International News and Notes

Dr. Albert F. Blakeslee, visiting professor of botany at Smith College and director of the Smith College Genetics Experiment Station, has been elected an Honorary Fellow of the National Institute of Sciences of India.

Dr. E. D. Merrill, director of the Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University, was elected a foreign member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Dr. L. Diels.

Dr. Alvin R. Lamb, Lt. Col., Sanitary Corps, has returned to his work with the Experiment Station, Hawaiian Sugar Planters Association, after five years in Army service. He served three and one-half years on the staff, Hawaiian Department and Central Pacific Area, and one and one-half years in New Guinea and the Philippines.

Dr. Oscar Riddle, now visiting professor in various South American countries under the auspices of the Department of State, has been elected to honorary membership in the Sociedad de Biologia de Montevideo and to corresponding membership in the Sociedade Brasileira de Patologia Clinica.

The State Department Report on International Control of Atomic Energy is becoming known as the Acheson Report. Dean Acheson, Undersecretary of State, was the chairman of a committee, consisting of Vannevar Bush, James B. Conant, John C. McCloy (former Assistant Secretary of War), and Maj. Gen. Leslie R. Groves, which was set up by the State Department to pass on the recommendations of the Board of Consultants who actually prepared the report. The Board consisted of: Chester I. Barnard, president, New Jersey Bell Telephone Company; David Lilienthal, chairman, Tennessee Valley Authority; J. Robert Oppenheimer, Los Alamos Atomic Laboratories; Charles Allen Thomas, vice-president, Monsanto Chemical Company; and Harry A. Winne, vice-president General Electric Company. These five men of widely different backgrounds and experience, after a study of one month's duration, concluded in complete agreement with each other that a plan for the international control of atomic energy was feasible and were also in agreement on the essentials of a plan.

Secretary of State Byrnes, in a foreword, explained that the report was not issued as a statement of policy, but as a point of departure for informed public discussion.

As President Conant had revealed earlier in an informal presentation to the Council of the AAAS at St. Louis (*Science,* 1946, **103**, 428), the plan hinges on free access to a new denatured uranium and thorium. A denaturing process, announced for the first time, would make "the material unusable by any methods we now know for effective atomic explosive unless steps are taken to remove the denaturant." It is then pointed out that any known methods for removing the denaturant would involve plants of great size and personnel of such magnitude that they could not be concealed. The report proceeds to distinguish between safe and dangerous operations. The safe activities are listed as (1) the use of radioactive material as biological tracers; (2) small nuclear reactors which can be operated at a power level low enough to be incapable of producing dangerous quantities of fissionable materials and high enough to provide neutron sources and gamma ray sources of hitherto impossible power magnitudes; (3) the development of power from the fission of denatured U–235 and plutonium, such power reactors operating in the range of 100,000 to 1,000,000 kilowatts. If no additional uranium or thorium is available to these plants, they cannot produce any further fissionable material. The operation of the plant would use up the uranium and plutonium. A minimum of supervision should make it possible to prevent the substitution of uranium and thorium for other inert materials which could be used freely.

A survey of world resources of ores yielding uranium and thorium is contemplated, and their mining is to be placed under management of a responsible United Nations agency as well as the ownership and management of the primary separation plants themselves.

The report is much too long to print in *Science,* but a printed edition of the complete text is available from the National Committee on Atomic Information, 1621 K Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C. at $.20 a copy or $15 a hundred.

The Peking Man, taken to Japan by the Japanese army as loot during the occupation, is to be returned to the National Geographical Survey Society of China. According to Reuter, in a dispatch dated 29 December 1945, Tokyo University is reported to have surrendered the bones and artifacts to the allied authorities in Japan.

Japanese army scientists found the Peking Man in Peking after a three-year search, and specialists super-

vised its removal to Tokyo. None of the bones, utensils, and personal adornments, charts, or other documents accompanying the relics appears to have been damaged.

