# NEWS *and Notes*

**Plans for a new library at Massachusetts Institute of Technology** have been announced by President Karl T. Compton. The structure, to be known as the Charles Hayden Memorial Library, is made possible by a gift of $2,200,000 from the Charles Hayden Foundation, one of the largest single gifts ever received by the Institute.

According to President Compton, the Library will serve a dual purpose. Not only will it be the nucleus of the departmental libraries, thus providing the most useful possible collection of advanced research and teaching material in science, architecture, and engineering, but it will also serve to develop in the students an interest in the humanities and other fields not specifically covered in the M.I.T. curriculum. In line with this objective it is planned to house in the Library the departments in the social sciences and the humanities. Another important part of the Library will be an audiovisual center, in which will be available all sorts of recorded sound and visual devices such as motion-picture film. M.I.T.'s large collection of recorded music will also be housed in this modern center which will, in addition, provide a variety of facilities for instruction in modern languages and public speaking.

The Library will also serve as a graphic arts center and will contain adequate space for exhibits of arts and crafts. There will be a special map room, funds for which have already been provided by a group of alumni, and space will be provided for some of the Institute's special museum collections.

The Corporations' Visiting Committee on the Library, the Director of Libraries, John E. Burchard, the Librarian, William N. Seaver, the present library staff, the Faculty Committee on the Library, the architects, and many others have played a role in formulating plans for this great library. Under a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation the Institute itself has participated in an interuniversity project dealing with library construction. In his annual report President Compton states: "We have good reason to believe that in this projected library we are setting a new standard in university library housing and that the entire program reflects the judgment and foresight of the most experienced and forward-looking people in the library field."

## About People

**Glenn T. Seaborg,** University of California, was the fifth speaker in the Wayne University chemical lecture series Monday evening, March 24. Dr. Seaborg, co-discoverer of plutonium and the transuranic elements, americium and curium, is a member of the 9-man general advisory committee appointed by President Truman to assist the Atomic Energy Commission (*Science*, December 20, 1946).

**Raymond J. Seeger** has been appointed chief physicist in charge of the Mechanics Division of the Research Department, the Naval Ordnance Laboratory, White Oak, Maryland, has announced. Principal facilities of the Division, engaged primarily in research in fluid dynamics, are supersonic wind tunnels which the Joint Chiefs of Staff transferred from the former Aerodynamics-Ballistics Research Institute at Kochelsee, Germany, to the Naval Ordnance Laboratory. The tunnels will be used partially for research in fundamental gas dynamics, including work in hypersonic flow. Special facilities provide for hydrodynamics research in water entry, initial trajectory, and underwater motion problems. Precision-firing ranges are planned for free-flight observations on aerodynamic models.

Dr. Seeger was research consultant in theoretical physics, Bureau of Ordnance, Navy Department, while on war leave from George Washington University's Department of Physics.

**Stephen P. Timoshenko,** professor emeritus of theoretical and applied mechanics, Stanford University, is en route to London to deliver a series of lectures at the invitation of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. Following the lectures, which will be on "Stress Concentrations and Fatigue Failures," Dr. Timoshenko will travel to France, Switzerland, and Germany for consultations on progress in the field of theoretical and applied mechanics, returning to Stanford late in the summer.

**A. Sidney Harris,** associate professor of physiology at Western Reserve University School of Medicine, has been appointed associate professor of physiology at Baylor University College of Medicine, effective July 1. He will direct a teaching and research divisional unit in the Department of Physiology, embracing cardiovascular physiology and biophysics.

**F. C. Henriques, Jr.,** recently of the Radiation Laboratory, University of California, Berkeley, has joined the staff of Tracerlab, Inc., Boston, Massachusetts. As director of the Radiochemical Division, he is in charge of Tracerlab's rapidly expanding chemical program and will supervise the development of apparatus and techniques for the purification, synthesis, and analysis of radioactive substances.

**William H. Peterson,** professor of biochemistry, University of Wisconsin, delivered the 7th Harvey Lecture of the current series at the New York Academy of Medicine on April 17. Dr. Peterson spoke on: "Factors Affecting the Kinds and Quantities of Penicillin Produced by Molds."

## Visitors to U. S.

**G. Malcolm Dyson,** scientific director of a group of British chemical manufacturing companies, recently arrived in this country to attend the meeting of the American Chemical Society, at which he spoke on his new notation for organic compounds. Dr. Dyson has recently been made president of an international commission to report on ciphering and related subjects for the International Union of Chemistry.

