a National Institute of Mental Health, to be located in the vicinity of the District of Columbia.

The National Registry of Rare Chemicals, 35 West 33rd Street, Chicago 16, Illinois, lists the following wanted chemicals: 2-isoimidazole; 2,1,3-triazole; 4,1,2-triazole; furazan; 1,2,4-oxadiazole; 1,3,4-oxadiazole; isotetrazole; pyridazine; pyrazine; quebrachitol; d-quercitol; cellopentaose; α-benzylpyridine; hydroxytyramine; epinine; 2,2-difluoropropane; glucose 6-phosphate; 2-phosphoglyceric acid; 3-phosphoglyceric acid; and hygrine.

A comprehensive list of powder metallurgy patents to date, including a brief abstract for each invention, has been compiled by Raymond E. Jager and Rolla E. Pollard, of the National Bureau of Standards, and is now available as NBS Publication M184 (*United States patents on powder metallurgy*) from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D. C., at $.30 per copy.

Make Plans for—

American Institute of Electrical Engineers, Pacific General Meeting, August 26–29, San Diego, California.

Mathematical Association of America, September 1–2, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut.

Fourth International Cancer Research Congress, September 2–7, St. Louis, Missouri.

American Astronomical Society, 77th Meeting, September 3–6, Dearborn Observatory, Evanston, Illinois.

First International Biometric Conference, September 5–6, Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, Massachusetts.

American Psychological Association, September 9–13, Detroit, Michigan.

American Roentgen Ray Society, September 14–19, Atlantic City, New Jersey.

American Chemical Society, 112th National Meeting, September 15–19, New York City.

American Association for the Advancement of Science, 114th Meeting, December 26–31, Chicago, Illinois.

COMMENTS *by Readers*

The scientific world has no direct concern with the political side of the conference between the Indonesian and Netherlands Governments deciding on their future relations. These negotiations, however, also involve the status of the scientific institutions on Java and Sumatra, which are of much more than local significance. This is to be regretted, since it is generally admitted that the direction of scientific work and its results have no national or political boundaries. This was typically shown in Java, where men from all nationalities have contributed to scientific biological knowledge of the tropics. Swiss (Hasskarl, Zollinger, Bernard, Vischer, Schweizer), German (Junghuhn, Rumphius), Danish (Jensen, Gandrup), Swedish (Booberg, Tengwall), American (Rands, Yampolski), Chinese (Tan Sin Hok, Tung), Indonesian, and Dutch scientists all contributed while being employed at government and private research institutes and experiment stations. Appointment to such positions was dictated not by political considerations but by qualification for the job. This made the agricultural experiment stations in the Netherlands East Indies among the best in the world.

Recently, alarming news has come from Java concerning these scientific institutions. Plans had been formulated to have all scientific services placed on a commonwealth basis. The Indonesians, however, have claimed complete control over them. This has been ceded to them by a preliminary Netherlands Government decree. Indonesians have been appointed as directors of the institutions, irrespective of their qualifications. Thus, a veterinarian has been named director of the famous Botanic Gardens in Buitenzorg.

This is not scientific direction but political control, which nowhere in the world has produced scientifically significant results. Is it not time for us scientists to act and prevent renewal of methods which were so disastrous in Germany? It has been suggested that the scientific institutions in the Netherlands East Indies be brought under the supervision and control of UNESCO, which would insure continuation of the high standards maintained in the decades before the Japanese invasion. An expression of opinion in this matter, directed toward our representatives on UNESCO, might give results. (F. W. WENT, *California Institute of Technology, Pasadena.*)

In the spring of 1946 I observed that many wild plants of *Cornus florida* in the vicinity of Ann Arbor, Michigan, which I remembered as having borne pure white blossoms formerly, now produced pink flowers. The pink tint usually was uniform over any one plant, but it ranged from the slightest blush to a deep pink from plant to plant. None was seen which was quite as deeply colored as the red variety of *Cornus florida*, but some were near it.

In the present season all these plants again formed white flowers, making it apparent that the weather of the spring of 1946, one of the driest on record for the region, was responsible for the change of color. Although I have no record of it, the amount of sunshine must have been much greater than usual. The combination of much light and little water may have caused a great increase in anthocyanin formation paralleling the familiar *firing* of the lower leaves of corn in hot, dry weather. (CARL D. LA RUE, *Department of Botany, University of Michigan.*)

Folliculinids are complex ciliated protozoans, very similar to the better-known stentors. The stentors are found chiefly in fresh water; the folliculinids, mainly in marine and brackish water, although some have been recorded from fresh water in England, France, Switzerland, Canada, and Uruguay. Since they occur in so many remote points in all oceans, it is easy to assume that they will yet be found along the coasts of all lands.

That they occur in India was stated in 1916, but this publication was so deeply