

and premium, administered by the Board of Directors of City Trusts, City of Philadelphia. He thus entered the ranks of such recipients as Madame Curie, Thomas Edison, Orville Wright, Guglielmo Marconi, Alexander Fleming, C. F. Kettering, R. B. Woodward, Vannevar Bush, Irving Langmuir, C. E. K. Mees, J. J. Thomson, F. W. Aston, E. C. Kendall, Selman Waksman, and M. S. Karasch.

Dr. Couch was a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Chemical Society, the American Institute of Chemists,

the Pennsylvania Chemical Society, the Franklin Institute, the Pennsylvania Academy of Sciences, the New York Academy of Sciences, the Agricultural History Society, and the Philadelphia Organic Chemists' Club. He was a profound scholar and an enthusiastic research worker. His scientific ability, breadth of knowledge, personal integrity, and fine sense of humor won him the esteem and affection of many friends. His passing is a great loss to chemistry and agriculture, as well as to his colleagues and his numerous friends.



## News and Notes

### International Statistical Conferences

STATISTICIANS met for the first time in Asia in a series of International Statistical Conferences, which opened in New Delhi on December 5, 1951. Stuart A. Rice, president of the International Statistical Institute, presided. The President of the Republic of India inaugurated the meeting, and Prime Minister Pandit Nehru welcomed the delegates.

The International Statistical Conferences were the second largest world gathering of statisticians, the first being the one in Washington in 1947. The conferences were held from December 5 to 11 in New Delhi, and from December 16 to 18 in Calcutta. They were convened under the auspices of five international organizations, including the International Statistical Institute, the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, and the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth. Delegates came from six Middle East countries, including Iran and Egypt, eight Far East nations, 16 European countries, Brazil, Chile, the U. S. and Canada, Australia, and Japan. Communist China was represented, but the countries behind the Iron Curtain were not. The delegates included representatives of the United Nations, ECAFE, FAO, UNESCO, WHO, and ILO. The host country, India, sent a strong delegation led by P. C. Mahalanobis, who was for the fifth time elected chairman of the UN Subcommission on Statistical Sampling. The delegates from the US included the 90-year old veteran Walter Willcox, Stuart A. Rice, M. A. Copeland, I. F. Corcoran, K. Davis, W. E. Deming, E. F. Dennison, A. Ross Eckler, Konard Becker, F. W. Lorimer, T. F. Mosimann, and W. F. Ogburn.

Dr. Rice said that serious limitations are imposed on the international development of statistics by the gulf between the Soviet and the non-Soviet concepts of statistics and by the withholding of available statistical data by various countries. He said that the United States had made available information requested by the United Nations and intergovernmental organizations for international publications, and he pointed out that underdeveloped countries of the East

have fully recognized the vital need for the acquisition of statistics.

The orbit of the conferences was amazingly vast. The national statistical systems of the participating countries were discussed at a separate meeting, with W. R. Leonard in the chair; and reports on the internal statistical systems of Federal Germany, Japan, and India were presented. Emile Borel, leader of the French delegation, detailed the role of statistics in government administration. In population statistics, technical committees under Professor Willcox dwelt at length on the accuracy of demographic and census data. Papers on the statistical study of birth rates, variation of sex ratio in different conditions, and a study on the fertility ratio and age at marriage merit special mention. Industrial, labor, and agricultural statistics loomed large in the discussions. W. E. Deming, statistical adviser to the U. S. Bureau of the Budget, said that sampling methods in industry had increased production, and he emphasized the need for standardization of products. The role of quality control, business research, and observation in the increase of production was stressed by H. C. Hamaker (Netherlands), I. H. C. Tipper (U.K.), and A. Linder (Switzerland). The ILO Seminar on Labour Statistics continued its deliberations, focusing attention on the need for compilation of reliable labor statistics for Asian countries and for special methods of statistical inquiry into the problems of consumption and underemployment.

The computation of national income and wealth, statistical education, and the report of the Statistical Education Committee of the International Statistical Institute were also considered. The principal Indian delegate stressed the role of mathematical statistics in secondary education and professional training. The problem of teaching statistics in South East Asia was also covered. In statistical sampling, the U. S. subcommission considered the use of survey and experimental techniques for the development of agriculture and small-scale industries. The delegates had the opportunity of getting firsthand information on a new statistical project, an inquiry into rural economic con-

ditions. The inquiry is being conducted by the National Sample Survey, which has already investigated about 1800 Indian villages and 60 urban areas.

In view of the mounting recognition of, and need for, statistics in the countries of Asia, the delegates from Asian countries recommended the establishment of a special body of Asian statisticians. The participation of the governments of this region and procedural matters relating to the formation of this new body have been considered.