The formula of "Paludrine" (*Science,* 1946, **103,** 204), the new synthetic antimalarial agent, has now been announced; it is N_1-*p*-chlorophenyl-N_5-isopropylbiguanide, and is used in the form of a salt such as the hydrochloride. The drug, whose discovery was announced last November, promises to prove at least as effective as mepacrine in the treatment of malignant tertian and benign tertian malaria; and so far no toxic effects have been reported. Imperial Chemical Industries, in whose laboratories paludrine was discovered, has started limited production, and is preparing for full-scale manufacture; it is expected that it will cost less than mepacrine. Mr. F. H. S. Curd and Mr. F. L. Rose, who synthesized the drug, gave an account of its development to the Chemical Society in London on 7 February. Mr. D. G. Davey, who made biological tests of its potency, is completing a tour of Australia and India where he has been collecting the results of field trials.—*Lancet.*

The Arctic Institute of North America has reported progress in organization. In October 1945 the Institute opened its headquarters in Montreal, in quarters provided through the courtesy of McGill University. Since then the Institute has been incorporated as a non-profit-making organization in the United States under the laws of the State of New York and in Canada by Act of Parliament.

The Arctic Institute, an independent, private organization, is of international character and scope. It was financed initially by grants from the National Research Councils of Canada and the United States and by donations from private sources. During the organizational period it has seemed desirable to limit membership to the Board of Governors and the administrative staff, but the Constitution provides that a wider membership be contemplated in the near future.

At the present time the staff of the Institute consists of a small, full-time group headed by a Director with wide powers in conducting the affairs of the organization. Formulation of policy is in the hands of the Governors, chosen from among front-rank scientists and other individuals with administrative ability and interest in northern research and international scientific cooperation. The Governors serve without remuneration and meet with the Director at least three times a year to consider problems of administration and finance and to advise on the direction and coordination of research effort. They are elected triennially and serve in a personal capacity and not as representatives of the agencies, whether governmental or private, with which they are associated.

The present Board of Governors follows: Henri Bélanger, surveyor, Quebec City; Dr. Charles Camsell, commissioner of the Northwest Territories, Ottawa (past chairman); P. A. Chester, general manager, Hudson's Bay Company, Winnipeg; Dr. Henry B. Collins, Jr., director, Ethnogeographic Board, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.; Dr. Richard Foster Flint, professor of geology, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut; Dr. L. M. Gould, president, Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota (chairman); R. Gushue, chairman, Committee on Fishery Products, Combined Food Board, Washington, D. C., and St. John's, Newfoundland; Dr. Ernest M. Hopkins, president emeritus, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire; Dr. Diamond Jenness, chief, Anthropological Division, National Museum of Canada, Ottawa; Dr. H. L. Keenleyside, Canadian Ambassador to Mexico, Mexico City, D. F.; Dr. C. J. Mackenzie, president, National Research Council of Canada, Ottawa; Dr. J. J. O'Neill, dean of the Faculty of Engineering, McGill University, Montreal (treasurer); G. R. Parkin, assistant treasurer, Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada, Montreal (secretary); Dr. Morten Porsild, director, Danish Arctic Research Station, Disko Island, Greenland; Walter S. Rogers, director, Institute of Current World Affairs, New York; Dr. Philip S. Smith, chief, Alaska Division, U. S. Geological Survey, Washington, D. C.; Dr. Vilhjalmur Stefansson, 67 Morton Street, New York; Dr. A. L. Washburn, director, The Arctic Institute of North America, Montreal; and Dr. J. T. Wilson, professor of geophysics, University of Toronto, Toronto (vice-chairman).

Organization of the Caribbean Research Council

Research in the Caribbean is old and has influenced the growth and development of these islands. The work done in the past, usually directed toward resolving a pressing problem rather than toward advancing fundamental knowledge, has been sponsored by universities and government agencies—rarely, by private organizations. There are some honorable exceptions, however, in which real contributions were made to the advancement of science, but the amount of research carried out in the various communities was highly dependent not so much on the needs of the territory but on the financial conditions or the initiative and enthusiasm of its people. The result, notwithstanding, has been considerable research activity in many fields of

endeavor. Much of this has been of the highest quality in the larger territories, though very little, or almost none, has taken place in the smaller and less prosperous areas. The need for coordination and for the interchange of knowledge between the workers in these various areas is obvious.