**Arne Tiselius,** Uppsala University, chairman of the Swedish Natural Science Research Council, will leave soon for the U. S. to study the application of isotopes to medical and biological research. Per Ohlin and Sten von Friesen, Swedish scientists, will also visit the U. S. for

atomic studies in New York, Boston, and Chicago.

**D. G. Catcheside,** of Trinity College, Cambridge, England, will spend six months in the United States studying the genetics of the Mexican guayule plant. He will join the staff of the Stanford Research Institute, which has undertaken a $150,000 program on natural rubber for the Office of Naval Research. Dr. Catcheside, well known for his studies on the effects of ionizing radiation on hereditary characteristics, is a member of the British Ministry of Labor panel for industrial protection and radiation.

## Fellowships

**Massachusetts Institute of Technology** has announced the availability of a limited number of research assistantships for fundamental research in the organic or physicochemical phases of carbohydrate chemistry. The fellowships have been provided by a grant from the Sugar Research Foundation, Inc., and the investigations must be conducted in the Foundation's laboratory of the Department of Chemistry.

Candidates must be outstanding graduates of accredited colleges and universities who possess a specific interest in the field and who are working toward the Ph.D. degree. They must also meet all requirements for admission to M.I.T.'s Graduate School. The annual stipend to the recipient amounts to $950 for 12 months, exclusive of tuition, which is provided. The appointments are available to candidates for admission at the beginning of the fall term and are ordinarily renewable for the number of years necessary for completion of requirements for the Ph.D., providing that the appointee maintains acceptable standards of performance.

Correspondence should be addressed to the Chairman, Department of Chemistry, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge 39, Massachusetts, with specific indication that the candidate is interested in the organic or physicochemical aspects of the field, or both. Application blanks and other information will be forwarded on request.

## Grants and Awards

**The New York Zoological Society** is offering four grants-in-aid of $500 each to qualified scientists for work in the Zoological Park in the Bronx during the summer season of 1947. In addition, appointees will be provided with simple but adequate living quarters. Emphasis will be placed on deviate or abnormal behavior and adjustments of zoological park animals.

The grants will be awarded to individuals who hold at least one advanced degree in the broad fields of the zoological sciences, including medicine, and who are capable of both independent and cooperative research. Special consideration will be given candidates who have advanced training and research experience in comparative psychology or who are medical students and anticipate professional work in psychiatry and/or neurology.

Applications should be made before May 15 to Fairfield Osborn, president of the New York Zoological Society, 630 Fifth Avenue, New York 20, New York.

**The Committee on Fellowships and Awards of the American College of Physicians** has granted research fellowships in medicine to the following for the year beginning July 1, 1947: Ward S. Fowler, Philadelphia, who will study pathological physiology of certain primary disorders under Julius H. Comroe, Jr., Graduate School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania; Arnold Livingstone Johnson, Montreal, Canada, who will continue investigation of hemodynamics of congenital heart disease at Children's Memorial Hospital and the Department of Physiology, McGill University, under Alton Goldbloom and H. E. Hoff; Mary Ann Payne, assistant resident in medicine, New York Hospital, for study of hepatorenal factors in regard to shock and hypertension under David P. Barr and Ephraim Shorr; Miriam Mellon Pennoyer, St. Louis, Missouri, for an investigation of adrenal function in newborn and premature infants at St. Louis Children's Hospital under A. F. Hartmann, Washington University School of Medicine; and Philip Franklin Wagley, Baltimore, Maryland, who will study certain mechanisms of hemolysis at Boston City Hospital under William B. Castle and George R. Minot.

First award of a fellowship in this series went to Tom Fite Paine, Jr., Aberdeen, Mississippi (*Science*, January 3, 1947.)

**William N. Lacey,** professor of chemical engineering, California Institute of Technology, received the Anthony F. Lucas Gold Medal for 1947 at the 75th anniversary banquet of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, New York City, March 19. Dr. Lacey received the award for "distinguished achievement in directing research in the fundamentals of hydrocarbon behavior and particularly application of these fundamentals to oil and gas reservoirs which have led to greater efficiency in oil and gas production from our oil fields."

**Eloise Chute,** formerly of the Dartmouth Eye Institute, has been awarded a research fellowship in clinical psychology at the University of Pittsburgh. She will investigate the relationship between the conceptual thinking of deteriorated and senile patients and that of normal subjects of lower mental levels.