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## Scientists in the News

**James E. Ablard** has been named deputy chief of the Explosives Research Department, Naval Ordnance Laboratory, to succeed **Paul F. Fye**, who has been made department chief. Dr. Ablard came to NOL in 1949, and upon the reorganization of the Research Department in 1950 he became chief of the Explosives Properties Division.

**Louis C. Barail**, who has been chief biologist-bacteriologist of the U. S. Testing Co. for the past eleven years, is now a private consultant to industry in biochemistry and toxicology, with offices in New York City and Hackensack, N. J.

**Henry K. Beecher** has recently been named an honorary member of the Royal Society of Medicine (London) "for services to science."

**Hermann M. Burian**, formerly of Boston, has joined the staff of the Department of Ophthalmology, College of Medicine, State University of Iowa, as an associate professor.

**Charles M. Carrier** has been elected vice president and manager of manufacturing for the Great Northern Paper Company, succeeding **C. B. Stanwood** who resigned from these offices, but will remain with the company as director of purchasing. Mr. Carrier has been with the paper company 36 years, having started as a chemist.

**Kenneth E. Caster**, associate professor of geology at the University of Cincinnati, has received notice of his election to membership in the Brazilian Academy of Science at the meeting of its General Assembly in Rio de Janeiro. At the request of the U. S. State Department and the president of Brazil, Dr. Caster went to Brazil in 1945 as visiting professor and director of the Department of Geology and Paleontology at the University of São Paulo. Before returning to Cincinnati in 1948 he conducted intensive South American paleontological investigations as a Guggenheim fellow.

**Leo Otis Colbert** has been appointed director of the Washington office of the Arctic Institute of North America. Admiral Colbert, who retired as director of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey after more than

40 years of service, will take over the duties of **A. L. Washburn**, who resigned recently to enter government service. The institute maintains offices in Montreal, New York, and Washington, and is affiliated with the National Academy of Sciences, the National Research Council, and the AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE. It was founded in 1945 by U. S. and Canadian scientists who recognized the need for a coordinated study of the northern reaches of the continent. Since then it has sponsored nearly 90 field research projects in the North American Arctic and Subarctic.

**Paul W. Dieckman**, former vice president of Wagner College, Staten Island, N. Y., has been elected president of Midland College, Fremont, Neb., succeeding **William P. Hieronymus**, whose resignation will be effective on June 1.

**Fritz John** has returned to his position as professor of mathematics at New York University after serving one year as director of the National Bureau of Standards Institute for Numerical Analysis at UCLA. His successor at UCLA was **Derrick H. Lehmer**, of the University of California at Berkeley.

**Willard Frank Libby**, of the University of Chicago, has been selected for the 1951 Research Corporation Award for developing the technique of radiocarbon dating. Research Corporation, New York, was established in 1912 by Frederick Gardner Cottrell as a nonprofit foundation to distribute grants-in-aid of research to colleges, universities, and scientific institutions. Dr. Libby's award, consisting of a plaque, citation, and \$2500, was presented by Joseph W. Barker, president and chairman of the board.

**G. Burroughs Mider** has been appointed scientific director at the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Mider is professor of cancer research and coordinator of cancer teaching in the School of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Rochester. He will be responsible for the intramural research of the National Cancer Institute. Dr. Mider is a member of the Board of Directors of the New York State Division of the American Cancer Society and a consultant to the Rochester Laboratories of the AEC.

**Charles M. Pomerat**, professor of cytology and director of the Tissue Culture Laboratory at the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, is visiting European cytology research centers for the purpose of reporting current advances in tissue culture study, and of correlating European contributions, for service to American workers in the field. Dr. Pomerat will visit medical laboratories in Paris, Milan, Zurich, Basel, Strasbourg, and Cambridge.

**Abdul Rashid Quraishi**, Assistant Surveyor General of Pakistan, is visiting the U. S. to study topographic mapping techniques.

**José Raymundo de Andrade Ramos**, mining engineer

with the Divisão de Geologia e Mineralogia, National Department of Mineral Production, Brazil, is in this country to continue his studies in stratigraphical geology and invertebrate paleontology, with special reference to the mollusks.

**Soon Sein**, a native of Burma and a graduate student at the Colorado School of Mines, visited the Exploration Engineering Unit of the Geologic Division, U. S. Geological Survey at Denver, Colo., to learn about the exploration work on the Colorado Plateau currently being done by the Survey. Mr. Sein expects to return to Burma in September to take an active part in mineral exploration for the Burmese Geological Survey and Bureau of Mines.

