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# News and Notes

# **Tropical Building Design and Construction Symposium**

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THE symposium, "Scientific Principles and their Application in Tropical Building Design and Construction," held under the auspices of the UNESCO Science Co-operation Office for South Asia (SASCO) and the National Institute of Sciences of India (NISI), was the outcome of the collaboration of these two bodies, with substantial assistance from several technical departments of the Government of India. which furthermore made a generous financial contribution to its fund.

A strong Organizing Committee, which, with various sub-committees was responsible for the details of the arrangements, was appointed with representatives of the Government of India in the Ministries of Housing, Works and Supplies; Natural Resources and Scientific Research; Defense; the Council of Sciențific and Industrial Research; and of a number of professional institutions and industrial organizations interested in building, construction, and housing problems. J. L. Sarin, of NISI was the secretary of the committee.

Approximately 150 delegates from India, Burma, Ceylon, and Indonesia, attended the symposium. Foreign consultants invited by UNESCO from England, Holland, and Israel, were present to guide its deliberations, and observers from various United Nations organs and specialized agencies participated in the meetings.

The opening session took place in the auditorium

of the National Physical Laboratory of India, New Delhi, December 21, 1952. It was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India. On this occasion, Shri K. D. Malaviya, Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research, S. L. Hora, president of NISI, and P. C. Young, head of SASCO, also delivered addresses. Messages were delivered by foreign delegates on behalf of their countries, Ceylon, Burma, and Indonesia; and by the representatives of ILO, WHO, and ECAFE. In the afternoon, leading technical papers were read by Indian and foreign experts on subjects covering practically the entire field of the symposium. Afterwards, the delegates were the guests at a reception given jointly by SASCO and NISI.

On subsequent days, the symposium met in five sections dealing with (1) Design and Planning, (2) Materials, (3) Production and Building Practice, (4) Ancillary Services for Sanitation, Comfort, and Public Health, and (5) Research, Testing, Documentation, and Technical Training. Attendance at these section meetings was good (about 150 on the average). The total number of complete papers submitted was 80, of which two-thirds were by experts from within the region itself and one-third from the consultants or other foreign specialists. Over 20 written précis of papers which were not, however, later communicated to the organizers, were also received. As far as possible the papers were mimeographed and distributed beforehand. Thus most of the time at the session was left free for the discussion. One point which became apparent was that scientific workers and engineers in this region, realizing the great complexity of the housing problems, were alive to the necessity of doing systematic and scientific research to solve them.

The closing session was held on the afternoon of December 24, 1952. The chairmen of sections presented their report of the discussions, summarizing the conclusions that could be drawn from them. These were adopted after some modifications proposed by the members. Individual participants, acting as spokesmen of the members present from their country, then gave in turn their impressions of the symposium, more particularly in the light of their national needs. Similarly, the observers from the various international agencies gave their views, indicating in conclusion the nature of the assistance which their organizations were in a position to offer to the region toward the solution of its housing problems. From these speeches, the appreciation of the participants as a whole in the scientific and technical nature of the symposium was manifest. As one of the leading engineers, speaking on behalf of the Indian delegates, said: "The members had undergone a valuable and indeed stiff refresher course," during the symposium; they were grateful to UNESCO and NISI for having brought them, engineers, architects, builders, town planners, and scientists, all together for the first time, thus enabling them to pool their knowledge and to exchange ideas and experience to their great mutual advantage.

Sidé by side with, and at the same time as, the symposium, an exhibition on housing was held, which proved very popular, and attracted a large number of visitors. This included a display of building literature and documentation, specially collected for the occasion from all over the world. Its usefulness was appreciated by all, particularly by the participants in the symposium itself.

A number of films were shown which proved to be extremely interesting, dealing with aspects of the building industry and of building research. They included some specially loaned for the purpose by the British Building Research Centre.

A program of social events for delegates and their wives was also arranged, including a reception at Rashtrapati Bhawan (Government House) by Sardar Swaran Singh, Indian Minister of Housing, Works, and Supply, and another on the spacious lawns of the National Physical Laboratory by the DLF Housing and Construction Ltd.