**The Wildlife Society** named "Predation and vertebrate populations," an article by Paul L. Errington, research associate professor of economic zoology, Iowa State College, the outstanding paper in wildlife ecology and management in 1946. The paper appeared in the *Quarterly Review of Biology* for June and September 1946. Dr. Errington, who is a participant in the program of the Iowa Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, was similarly honored in 1940 (*Science*, April 11, 1941).

**Burton E. Livingston,** former director of the Laboratory of Plant Physiology, Johns Hopkins University, and recently retired from the Executive Committee of the AAAS, has been awarded the Stephen Hales Prize for 1946, according to an announcement by the American Society of Plant Physiologists in its journal, Plant Physiology.

The journal also reports that Edwin C. Miller, professor emeritus of plant physiology at Kansas State College, has been awarded the honorary Charles Reid Barnes Membership for 1946.

**Patricia Dolciani,** Cornell University, has been awarded the postdoctoral fellowship of Sigma Delta Epsilon, graduate women's scientific fraternity, for 1947–48. Miss Dolciani, candidate for the Ph.D. degree in mathematics in June 1947, has held the Allen Seymour Olmstead Fellowship at Cornell since 1945. She will continue her research on the integral representation of integers by quadratic forms in three or more variables at the School of Mathe-

matics, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton.

**Howard G. Swann,** assistant professor of physiology, University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, has received a grant of $10,000 from the Army Research Program to continue studies on aviation physiology which he began during the war at Wright Field Aviation Physiology Laboratories.

**The History of Science Society** has established a History of Science Prize of $100, to be awarded annually to an undergraduate or first-year graduate student in a U. S. or Canadian college, university, or professional school for the outstanding original paper submitted on some aspect of the history of modern science.

Papers may deal with any of the natural sciences or mathematics, the fields of engineering or agriculture. It is preferred that essay subjects be selected from the period 1600–1915, and that completed essays be transmitted by members of the faculty of the students' institutions. Essays, not to exceed 6,000 words and preferably not more than 3,000 words, will be accepted until October 1.

All communications should be directed to the chairman of the prize committee, Henry Guerlac, professor of history of science, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

## Colleges and Universities

**George D. Stoddard,** former vice-president of AAAS, will be installed as president of the University of Illinois May 15–16. Members of the Board of Trustees, faculty, alumni, and invited speakers will participate in ceremonies in Chicago and Urbana-Champaign.

Anton J. Carlson, emeritus professor of physiology, University of Chicago, and past president of AAAS, will speak at a noon luncheon in Chicago, May 15, following morning convocations at the University's Schools of Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, and Nursing.

An afternoon meeting in Chicago will be addressed by President Stoddard; Andrew C. Ivy, vice-president for the University's Chicago professional colleges; and Charles Luckman, alumnus, and president of Lever Brothers. James B. Conant, president of Harvard University and chairman of the executive committee, AAAS, and Omar N. Bradley, U. S. Administrator of Veterans Affairs, will speak at an evening banquet.

At Urbana-Champaign on May 16 President Stoddard will speak at installation exercises in the morning, and the following will later participate in a symposium on higher education: Sir John Orr, Bucksburn, Scotland, member of the British Parliament, and director-general, United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization; Archibald MacLeish, U. S. representative on the executive board of UNESCO; and Robert M. Hutchins, chancellor, University of Chicago.

**Stanford University** has established an Eye Bank to provide corneal material for eye graft operations at Stanford University Hospital, San Francisco. All qualified eye surgeons on the Pacific Coast will be invited to make use of the Bank, which is being started on gift funds received by the University.

Anthony J. J. Rourke, superintendent of Stanford Hospital, will direct operations of the center. Full information on correct procedure for registration of donors may be obtained from Stanford Eye Bank, 2398 Sacramento Street, San Francisco.

**The new 300,000,000-volt betatron** being built at the University of Illinois will be 23 feet long, 13 feet high, and 6½ feet thick, compared with corresponding dimensions of 19 inches, 10 inches, and 8 inches for the 2,500,000-volt betatron invented and built at Illinois in 1940.

According to the University, the hollow "donut" vacuum tube in which electrons will be accelerated will be 9 feet in diameter in the new instrument, which will itself weigh more than 400 tons; the first weighed 200 pounds and had a vacuum tube of 8 inches. Electrons will travel 700 miles in the 1947 betatron compared with 60 miles in the 1940 model, and power consumption will be 150 kilowatts compared with 5 kilowatts.