With this in mind, and pursuant to the mandate creating the Anglo-American Caribbean Commission, a Research Council was established in August 1943, as a sort of advisory board to the Commission. Its main objectives were to survey the needs of these various communities and to recommend the research to be carried out in each; to arrange for the dissemination and exchange of the results of such research; to provide for conferences between research or extension workers; and to advise what further research and cooperation should be undertaken for the benefit of the people of the Caribbean.

A provisional committee was set up in August 1943 to function for the Council until all its members should be appointed. The committee was composed of Dr. Carlos E. Chardón, director of the Institute of Tropical Agriculture of Puerto Rico, Dr. Eric Englund, chief of the Regional Investigational Branch of the Foreign Office of Agricultural Relations of the U. S. Department of Agriculture (chairman), and Mr. A. J. Wakefield, C. M. G., inspector general of agriculture of the British West Indies. The provisional committee has organized the Council and set up its various technical research committees. These committees, established within the Council to deal with special groups or branches of research, were on (1) Agriculture, Nutrition, Fisheries, and Forestry; (2) Public Health and Medicine; (3) Industrial Technology; (4) Building and Engineering Technology; (5) Social Sciences.

The Council now consists of not less than 7, and not more than 15 persons, with not less than one representative from the five research committees. Selection of members is dependent on the scientific qualifications and attainments of the individual and, as far as practicable, on the necessity of insuring a balanced representation between the several sciences and the research organizations of the area. The chairmanship of the Council is a rotating one, held in turn for one year by a representative of each of the research committees. The respective chairmen of these last-named committees were appointed by the Commission during the first year, but thereafter the committees have elected their own chairmen. The activities of these committees are coordinated by the Council.

A Central Secretariat, with a full deputy chairman as executive officer of the Council, will be established, its functions being (1) to assist the Council and its research committees in planning lines of work and in formulating proposals for the conduct and coordination of research, and (2) to promote the implementation of such work and research as might be approved by the Commission.

Before recommending the implementation of new programs, the Council considers first the necessity for compiling all of the existing scientific data and of conducting surveys that will show the conditions existing in a given area. Since agriculture is the principal occupation in most of these countries, special attention has been given to this field by the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, Fisheries, and Forestry. Surveys are being made on sugar, livestock, grain crops, root crops and legumes, vegetables, grasses and grassland management, and coconut, copra, and oil seeds. Of these surveys, those on sugar production and livestock are the most advanced.

A Land Tenure Symposium was held in Puerto Rico from 27 August to 3 September 1944. A general analysis of this symposium is now being prepared, which will discuss the land tenure situation in the Caribbean and which may be utilized in the future in studying and planning similarly in the agricultural programs of other geographical areas.

A Forest Research Meeting was held at Trinidad, 14–23 January 1946. The meeting had before it statements on the present state of and existing facilities for, forest research in the various territories, and on this basis drew up detailed recommendations for the future.

The Medical and Public Health Section has been especially interested in standardizing maritime quarantine throughout this area, in compiling vital statistics of these regions, in surveys in the field of nutrition, and in promoting a Congress on Public Health and Tropical Medicine, where public health problems, common to all of these countries, may be analyzed and discussed.

In spite of the many handicaps and obstacles found on the way, the Caribbean Research Council has made some good progress during its first year of life. Progress is naturally slow in an organization of this nature, but whatever steps are taken should be thorough and as definite as circumstances will permit.

As far as we know, this is the first time that an international group has joined together to study the needs, and to plan the solution, of the sundry problems vital to any geographical area. The progress of the Council bears careful watching as an example of good will and of international cooperation. There is no doubt that in the future the Council will be of ever-increasing value to the peoples it serves and, indirectly, to many other regions of the world.—*P. Morales Otero* (School of Tropical Medicine, San Juan, Puerto Rico).