasis upon the maintenance of health and upon preventive medicine as applied to the individual. It would be a center of coordination for all available medical services, including those of physicians, nurses and social service workers. It would bring together the problems of medicine with those of business and industry in an attempt to establish for each patient his optimum performance in work in relation to his health.

II. *An Institute of Medical Sciences* where the clinical departments of medicine can offer opportunities to younger men for study and research in specially important fields, for only by a concentrated and fully coordinated drive in certain specific directions will new advances emerge. Obviously no medical center can cover adequately all phases of medical research. The plans for this new center therefore envision the creation of special institutes and laboratories of research in those selected fields in which the College of Medicine has gained eminence and in which the recognized leaders are members of the Faculty of Medicine. It is in line with the established willingness of the College of Medicine to break with tradition that the special institutes selected will be essentially unique in this country.

III. *A Medical Library*, Hall of Residence and a large Auditorium for Post-graduate Teaching to seat five hundred, "a place where the traditions of medicine can flourish and to which, after graduation, physicians can turn with pride for continued inspiration." This building will be the keystone of the entire center in graduate and undergraduate medical education.

THE BIOLOGICAL STATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

THE many friends of the Biological Station of the University of Michigan will be pleased to know that it has survived the war crisis. It has recently completed its thirty-sixth summer at its permanent site near Cheboygan, Mich. Though in 1942 and 1943 it suffered a drop in enrollment, and during the past two summers temporarily lost three of its regular faculty members to the war effort, the past summer saw an increase in enrollment to ninety-four students and investigators. With the anticipated return next summer of its entire staff of twelve professors, it is expected that the station will again offer a full program of courses and will be prepared to serve a maximum of one hundred and twenty students and investigators.

The course in Natural History of the Invertebrates, unique in its nature and scope, under Professor F. E. Eggleton, of the University of Michigan, will again

be offered; Professor P. S. Welch, of the University of Michigan, a pioneer and leader in limnological studies, will continue his work in that field; and Professor C. W. Creaser, of Wayne University, will again teach courses in the natural history of the non-avian vertebrates.

Ornithological studies, under the direction of Professor O. S. Pettingill, Jr., of Carleton College, have gained remarkable favor during the past seven years and are attracting a promising group of professional as well as many amateur ornithologists.

The station long has enjoyed an excellent record in teaching and research in animal parasitology under the leadership of Professors W. W. Cort, of the Johns Hopkins University, and L. J. Thomas, of the University of Illinois. Because of the absence of Professor Cort during the summers of 1943 and 1944 the course in helminthology was suspended and the emphasis on research in animal parasitology was reduced. With his expected return in 1945 it is planned to restore that course with its aim of training for research in parasitology, and to renew the emphasis of pre-war years on research in that field.

Teaching and research in general entomology under the direction of Professor H. B. Hungerford, of the University of Kansas, has been of high quality for many years. This work will be continued.

Soon after we were plunged into the war, it was recognized that the military position and post-war responsibilities of the United States in the Tropics and the Orient would require an expansion of the American training program in medical zoology. Accordingly, a course in medical entomology and human parasitology, taught jointly by Professors Hungerford and Thomas, was instituted in 1943. It is planned to continue this course as an important element in the training of entomologists and parasitologists, and particularly of prospective teachers and practitioners in sanitary science and medicine.

With a staff of four botanists—Professors C. D. La Rue and W. C. Steere, of the University of Michigan; F. C. Gates, of Kansas State College, and G. W. Prescott, of Albion College, all with extensive field experience in the tropics, it is planned to add a course in field methods with special attention to tropical conditions, a course which it is believed will be useful to all who expect to do any type of field work in the tropics.

A. H. STOCKARD,
Director

AWARD OF THE NOBEL PRIZES IN PHYSIOLOGY AND MEDICINE

AN Associated Press dispatch from Stockholm dated October 26 announces the award of the Nobel Prizes in physiology and medicine for 1943 and 1944. The recipients were chosen by the Caroline Medical Institute in Stockholm.

The 1943 award, made after a year's delay, is shared by Dr. Edward Adelbert Doisy, professor of biochemistry in the School of Medicine of St. Louis University, and Dr. Henrik Dam, of Copenhagen, now at Strong Memorial Hospital, Rochester, in recognition of their discovery of the chemical nature of the K vitamin.

The 1944 award has been conferred on Dr. Joseph Erlanger, professor of physiology at the School of Medicine of Washington University, St. Louis, and on Dr. Herbert Spencer Gasser, director of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, New York, for their work on the functions of the individual nerve threads. The awards both for 1943 and 1944 will be divided between two recipients.

The 1943 award is worth 123,690 kroner, about $29,500, and the award for 1944 is worth 12,841 kroner, about $29,059.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE John Scott Medal and Award of the Franklin Institute, which was conferred on Sir Alexander Fleming in recognition of his study of penicillin, was accepted on his behalf on October 23 by the Earl of Halifax, British Ambassador to the United States, at the William Penn tercentenary anniversary in Philadelphia.

THE Norman Medal of the American Society of Civil Engineers has been awarded to Dr. Ralph B. Peck, research assistant professor of soil mechanics at the University of Illinois, for his paper on "Earth Pressure Measurements in Open Cuts of the Chicago Subway." The Croes Medal, which since 1912 has been given for the paper "next in order of merit to the paper to which the Norman Medal is awarded," will be given to Dr. Nathan M. Newmark, research professor in civil engineering, also of the University of Illinois, now on leave of absence for service with the army in the Pacific, for his paper entitled "Numerical Procedure for Computing Deflections, Moments and Buckling Loads."

THE Secretary of War has awarded the Emblem for Exceptional Civilian Service to Dr. Walter V. Bingham who, as chief psychologist and chairman of the Committee on Classification of Military Personnel Advisory to The Adjutant General, has been instrumental in bringing the science of psychology effectively to bear on the Army's problems of manpower utilization.