The betatron was invented at Illinois in 1940 by Donald W. Kerst (*Science*, January 3, 1947). The 300,000,000-volt betatron will be the University's fourth. All will be housed in a new laboratory which is nearing completion on the campus.

**The Physico-Chemical Institute,** University of Uppsala, Sweden, has started construction of a $695,000 cyclotron laboratory financed jointly by industry and the Swedish Government.

The cyclotron, to be completed in 1948, will weigh 640 tons. It is hoped that it will attain energies of 60,000,000 electron volts for nuclei of heavy hydrogen and 120,000,000 volts for ordinary hydrogen nuclei. It will be used for medical and nuclear research by the Institute staff under The Svedberg, and by industry in investigating uses of radiation in production of textile materials and the chemical industry.

The laboratory will form the center of a science quarter to be built with a physical laboratory on one side and a chemical laboratory on the other, according to the Swedish-International Press Bureau, while a biochemical institute and a large institute for inorganic and organic chemistry will be built in the immediate neighborhood.

Another large cyclotron building is in progress at the Nobel Institute, Stockholm, which is under the direction of Manne Siegbahn.

**A scroll commemorating the founding meeting of the American Medical Association** at the New York University Medical Department in May 1846 was presented to Currier McEwen, dean of the University's College of Medicine, at the recent annual Alumni Day Dinner of the College in New York.

More than 250 alumni doctors of the College of Medicine attended the dinner and witnessed presentation of the scroll, which said: "In commemoration of the assistance and hospitality extended to the National Medical Convention, the first organizational meeting of the American Medical Association, held in May 1846, in the Hall of the Medical Department of the University then located at Broadway and Third Street, New York City, this scroll is presented to the College of Medicine of New York University on the occasion of Alumni Day, February 22, 1947."

The A.M.A. will hold centennial meetings in Atlantic City, June 9–13.

**West Virginia University Agricultural Experiment Station** announces publication of *Weeds of the world, their digestibility and composition*, by Burch H. Schneider, professor of animal husbandry. The work on which the technical reference book is based was conducted on request of the Committee on Animal Nutrition, National Research Council, with a grant-in-aid from Swift & Company, Chicago.

**Northwestern University** has developed a new testing machine to test artificial limbs for the country's 20,000 veterans and 65,000 war workers who have had amputations. The machine will make an artificial leg carrying a load of 300 pounds "walk" at the rate of 3,000,000 steps in 10 days, the equivalent of three years of normal wear.

The device was designed by William E. Dunshee, John F. Hopp, and LeRoy Barnes, research associates in mechanical engineering, under a Northwestern program of research in artificial limbs financed by the NRC Committee on Artificial Limbs. Paul E. Klopsteg, director of research, Northwestern University Technological Institute, is director of the NRC Committee.

The fatigue tester is used to study strength and durability of ankle and knee mechanisms, plastic shanks, and plastic cement. In one test of artificial leg fittings used at Army amputation centers a leg completed 7,190,000 steps, or three weeks of continuous high-speed walking, without failing. This is the equivalent of seven years of normal wear.

Preliminary tests indicate that a combination of riveting and bonding—plastic cementing—is the strongest means of connecting joints, and that plastic parts show great strength. No plastic part of any limb has failed to date in the fatigue testing machine.

## Summer Programs

**The University of Wisconsin** in 1948 will discontinue its 16-week summer semester in favor of the regular 8-week session. The full summer session and continual year-round educational program was adopted during the war to speed training programs and was continued as an aid to returned veterans.

**The Canadian Mathematical Congress** will hold a Summer Seminar at the University of Toronto, August 15-September 14. U. S. mathematicians are invited to attend.

On the research level the Seminar will center on algebra and the theory of numbers. L. J. Mordell, Sadlerian professor of mathematics, Cambridge University, Saunders MacLane, Harvard University, and Paul Dubreil, University of Nancy, on appointment of their respective governments, will give series of lectures. A seminar on algebra under Richard Brauer, University of Toronto, and one on the theory of numbers under Gordon Pall, Illinois Institute of Technology, will integrate work of the general Seminar in these fields.

On the instructional plane there will be courses on the level of the Master's degree on subjects of the Seminar.