After the conclusion of the symposium on December 24, a number of delegates took part in visits arranged for them to sites of architectural importance in the area, notably to Agra, Fatehpur Sikri, and Chandigarh (the new capital town of Punjab under construction); and in the Karnal district to a representative number of the 4000 houses built of stabilized earth by the local state government several years ago, since when they have stood successfully the test of time.

J. L. SARIN

National Institute of Sciences of India New Delhi Scientists in the News

Chester M. Alter, Dean of Boston University's graduate school, has resigned to become Chancellor of the University of Denver.

E. N. Beesley of Eli Lilly and Company has been elected a vice president of Health Information Foundation, New York. James J. Kerrigan of Merck and Company and W. D. Malcolm of Lederle Laboratories have been appointed to the Foundation's operating and executive committees, respectively.

Karl Hilding Beij, acting chief of the Hydraulics Section of the National Bureau of Standards, has retired after more than 32 years of distinguished service. Known for his work in hydraulics and aeronautic instruments, Mr. Beij holds several patents relating to aircraft sextants, and designed the Bausch and Lomb Sextant used before and during World War II.

Howard L. Bender, Assistant Director of the Research and Development Department, Bakelite Company, received the John Wesley Hyatt Award of the Society of the Plastics Industry. Dr. Bender was honored during the convention cruise of the Society on the *Queen of Bermuda*, in recognition of his lifetime of research in the molecular structure of phenolic resin.

Charles S. Cameron has been elected president of the Commission on Cancer Control of the International Union Against Cancer. Dr. Cameron, medical and scientific director of the American Cancer Society, will sail for Europe in June to discuss plans for worldwide control of cancer.

Gordon B. Carson, former engineering faculty member at Case Institute of Technology, has been named dean of the College of Engineering at Ohio State University, effective July 1. Mr. Carson will succeed the late Charles E. MacQuigg.

Edwin H. Dahlgren, Fish and Wildlife Service fishery biologist, has left for Djakarta, Indonesia, on a two-year assignment to assist with expansion of the cooperative fisheries development program now under way. Willis Horton Rich, also of the Fish and Wildlife Service, is recently back from a six weeks' assignment in Indonesia, and has recommended the continuance of the cooperative program.

August H. Doermann of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory has been appointed Associate Professor of Biology at the Biological Laboratories of the University of Rochester, where he will sponsor training and research in virology and microbial genetics.

Johannes Frandsen, Director of the National Health Services of Denmark, has been awarded the Leon Bernard <u>Tou</u>dation prize by the World Health Assembly, meeting at Geneva, Switzerland. Dr. Frandsen was honored for contributions and practical achievements in social medicine. John F. Fulton, Sterling Professor of the History of Medicine at Yale University, has been elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, London.

J. E. Hedrick of Cornell University's chemical engineering faculty has been appointed Assistant Dean of the College of Engineering at Cornell.

T. Howard James, Research Associate at Kodak Research Laboratories, has been awarded a Davanne Medal by the French Photographic Society. G. I. P. Levenson, Harrow, England, and Mlle. A. M. Venet, Vincennes, France, Kodak research workers overseas, also received Davanne medals.

Donald H. Loughridge, assistant director for reactor development for the Atomic Energy Commission, has been named dean of Northwestern University's Technological Institute, effective July 1.

Manuel Nuno has been appointed the first technical representative of Fisher Scientific Company in Mexico. Mr. Nuno will assist chemists, metallurgists and pathologists in Mexico's growing industrial, research, clinical, and university laboratories.

C. H. B. Priestley, Officer-in-Charge of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, Section of Meteorological Physics, Highett, Victoria, Australia, has been awarded the degree of Doctor of Science of the University of Cambridge for his published research on meteorology.

David J. Rogers, Assistant Professor of Biology, Allegheny College, Meadville, Pa., will do field work in Jamaica and Costa Rica this summer, in connection with his study of the taxonomy of the varieties of *Manihot utilissima*.

G. Milton Shy has been appointed Chief of Clinical Research of the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness, where he will be responsible for clinical research in the neurological and sensory disorders. The Institute has been allocated beds and laboratories in the Clinical Center, the new research facility at Bethesda, Md.