**Norman A. Shepard**, of American Cyanamid Company, has been appointed chairman of a Committee on Materials of the Department of Defense Research and Development Board. The new committee will have jurisdiction over materials matters formerly handled by various RDB committees, including the former Equipment and Materials Committee, which has been reconstituted the Committee on Equipment and Supplies. Dr. Shepard joined the staff of American Cyanamid Company as director, technical service, in 1936, and since 1941 has held the position of director of chemical research. From 1943 to the present time, Dr. Shepard has been a member of the advisory committee for Quartermaster Research and Development, NRC. The new RDB committee will have as executive director **John H. Garrett**, a member of the RDB secretariat since 1949 and a former deputy executive director of the Equipment and Materials Committee. **Nathaniel C. Fick**, an RDB staff member since 1948, will serve the new committee as director of the Panel on Metals and Minerals.

**Emily Myrtle Smith** and **Genevieve Soller**, of the U. S. Public Health Service, have been assigned to Formosa and the Philippines under the Mutual Security Agency program. Miss Smith will be stationed in Taipei, and Mrs. Soller in Manila. They will be chief nurse consultants to the MSA missions in these two capitals.

**Heinz Steinitz**, who has been appointed Magnes fellow, Department of Zoology, Hebrew University, Israel, is spending the year in the Department of Anatomy, Yale University School of Medicine, carrying on a research project on the retina with L. S. Stone.

**Jeffries Wyman** and **Leonard J. Eyges** will serve as science attachés at the American Embassy in Paris. The appointments follow the assignment last summer of science attachés to American missions at London, Stockholm, and Bern. Appointments of scientists to other missions abroad are expected to be made. Dr. Wyman was until recently associate professor of biology and director of the Biological Laboratory at Harvard University. Dr. Eyges, a physicist, has been engaged in research and teaching at the University of California.

## Education

The **Biological Laboratory** of the Long Island Biological Association, Cold Spring Harbor, is offering the following specialized courses: Bacterial Viruses (June 23–July 12), under the direction of A. H. Doermann; Bacterial Genetics (July 16–Aug. 5), given by E. M. Witkin, V. Bryson, M. Demerec, and staff; Cytology of Microorganisms (Aug. 11–30), by E. D. DeLamater; and Population Genetics (June 23–July 31), by R. P. Levine. Further information may be obtained from the laboratory.

**Columbia University, Presbyterian Hospital**, and the **Institute for the Crippled and Disabled** have signed an affiliation agreement, retroactive to Jan. 1, to undertake a comprehensive program of medical care, physical and social readjustment, and job placement of the handicapped. The three groups will operate on their separate budgets, but the work will be coordinated and supervised by Robert C. Darling. Research aimed at the development of new and improved prosthetic devices will be emphasized.

The **Los Angeles College of Optometry** will hold a special summer session May 26–June 6, open to certified optometrists and others interested in visual science or physiological optics. Information may be obtained from Monroe J. Hirsch, 950 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles.

At **Loyola University** the master of science program in chemistry, discontinued during World War II, has been re-established. The faculty is being expanded, and new research laboratories are being constructed. It is hoped that eventually the Ph.D. with a major in chemistry will also be offered. Applications for assistantships should be directed to R. P. Mariella, chairman of the department.

The annual **National College Chemistry Testing Program** will be conducted this spring by the Examinations Committee of the Division of Chemical Education of the American Chemical Society. As in past years, objective tests are available in qualitative and quantitative analysis, organic and physical chemistry, and biochemistry, as well as a new examination in general chemistry. A bulletin describing the tests may be obtained from T. A. Ashford, Chairman, Examinations Committee, St. Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri.

Sponsored by the **Wool Bureau Incorporated**, a regional seminar seeking to determine methods of adequately informing the American consumer regarding quality of fabric and construction of clothing was held at Teachers College, Columbia University, last month. It is hoped that home economics departments in other institutions will be able to hold similar seminars, and a textbook is being planned on the subject. Panel members included Jules Labarthe, Jr., Giles E. Hopkins, Ruth Jackendoff, William Beer, Ephraim Freedman, Richard S. Lees, and Stanley Bernstein.

## Grants and Fellowships

The 1952-53 American Council of Learned Societies awards for study or research are open to teachers in the humanities temporarily displaced from college and university faculties as a result of the defense emergency. Candidates must be U. S. citizens, or must have officially declared their intention of becoming citizens, and the latter must have taught at least three years in a U. S. college or university. The stipend will normally be the equivalent of the salary earned by the candidate during the most recent academic year in which he taught, but not to exceed \$5000. No allowance will be made for foreign travel. For application forms (returnable by *May 15*), write immediately to ACLS Scholars, 1219 Sixteenth St., N.W., Washington 6, D. C.