It is planned to accommodate mathematicians and their families in one of the residences of the University at a moderate rate. The Seminar fee is $10. Applications should be sent to The Secretariat, Canadian Mathematical Congress, Engineering Building, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec.

Inquiries regarding accommodation should be directed to the secretary of the local committee, G. deB. Robinson, Department of Mathematics, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada.

## Meetings

**The Field Conference of Pennsylvania Geologists** will be held at Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, May 30–31 and June 1. Field trips will be held in and near the Lehigh Valley. Information may be obtained from the secretary of the Conference, M. N. Shaffner, Pennsylvania Topographic and Geologic Survey, Harrisburg, or Bradford Willard, head, Department of Geology, Lehigh University, Bethlehem.

**The Institute of Food Technologists** will meet June 1–4 at the Hotel Statler, Boston, Massachusetts. Among the scheduled features are an evening symposium on "Potential Applications of Colloidal Chemistry and Food Processing," led by Ernst Hauser; sessions on "Food Technology and Its Relation to Management," "Research and Development Administration," "Food Transportation and Storage," and "Food Processing and Sanitation"; seminar sessions on "Frozen Foods" and "Fisheries Technology"; and presentation of the Industry Achievement Award and the Nicholas Appert Medal Award.

Those interested in attending the conference are invited to address Robert J. Gray, Northeast Section, Institute of Food Technologists, % of Dewey and Almy Chemical Company, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

**The Meteoritical Society** will hold its 10th meeting in connection with the meeting of the Pacific Division of the AAAS in San Diego, California, June 18–19. The afternoon session of June 19 will be a joint session with the Astronomical Society of the Pacific.

Titles and abstracts of papers to be presented at the meeting should be sent to the chairman of the program committee, John A. Russell, Department of Astronomy, University of Southern California, Los Angeles 7, California.

**The American Society for the Study of Blood** will hold an organizational meeting at the Hotel Claridge, Atlantic City, New Jersey, Sunday, June 8. Information about the new society to promote study of diseases of the blood, blood grouping, and transfusions may be obtained from Alexander S. Wiener, M.D., 64 Rutland Road, Brooklyn 25, New York.

**The Ohio Academy of Science** will hold its 56th annual meeting at Marietta College, Marietta, Ohio, on May 1–3. Officers of the Academy are: H. H. M. Bowman, University of Toledo, president; W. M. Tidd, Ohio State University, treasurer; and Rush Elliott, Ohio University, secretary.

**The New England Section of the American Society of Plant Physiologists** will meet at the University of Vermont, Burlington, on May 23–24. Papers will be presented at the Friday afternoon and Saturday morning sessions, and a banquet is scheduled for Friday evening. All plant scientists are invited to make reservations through Dr. James W. Marvin, Department of Botany, University of Vermont.

**The American Institute of Electrical Engineers** has scheduled the following meetings for the remainder of 1947: Summer General Meeting, Montreal, Quebec, June 9–13; Pacific General Meeting, San Diego, California, August 26–29; Middle Eastern District Meeting, Dayton, Ohio, September 23–25; and Midwest General Meeting, Chicago, Illinois, November 3–7.

## Recent Deaths

**Sir Joseph Barcroft,** 74, British physiologist, died March 21 in London. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1910, president of the physiological section of the British Association in 1920, and was Fullerian professor of physiology at the Royal Institution from 1923 to 1926, after which he became professor of physiology at Cambridge.

**Marion Savage,** 61, a consulting engineer for the General Electric Company, who won the Lamme Gold Medal in 1938 for his work on large, high-speed turbine generators, died April 9 in Walterboro, South Carolina.

**Walter Ramsden,** 79, senior fellow of Pembroke College, Oxford, and emeritus Johnston professor of biochemistry at the University of Liverpool, died March 26 at Oxford.

**Charles A. Cadwell,** 76, former professor of mining engineering at Case School of Applied Science and for the last 36 years engaged in research in electricity and metallurgy for the Electric Railway Improvement Company, died March 27 in Cleveland, Ohio.

## NRC News

**Raymund L. Zwemer** has recently been appointed executive secretary of the National Research Council and acting executive secretary of the National Academy of Sciences. For 16 years Dr. Zwemer was active in teaching and research at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, and for the past three years has been with the Department of State as executive director of the Interdepartmental Committee on Scientific and Cultural Cooperation.