Sir Arthur Smout has been elected a fellow of the Institute of Metals, London. Sir Arthur has been a member of the Institute since 1917, and has served as member of council, vice president and president.

Arthur E. Teeri will succeed Thomas G. Phillips as Chairman of the Department of Agricultural and Biological Chemistry, University of New Hampshire, effective July 1. Dr. Phillips will continue in the department.

**Charles L. Thomas**, formerly manager of the Research Laboratory of the Sun Oil Company, Norwood, Pa., has been appointed associate director of the department in charge of line activities at Marcus Hook, where Sun is currently building laboratories.

F. M. Van Tuyl will retire as head of the Department of Geology at Colorado School of Mines, effective this summer. He will be succeeded by L. W. Le-Roy, Professor of Geology, and a member of the Mines faculty since 1942.

W. J. Van Wagtendonk has received a grant from Eli Lilly and Company to investigate the steroid requirements of Paramecium aurelia in axenic medium and the interaction of steroids. Dr. Van Wagtendonk is a member of the Department of Zoology at Indiana University.

Walter O. Walker, Professor of Chemistry and Director of Industrial Chemical Research, University of Miami, Coral Gables, Fla., has been appointed Dean of the Division of Research and Industry at Miami. His new duties will include coordinaton of all research studies at the university.

# Education

Dartmouth College has acquired an extensive library on the polar regions, assembled over thirty years by Vilhjalmur Stefansson, polar explorer and Arctic consultant to the college museum. Funds to buy the collection were given by Albert Bradley, executive vice president of General Motors and a Dartmouth alumnus.

A month's course in Medical Mycology will be offered at **Duke University School of Medicine**, Durham, N. C., in July, under the direction of Norman F. Conant. Meeting six days a week, the course is designed to insure a working knowledge of the human pathogenic fungi within the time allotted. Applications will be considered in the order received, and information is available from Dr. Conant at Duke.

The fifth "March of Medicine" television program, sponsored by the American Medical Association and Smith, Kline & French Laboratories, will be broadcast from the AMA meeting in New York, June 4. The program will honor the profession of pharmacy, contrasting the apothecary shop of 160 years ago with the prescription pharmacy of today.

Dedication activities for the new Cancer Research Laboratories at Ohio State University included a Cancer Symposium and an exhibit of the research being conducted. The dedication ceremony for the four-story structure, made possible by grants from Ohio, the U. S. Public Health Service, and the Charles Kettering Foundation, was held May 9.

The Kresge Science Library, at Wayne University, was formally dedicated May 14. Stack space in the new building will accommodate the more than 50,000 science volumes and periodicals making up the Kresge-Hooker collection, as well as future accessions. Study space will be provided for students, faculty, industrial research workers, visiting scholars, and advanced students. Harold C. Urey delivered the dedication address on May 15, entitled "Science and Society."

#### Grants and Fellowships

The California Institute of Technology has received a grant of \$10,000 to support the work of the Committee for Aid to War-Stricken Libraries. The Committee, headed by Fritz Zwicky, Professor of Astropyhsics, was formulated to send unclassified scientific material to needy libraries abroad. The foundation grant will be used mainly for shipping charges, since the literature is all donated.

The University of Connecticut has received a Frederick Gardner Cottrell grant of \$4962.50 from the Research Corporation for low temperature physics research. Charles A. Reynolds, low temperature physicist, will direct the supported research entitled "Experimental Investigations of the Hydrodynamics of Liquid Helium II—Heat Transfer in Helium II."

The Fund for the Advancement of Education has granted 252 fellowships to college faculty members in the U.S., Hawaii, and Puerto Rico, for the academic year 1953-54. These grants, aggregating more than \$1,400,000, are designed primarily to enable the recipients to become better qualified to teach in their respective fields, which include the humanities, the social sciences, and the natural sciences.

The University of Michigan has received a grant of \$1,000,000 from the Ford Motor Company Fund for construction on the Ann Arbor campus of a nuclear reactor to be used in nonmilitary research. The new reactor will be housed in the Phoenix Memorial Laboratory, for which ground will be broken this year.

A fellowship in wood chemistry has been established by the Weyerhaeuser Timber Foundation at Northwestern University. Northwestern is the sixth educational institution to be granted WTF fellowships.

