

THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

PRESENTATION of the awards of the National Academy of Sciences was made at a dinner on Friday evening, November 16, at the Benjamin Franklin Hotel, Philadelphia.

CYRUS B. COMSTOCK PRIZE

Awarded every five years for the most important discovery or investigation in electricity, magnetism and radiant energy.

Prize of \$3,000 for the period 1938 to 1943 awarded to Donald W. Kerst, Department of Physics, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, for his pioneer work in connection with the development of the betatron and the results which he has obtained with this new and powerful scientific tool.

DANIEL GIRAUD ELLIOT MEDAL

Gold medal with certificate and honorarium for most meritorious work in zoology or paleontology published each year.

Awarded for 1941 to Theodosius Dobzhansky, Department of Zoology, Columbia University, New York City, in recognition of the high merits of his work "Genetics and the Origin of Species," second edition, published in 1941.

PUBLIC WELFARE MEDAL

Gold medal for eminence in the application of science to the public welfare.

Awarded for 1945 to Vannevar Bush, Director of the Office of Scientific Research and Development, Washington, D. C., in recognition of his outstanding service in bringing to bear the scientific and engineering talent of this country upon problems of research connected with the war effort.

THE PRODUCTION OF ELEMENTS 95 AND 96

IN reply to a wire requesting information in regard to the production of elements 95 and 96, the telegram given below has been received by SCIENCE:

The 60" cyclotron in the Radiation Laboratory of the University of California at Berkeley has been employed to effect the transmutation of Uranium Mass 238 and Plutonium Mass 239 into elements of atomic numbers 95 and 96, respectively.

In order to accomplish this task, the instrument was completely rebuilt by the group in the Crocker Laboratory, during the summer and fall of 1944, so that nuclear particles could be accelerated to higher energies than had been previously available.

The cyclotron was put back into operation in January 1945 and initially was capable of producing deuterons and alpha particles at measured energies of twenty and forty million electron volts, respectively.

During the next few months, Uranium 238 and Plutonium 239 were bombarded with forty million electron volt helium ions.

Element 95 was found to be produced in the Uranium targets and element 96 in the bombarded Plutonium sample.

The identity of these two elements was established by their chemical and radioactive properties.

This phase of the work was done by the Chemistry Group at the Metallurgical Laboratory at the University of Chicago.

Recently, the energy of the deuterons and alpha particles has been increased to measured values of 22 and 44 million electron volts, respectively.

GLENN T. SEABORG

METALLURGICAL LABORATORY,

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO,

(ON LEAVE FROM DEPT. OF CHEMISTRY,

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY)

JOSEPH G. HAMILTON, M.D.

RADIATION LABORATORY,

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY

NEWS FROM ABROAD

DR. C. JUDSON HERRICK writes:

Letters have been received by several American anatomists reporting the welfare of some European colleagues. Dr. C. U. Ariëns Kappers, director of the Central Institute for Brain Research, Amsterdam, informs us that he and his staff were permitted to continue work at the institute, though under harsh conditions. They are now recovering from malnutrition, are in good health and actively at work.

Dr. Jan Jansen writes from the department of anatomy of the University of Oslo that when the university was closed in November, 1943, seven hundred students and many of the faculty were deported to German concentration camps, but they were able to begin teaching on August 1 of this year. The rector was deported to a German concentration camp in September, 1941, but returned for the formal opening of the university on September 2, 1945. They immediately matriculated 6,300 students, which is more than twice the usual number. The two professors of anatomy, Schreiner and Mohr, were arrested in September, 1941, and spent many months behind the barbed wire without trial. Dr. Jansen was active in the publication of the underground newspaper from the beginning of 1940 and in the summer of 1942 he was the only one of that staff who escaped capture and deportation. His own activities continued and he was in Oslo, underground, at the time of the German surrender. Professor Schreiner is now retiring and Dr. Jansen succeeds him as head of the department of anatomy. On his staff he has Drs. Brodal, Heier and Cammermeyer.

Professor R. C. Coker, of the University of North Carolina, has received the following letter from Professor Dr. Chr. P. Raven:

I have the pleasure to inform you that the laboratory of general zoology of the State University of Utrecht has come through the war quite undamaged.

Alas, the assistant-in-chief, Dr. J. W. de Marees van Swinderen, succumbed in a German concentration camp; one of our co-workers, J. Kloos, was shot by the Gestapo;