The Ford Foundation has made initial grants of \$6,550,000 to promote rural and industrial development in Pakistan and India. Included in the grants is \$500,000 to help establish a women's college for domestic science and teacher training in Pakistan.

The closing date for applications for awards under the Fulbright Act for university lecturing and post-doctoral research in 1953-54 in East Asia and the Pacific is *Apr. 15*. Special interim programs are also available in Denmark, Iraq, Pakistan, and Japan. In addition, there are a number of openings in the 1952-53 program for Pakistan, announced last year. For full information, write at once to Committee on International Exchange of Persons, 2101 Constitution Ave., Washington 25, D. C.

Pennsylvania State College has received securities worth \$27,500 from John P. Herrick, oil producer, to finance two scholarships in geology, mineralogy, or engineering in memory of E. L. Drake, who drilled the first oil well in the U. S., near Titusville, Pa., 92 years ago. One scholarship will go to a resident of the state and one to a nonresident.

## Meetings and Elections

The American Fern Society elected the following officers at its annual meeting: president, Ralph C. Benedict; vice president, Donovan S. Correll; secretary, Warren H. Wagner, Jr.; treasurer, M. D. Mann, Jr. A. C. Smith was added to the staff of editors of the *American Fern Journal*, the continuing editors of which include C. V. Morton, Ira L. Wiggins, and Dr. Benedict. Rolla M. Tryon, Jr., is librarian and curator of the herbarium.

Meetings of the Society of Clinical Surgery, the Society of University Surgeons, and the Halsted Club were held in February at Johns Hopkins Hospital to observe the centennial of the birth of William S. Halsted. Exhibits of Halsted's scientific papers, surgical equipment and instruments, and personal belongings, scientific sessions, and a dinner were features of the celebration. Speakers at the banquet included René Lericq, of the Collège de France, Allen O.

Whipple, of Princeton, and David H. Patey, British representative of the Royal Society of Medicine and the Royal College of Surgeons. Alfred Blalock presided at the banquet, and Emile Holman was chairman of the Centennial Committee.

A Symposium on Climatic Changes will be held May 9-10 at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Boston. "Sources of Climatic Change," "Record of Climatic Changes," and "Climate and Man," will be among the topics covered. "Climatic Requirements on This and Other Planets for the Origin and Continuity of Life" will be discussed by a panel of experts from astronomy, biophysics, physiology, oceanography, and paleontology. Harlow Shapley is chairman of the symposium committee.

## Miscellaneous

*The Astrophysical Journal*, a University of Chicago Press publication since 1895, will now be published under the joint sponsorship of the Press and the American Astronomical Society. W. W. Morgan and S. Chandrasekhar, both of Yerkes Observatory, will remain in their former positions of managing editor and associate editor, respectively. The society has appointed Paul W. Merrill, Lyman Spitzer, Jr., Fred Whipple, C. D. Shane, and Gerhard Herzberg to the editorial board, on which the two editors are the Press representatives.

The Fish and Wildlife Service has consolidated the three research units now working on Pacific salmon into one unit, with headquarters in Seattle. The new Pacific Salmon Investigations unit will be headed by Clinton E. Atkinson, head of the research program on shad and Atlantic salmon at Beaufort, N. C. His assistant will be Clifford J. Burner, present chief of the North Pacific Fishery Investigations.

Newly appointed members of the National Science Foundation Divisional Committee for Mathematical, Physical, and Engineering Sciences are: A. A. Albert, Jesse W. Beams, W. L. Everitt, Leo Goldberg, M. P. O'Brien, G. P. Pegram, C. C. Price, W. W. Rubey, C. S. Smith, S. S. Wilks, and E. B. Wilson, Jr.; and of the Divisional Committee for Biological Sciences, Marston Bates, G. W. Beadle, D. P. Costello, W. O. Fenn, Jackson Foster, Theodor Just, J. S. Nicholas, H. B. Vickery, and Douglas M. Whitaker. The committees have been established to serve in an advisory capacity on questions relating to major activities of the foundation.

The William Osler Medal has been established by the American Association of the History of Medicine to stimulate interest and research in medical history. Unpublished essays by men or women who are predoctoral students in schools of medicine at the time the essays are written will be considered, and preference will be given to accounts of original research. Essays should be submitted before *Apr. 15* to Benjamin Spector, Tufts Medical School, 136 Harrison Ave., Boston 11.