# In the Laboratories

Production of gamma globulin has begun in Armour & Company's new plant at Bradley, Ill., financed by the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. Armour will turn over the product to the allocating authority for distribution from the national pool

A new Atomic Energy Commission laboratory located in Winchester, Mass., is in full operation. The primary objective of the laboratory, operated by the American Cyanamid Company under contract to the Raw Materials Division of the AEC, is the development and improvement of processes for the recovery of uranium from its ores. All phases of mineral dressing will be studied, and one of its functions will be to undertake the task of developing methods for recovery of uranium from low-grade uranium-bearing materials.

Edison Research Laboratory scientists have developed a heat-sensitive cable that will stand up under 2000° F and signal an alarm if touched by flame at

any point. Announcement of the completion of several years of research was made by Henry G. Riter, III, President, at the opening of a new \$500,000 research laboratory at West Orange. Robert H. Postal of the Edison research staff, in conjunction with F. G. Kelly, was credited with discovering the thermister material from which the cable is constructed.

The Harvard School of Dental Medicine has opened a new addition to its building that will almost double the available space for research seeking the causes of dental disease. This research ranges from submicroscopic analysis of the structure of the teeth to biochemical studies involving endocrine and nutritional factors in the growth and development of the face and jaws.

The Merck Institute for Therapeutic Research has opened a new center for research. Nearly 400 scientists, educators, government officials, and business leaders attended the dedication ceremonies. Alan Gregg, Vice President of the Rockefeller Foundation, and Alfred E. Driscoll, Governor of New Jersey, were the principal speakers.

Four staff engineers at Monsanto Chemical Company have been appointed assistant directors in the General Development Department. Promoted to the new posts were: Robert H. Kittner, C. Rogers Mc-Cullough, David S. Weddell, and Robert York, Jr.

A new plant of the Union Carbide and Carbon Corporation has been opened at Institute, West Virginia. This is the first commercial plant in the world to produce chemicals directly from coal.

# **Meetings and Elections**

The American Academy of Arts and Sciences, at its Annual Meeting in Boston, elected 97 new Fellows and five Foreign Honorary Members. Elected as officers for the coming year were: president, Edwin H. Land of Polaroid Corporation; vice president for mathematical and physical sciences, Francis Birch, Harvard University; vice president for biological sciences, James M. Faulkner, Boston University School of Medicine; vice president for social arts and sciences, Edwin D. Canham of the Christian Science Monitor; vice president for humanities, John E. Burchard, MIT; secretary, William C. Greene, Harvard; treasurer, Horace S. Ford, MIT; and librarian and editor, Taylor Starck of Harvard.

D. S. Gilmore of the Upjohn Company, Kalamazoo, Mich., was re-elected president of the American Drug Manufacturers Association at the annual meeting at Boca Raton, Fla., April 15. Elected vice presidents were: W. L. Dempsey, of Sharp & Dohme; J. H. F. Dunning, of Hynson, Westcott and Dunning; T. G. Klumpp, of Winthrop-Stearns; and E. H. Volwiler, of Abbott Laboratories. M. C. Eaton, of the Norwich Pharmacal Company and Eaton Laboratories, was elected treasurer. More than 3000 leading biologists from the Western Hemisphere will present some 2000 papers on their scientific findings and will conduct eight symposia on major biological problems at the annual convention of the American Institute of Biological Sciences at the University of Wisconsin, Sept. 6–10.

New officers of the American Psychosomatic Society include: president, George L. Engle; president-elect, Lawrence S. Kubie; and secretary-treasurer, Theodore Lidz. Robert A. Cleghorn, Jacob E. Finesinger, and Jurgen Ruesch were elected to council positions.

A conference was held at Amherst College May 4-6 to discuss the status of physics research in colleges not offering graduate work. The conference was sponsored jointly by the National Science Foundation and Amherst College, and Theodore Soller of Amherst was chairman. There were 25 in attendance, representing colleges of various types in all regions of the country. The conferees agreed that doing research in colleges was helpful in carrying out the educational functions of the college. It was recommended that the Federal Government consider special research grants or contracts in colleges, directly for research and indirectly to improve the training and education of physics students. In addition to Dr. Soller, the committee included: W. C. Michels, Bryn Mawr College; K. S. Van Dyke, Wesleyan University (Conn.); Mildred Allen, Mt. Holyoke; C. A. Fowler, Pomona College; R. R. Palmer, Beloit College, and J. H. Mc-Millen. NSF.