**The medical advisory committees of the Division of Medical Sciences** have held a series of meetings since the first of the year to review problems in medicine, surgery, neuropsychiatry, and other specialized fields. These committees, which serve as a connecting link between the civilian medical profession and the Federal medical departments, are composed largely of outstanding specialists who served in the medical departments of the Army and Navy or contributed in a civilian capacity to work of the armed forces. Among recent problems upon which the committees have advised the Federal medical services are: use of oral penicillin in venereal disease prophylaxis, auditory standards for admission to the U. S. Military Academy, continuation of research on rheumatic fever, use of anesthetic ointments in the eye, and revision of physical standards for the Army and Navy. The latter undertaking will be continued over a period of years, during which currently applied physical and mental standards will be analyzed in the light of latest medical thought and practice. Since future emergencies will probably demand total utilization of man power, studies will be made concerning the use of the physically handicapped in military and civilian jobs. Experience in World War II demonstrated that many physically disqualified individuals can render effective service if properly assigned. In the revised physical standards, provisions will be made whereby physical and mental disabilities will be evaluated in relation to job placement.

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**A letter from Bruno Schussnig, Austrian phycologist,** indicating the conditions under which he must work, has been received by Lewis Hanford Tiffany, Department of Botany, Northwestern University. Excerpts from the letter follow:

"Due to difficult conditions in Austria both for working and for living, I should appreciate an opportunity of continuing my work in some American university. I beg of you to keep my circumstance in mind and to let me know if any opportunity should arise for me to come to America.

"I shall appreciate any publications you and your fellow botanists can send me, for both my laboratory and my library of about 4,000 volumes in Vienna were completely destroyed by the Nazis. With these publications it will be possible for me to continue my researches. I am hoping to complete my 3-volume treatise on the lower plants. The first volume appeared in 1938 and is to be revised. The second volume will treat of the colonization, sexuality and inheritance among the lower plants, and the third will propose a new classification of these plants."

Professor Schussnig's address is Igls bei Innsbruck, Osterreich, Europa.

**Williams & Wilkins Company,** scientific publishers, Baltimore, Maryland, announce appointment to the editorial staff of F. Kenneth Albrecht, until recently medical adviser to the U. S. Consulate and immigration authorities in Berlin.

**Cinchona Products Institute, Inc.,** New York, celebrated its 10th anniversary in New York, March 10. The Institute has sponsored research on the pharmacology and therapeutics of the cinchona alkaloids, as well as the physiology and genetics of the genus *Cinchona*, grants having been made to Cornell University, Johns Hopkins University, Princeton, Chicago University, University of North Carolina, New York University, as well as to individuals and state departments of health. Robert H. deGreeff and Norman Taylor have been president and director, respectively, since establishment of the Institute.

**The Kaiser Wilhelm-Institut für Biologie,** formerly of Berlin-Dahlem, is now located at Silikatforschung, Faradayweg, but a new central building will soon be built in Tübingen, in the French zone of Germany. K. Paetau is temporarily in charge at Dahlem, where little remains of the original institute. E. Stein, M. v. Dehn, and J. Hassinger-Huizinga are still at Dahlem.

**Institut de Recherches sur le Cancer,** Lille, France, wishes to exchange periodicals and reprints with U. S. organizations conducting cancer research. Communications may be directed to J. Driessens, Directeur de l'Institut de Recherches sur le Cancer, Cité Hospitalière, Lille, France.

**The John Beard Memorial Foundation,** a nonprofit organization to investigate problems requiring correlation of biology, chemistry, and the medical sciences, has been established at 642 Capp Street, San Francisco, California. The research program has begun with studies on metagenesis and the trophoblastic character of cancer.

**Preliminary steps to establish a new South Pacific Commission** were taken February 6 when representatives of the participating governments of Australia, France, Netherlands, New Zealand, United Kingdom, and the United States met at Canberra. The object of the Commission is to promote international cooperation in the development of economic and social welfare of the peoples of the non-self-governing territories in the South Pacific region. All of the governments administer territories south of the equator and east from, and including, Netherlands New Guinea. The Commission is to be a

consultative and advisory body, organized to study, formulate, and recommend measures for improving agriculture, animal husbandry, communications, transportation, fisheries, forestry, industry, labor marketing, production, trade and finance, public works, education, health, housing, and social welfare within the territory designated. Each of the participating governments is to appoint two commissioners, who will be required to hold at least two regular sessions per year.

One of the important instruments of the Commission is a research council, which is to be established as a standing body to advise the Commission. It is expected that a small number of qualified full-time workers to help in economic and social research will be appointed immediately. In these activities, provision is made for participation of the local inhabitants.

