items listed as available are restricted to the following: antimony 122, 124, 125; argon 37; arsenic 76, 77; bromine 82; calcium 45; carbon 14; chlorine 36; cobalt 60; copper 64; gold 198, 199; iodine 131; iron 55, 59; mercury 197, 203, 205; phosphorus 32; potassium 42; silver 108, 110, 111; strontium 89, sulfur 35; sodium 24; and zinc 65, 69. Conditions under which foreign shipments may be made include approval by the Commission prior to shipment in the manner followed with domestic requests; the making of progress reports every 6 months; and the opening of laboratories in which the isotopes are used to qualified scientists irrespective of nationality.

The total destruction of the archives and library of the Experimental Station for Sugar Cane at Pasuruan, East Java, by order of the Indonesian Republican authorities has been reported by the Government Botanic Gardens, Buitenzorg, Java, to Frans Verdoorn, editor of *Chronica Botanica*. This planned destruction of detailed data on hybrid cane species, plant diseases and resistant strains, test plantings, soil conservation, and irrigation is an immeasurable loss to the science of sugar cane cultivation and processing in general and to the Java sugar industry in particular.

Make Plans for—

American Chemical Society, September 15–19, New York City.

Clinical Conference on Diagnosis and Treatment of Poliomyelitis, September 15–17, Warm Springs, Georgia.

American Geophysical Union, 21st Regional Meeting, September 17–20, Wesleyan University, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, and Harvard University.

American Institute of Electrical Engineers, Middle Eastern District Meeting, September 23–25, Dayton, Ohio.

Oregon Geography Council, fall conference, October 4, Oregon State College, Corvallis.

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

COMMENTS *by Readers*

We wish to register a protest against two recent articles by Representative J. Parnell Thomas of New Jersey, chairman of the Congressional Committee on Un-American Activities. These are: "Russia Grabs Our Inventions" (*American Magazine*, June) and "Reds in Our Atom Plants" (*Liberty*, June 21).

Mr. Thomas' articles are inaccurate to the point of absurdity. Thus, in one, he says that the National Bureau of Standards tests patents, which will be news to the Bureau and the Patent Office. Nevertheless, his attacks on the patriotism and honesty of American scientists are bound to be taken seriously by many people and will do harm.

We are particularly aroused at the treatment accorded Dr. Edward U. Condon, director of the Bureau of Standards, who, by inference and innuendo, is made to appear engaged in reprehensible and subversive activities.

Dr. Condon is a distinguished scientist, the director of a great national institution, a former president of the American Physical Society, sometime adviser to the Senate on matters concerning atomic energy, and a former associate director of the Westinghouse Laboratories. By no stretch of the imagination is he a Communist or an unloyal American.

Mr. Thomas especially attacks Dr. Condon for his membership on the board of directors of the American-Soviet Science Society. This organization, which has received a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation, is in no way connected with any pro-Soviet agency. It exists solely for the purpose of furthering international exchange of scientific information (something scientists everywhere favor), particularly by making Russian scientific papers available in English.

Mr. Thomas furthermore plainly implies that Dr. Condon is dodging testifying before the Thomas Committee. Dr. Condon, however, can hardly be an unwilling witness, since he has never been invited to testify, although he was visited in March by two of the Committee's investigators, with whom he cooperated completely.

Mr. Thomas owes Dr. Condon and the Nation a retraction and an apology for his innuendoes concerning a distinguished scientist. (IRVING LANGMUIR, D. A. MACINNES, GEORGE B. PEGRAM, I. I. RABI, W. M. STANLEY, and HAROLD C. UREY.)

Bacteriostasis is an important phase in the recent development of chemotherapy, and the quest for new natural and synthetic agents will, no doubt, pursue its course (H. W. Florey. *Brit. med. Bull.*, 1946, **4**, 248; V. C. Barry. *Nature, Lond.*, 1946, **158**, 863). The factors underlying bacterial inhibition extend, however, beyond the interaction of some specific substances with normal metabolic products of certain bacteria. Thus, in the absence of regulated administration, the bacteriostatic treatment itself may evoke in bacteria an environmental adaptation or an acquired resistance, as manifested by functional (p-aminobenzoic acid, enzymes) and structural (genes, chromosomes) changes (F. R. Selbie. *Brit. med. Bull.*, 1946, **4**, 267).

Again, the physical aspect of this problem is not without consequence. The fatty covering of some bacteria, as in the case of *tubercle bacilli*, may prevent contact between the organism and the agent, which is essential to bacteriostasis. These protective coverings could probably be removed and interaction made possible by the addition of a suitable solvent, such as acetamide, to the solution or colloidal suspension of the agent. Acetamide has a high solvent power, and both it and its hydrolytic products are nontoxic. Furthermore, its constitutional affinity to antibacterial substances, such as allantoin, urea (M. Copisarow. *Chem. Ind.*, 1942, **61**, 67), and sulfonamide, suggests the possibility of its synergic action in bacteriostasis. This may ultimately lead to the reassessment of the effective range of the bacteriostatic agents. (MAURICE COPISAROW, *1 Gildridge Road, Manchester, England.*)