A new organization, the Association of University Anesthetists, has been formed to advance the art and science of anesthesia by encouraging original investigations, by developing methods of teaching, and by such free and informal interchange of ideas as a limited membership and common aims make possible. The organizing committee included physician anesthetists from Columbia, Harvard, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Tufts, Vanderbilt, and Wisconsin. Additional anesthetists have been elected from these universities, and from the following medical schools: Albany, Boston, Cornell, Duke, Georgia, Johns Hopkins, New York, New York State, Oregon, Rochester, Texas, Tulane, Washington, Wayne, and Yale.

The Northeastern Section of the **Botanical Society** of America will hold its seventh annual summer excursion in the Adirondack Mountain area of New York June 16–19. Headquarters will be at Champlain College in Plattsburg. Information may be obtained from Dr. E. C. Ogden, New York State Museum, Albany.

The Safety Awards Committee of the Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association has approved 527 awards to individuals and companies for the promotion of safety in the mining, mineral, extractive, and related industries. The Hero Award Committee also approved 9 Medals of Honor and 2 Certificates of Honor for individuals who were instrumental in saving life or avoiding injury. The National Advisory Councils, nonfederal groups that advise the Public Health Service, will meet twice a year instead of three times. The meetings will be held in June and January at the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md. One of the principal functions of the Councils is to advise the Surgeon General with regard to research, teaching, and training grants. The National Institutes of Health Study Sections, which provide the Councils with advice on grant applications, will also meet twice a year, in April and November. Applications received by August 15 will be considered at Council meetings in January, 1954, and those received by January 15 will be considered in June.

Three new members have been appointed to the National Research Council of Canada, and three retiring members have been reappointed. New members include R. F. Farquharson, University of Toronto, and E. G. D. Murray and David L. Thomson, McGill University. The Council members who have been reappointed are C. W. Argue, University of New Brunswick, A. G. McCalla, University of Alberta, and G. M. Shrum, University of British Columbia.

The next scheduled meetings of the Scientific Advisory Committees to the Division of Biological and Medical Sciences of the National Science Foundation will be held in late autumn, 1953. To be considered at these meetings proposals for research support must be received by the Foundation prior to Oct. 1, 1953. It is anticipated that evaluation of proposals will be completed within two months after the closing date. The Foundation sponsors basic research in the biological and medical sciences in the broad fields of molecular, genetic, developmental, regulatory, systematic, and environmental biology, and in experimental psychology.

The Summer Seminar in Statistics will meet at the University of Connecticut, Aug. 10–28. The first week will be concerned with statistical method in physics, the second with statistics in biometry and medicine, the third with the ASA Handbook and with performance and reliability of complex mechanical assemblies. The sessions may be attended for a day, a week, or other period. Information may be obtained from Prof. Geoffrey Beall, Statistical Laboratory, University of Connecticut, Storrs, Conn.

The sixth annual Symposium on Crystal Chemistry as Applied to Ceramics will be held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on June 18. William D. Kingery, Assistant Professor of Ceramics at MIT, is in charge of arrangements.

A new Tobacco Research Advisory Committee has been appointed by the Board of Control of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. Made up of prominent tobacco growers, representing all phases of the industry, the committee was formed to consult with the Station on policy to be followed on future research. Meeting with the committee were board members John Lyman, vice president, James G. Horsfall, director, and William L. Slate, the Station's director emeritus and acting head of the Tobacco Laboratory at Windsor.

Officers of the West Viriginia Academy of Science for 1953-54, elected at the annual meeting held at Morris Harvey College, Charleston, are: president, E. E. Myers; vice president, Robert C. Colwell; secretary, J. T. Handlan, Jr.; treasurer, H. D. Bennett.