The Commission has no organic connection with the United Nations, but expects to cooperate as fully as possible from its temporary headquarters at Sydney, where preliminary arrangements for the establishment will be undertaken jointly by the Australian and New Zealand governments.

An initial budget of 40,000 pounds sterling has been provided, which, after ratification by the cooperating governments, will be increased, with Australia carrying almost one-third of the total budget.

## Make Plans for—

**New York State Geological Association,** 19th field meeting, May 9–10, New York City.

**Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology,** May 18–22 **Chicago, Illinois.**

**Medical Library Association,** 46th annual meeting, May 27–29, Cleveland, Ohio.

**American Medical Association,** centennial session, June 9–13, Atlantic City, New Jersey.

**Pacific Division, AAAS,** 28th annual meeting, June 16–21, San Diego, California.

# COMMENTS *by Readers*

**As the effectiveness of DDT residual house spraying** against *Anopheles albimanus* is a problem of great practical importance for malaria control in the Caribbean area, the work of Stephens and Pratt in Puerto Rico (*Science*, January 10, p. 32) should be examined in the light of the experience with this species in Panamá (*Amer. J. trop. Med.*, 1946, **26,** 383), particularly since Stephens and Pratt have overlooked certain basic considerations.

They report that no reduction of *A. albimanus* occurred, a conclusion based solely on bait and light trap catches. On the basis of the Panamá work, bait trap catches alone are not a valid index of the effectiveness of house spraying. Sharp reductions occur, but persist for only two to six weeks after spraying. This transient effect appears not only in the village but also for some distance around it. *A. albimanus* rests in houses during the night, and counts may be made then. Night catches in treated houses in Panamá show the following prolonged effects: (a) great reduction in numbers of anophelines; (b) reduction in the proportion of engorged anophelines; (c) low 24-hour survival rate for engorged anophelines.

These phenomena, of direct significance in terms of the malaria-transmission potential, occur in close association with the sprayed surfaces, namely, in the houses, and are best measured in houses.

Stephens and Pratt compare their bait and light trap catches of *A. albimanus* with house observations of *A. quadrimaculatus* in Arkansas, and *A. pseudopunctipennis* in Mexico, where marked reductions occurred. This is not a valid comparison. House catches of *A. albimanus* in Panamá show results comparable with those obtained with *A. quadrimaculatus* and *A. pseudopunctipennis*. While it is possible, or indeed quite likely, that the mosquitoes of the Puerto Rican houses were similarly affected, the recorded observations are inadequate to show what happened.

The lower malaria rate reported for the treated Puerto Rican village, after one year, may or may not be significant, but in view of the well-known annual fluctuations of malaria, even in adjacent villages and independent of any control measures, judgment should be suspended. (HAROLD TRAPIDO, *Gorgas Memorial Laboratory, Panamá, Republic de Panamá.*)

**Bluhm's suggestion that the excess of male births** above the theoretical ratio of 50 per cent can be explained by the lighter mass of androsperms (bearing the Y chromosome) in comparison with gynosperms (bearing the X chromosomes) has been criticized recently by Leonard Walker (*Science*, March 7, p. 262). Without necessarily subscribing to Bluhm's theory, I should like to point out a rather obvious fallacy in Walker's argument.

The entire demonstration hinges on the equation: $\frac{v_y}{v_x} = \frac{106}{100}$, in which Walker assumes that the ratio of the velocities of the androsperms and gynosperms is *equal* to the sex ratio. He offers no evidence to support this assumption, and there is every reason to believe that the relationship is by no means so simple.

It seems obvious that the relative velocity of the two kinds of sperms is not the only factor influencing the sex ratio. Also involved are the distance the sperms have to travel, their starting points, and the numbers of each kind of sperm entering the contest, as well as many other factors. If only one sperm of each sort were involved, it is easy to see how the slower sperm might win out, if the faster one, like the hare, stopped on the way; or, in fact, most likely neither sperm would reach the destination. But with 200,000,000 of each kind of sperm in the race, and with only a single victor, any significant advantage for the androsperms would practically guarantee that the winner would be one of the androsperms. Thus, it seems obvious that the difference in velocities of the two sorts of sperms must be much smaller than assumed by the equation given above, because otherwise only males would be born. (ALEXANDER S. WIENER, *64 Rutland Road, Brooklyn, New York.*)