At the World Health Organization meeting in Geneva in May, Murchad Khater, Minister of Health of Syria, was elected president. Vice presidents elected were Saiful Anwar of Indonesia, Roberto Caceres Bustamente of El Salvador, and Melville D. Mackenzie of Britain. The Director-General, Brock Chisholm of Canada, will be succeeded by M. G. Candau of Brazil. Dr. Chisholm's five-year term expires on July 21.

#### Miscellaneous

The American Museum of Natural History has opened Brontosaur Hall, a newly designed exhibition of life on earth more than two hundred million years ago. The hall, which contains the world's largest collection of early fossil amphibians and reptiles, was under reconstruction for more than a year. Scientists, artists, and craftsmen combined their efforts to create a dramatic setting in which to tell the story of life millions of years before the earliest man.

**Consultants Bureau**, 152 W. 42nd St., New York, will publish separate tables of contents to each issue of the English translation of the following Russian chemical journals: The Journal of Analytical Chemistry; the Journal of Applied Chemistry; the Journal of General Chemistry; the Bulletin of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R, Division of Chemical Science; and Colloid Journal. The tables of contents will be mailed without charge if requested on an official letterhead. Any paper listed may be purchased for \$7.50.

John Behnke, Associate Administrative Secretary, served as AAAS representative at the dedication of the Ford Motor Company Archives at Fair Lane, the late Henry Ford's home in Dearborn, Mich. The ceremonies were part of the celebration of the Golden Anniversary of the Ford Motor Company. A staff of researchers are sorting and cataloging some 5,000,000 letters and company papers and 25,000 photographs. A unique feature is the recording of interviews with those who have had some part in the Company's development or in the lives of Henry and Clara Ford. Of the 300 to 500 people to be questioned, some 225 have already recounted their recollections, and the total will amount to some 13,500,000 words. Recorded on tape, transcribed, and then carefully edited, each participant's material forms a bound volume in its chronological niche in the reference room of the Archives. In addition, the Archives library includes

7500 books and 187 volumes of newspaper clippings. The visitors were also shown the Scientific Laboratory where, during the first year of its operation, over 140 scientists and engineers have been assembled to conduct basic and applied research.

The New York Zoological Society has appointed Mc-Graw-Hill's Text-Film Department as the distributor of its current and future films. Four 10-minute films dealing with mammals, birds, and fish in the Bronx Zoo and the New York Aquarium are now available in black-and-white and color. Ten other films on reptiles, African mammals, baby animals, and great zoological rarities are planned by the Society for distribution in the next two years.

The 200th anniversary of the publication of *Species Plantarum*, by Carl Linnaeus, or Carl von Linné, was observed May 19 by an international group of botanists in Cambridge, Mass. The plan for the jubilee originated in the Netherlands, where Linnaeus' system for the classification of plants was originally accepted, and where the International Bureau for Plant Taxonomy and Nomenclature is now publishing a special issue of its magazine, *Taxon*.

The U.S. Atomic Energy Commission has awarded a total of 37 unclassified physical research contracts with universities and private research institutions during this year. The contracts, which generally were for a term of one year, were let as part of the AEC's policy of fostering private research to encourage maximum scientific progress in fields related to atomic energy. All the contracts are for basic, rather than applied, research. Contract proposals are reviewed by scientists, and participating institutions assist in defraying the costs of research when it is of mutual interest.

Seven employees and two work units of the U.S. Department of Agriculture have received Distinguished Service Awards, 105 employees and 13 work units have received Superior Service Awards, and 46 workers were given recognition for 40 years or more of service. The Department's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award, will go to Fred C. Bishopp, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, Washington, D. C.; Sterling B. Hendricks, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils and Agricultural Engineering, Beltsville, Md.; Allene R. Jeanes, Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry, Peoria, Ill.; Henry A. Jones, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils and Agricultural Engineering; Joseph M. Mehl, Commodity Exchange Authority, Washington, D. C.; Ernest R. Sasscer, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine; and R. W. Trullinger, Office of Experiment Stations, Washington, D. C. The two work units receiving the highest honor were the Animal Fat Oxidation Unit, Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry, Wyndmoor, Pa., and the Project on the Action of Diisopropyl Fluorophosphate on Esterolytic Enzymes, Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry, Albany, Calif.