News and Notes

International Conference of Parapsychological Studies

THE First International Conference of Parapsychological Studies met at the University of Utrecht, Netherlands, from July 30 to August 5, 1953. From 14 nations, sixty-three members, principally physicists, chemists, biologists, psychologists, sociologists, engineers, and mathematicians, met to consider problems which arise in the investigation of types of purported communication between individuals not explicable in terms of any known form of contact through the sense organs, and types of contact between individuals and their physical environments not explicable in terms of contemporary physics and biology—processes designated generically as psi-gamma (paranormal cognition) and psi-kappa (paranormal action upon bodies not in physical contact with the individual). Such processes are often entitled telepathy, clairvoyance, psychokinesis.

After preliminary sessions delimiting the field of inquiry, four working groups were established: the first dealing with quantitative experimental studies of the various classes of paranormal activity, including the physical and physiological aspects of paranormal phenomena; the second, with interpretation of material gathered in the practice of psychiatry; the third, with qualitative and spontaneous (not experimentally controlled) phenomena; and the fourth, with the psychological study of those persons who appear to display a relatively large amount of paranormal sensitivity (special sensitivities). Fifty-seven papers were presented in all.

Consideration was given to the establishment and maintenance of scientific standards, the development of appropriate experimental and quantitative methods, the devices for discovering specially sensitive individuals, and the most profitable ways in which to combine and extend the concepts and methods of the various sciences in an attempt to understand more fully the relations between the living organism and the environment. The various scientific groups, assisted by men working in the philosophy of science, discussed the possibility of developing a theory sufficiently comprehensive to give some sort of order to the variety of phenomena described.

Although most of the problems have been investigated for many years by individual scientists and by societies for psychical research, the spread of interest among scientists has been notable in recent years; and a primary activity of the Conference, beyond the authentication of various classes of facts, was the effort to develop a scientific program to deal with all types of unknown relations between individual and environment, whether at present classifiable or not. There was, for example, marked interest in the problems of unexplained or unorthodox healing (recoveries from disease transcending the present concepts of psychosomatic medicine). A medical committee was established and empowered to take the first steps toward the organization of a research center for the investigation and interpretation of such phenomena.

While most of the research workers in the field of parapsychology are known to one another through the technical journals, the opportunity to meet for a week under university auspices with the financial support of the Parapsychology Foundation of New York marked an important forward step in understanding surmounting the barriers of nationality, language, and professional specialization.

The Conference established a Secretariat and Publication Center at the University of Utrecht, and a series of committees charged with arranging subsequent meetings of specialized groups, e.g., the physicists and engineers among the group to meet with other physical scientists to share the experimental problems presented at the meeting, and the psychiatrists to meet with other psychiatrists.

The Conference members included R. A. McConnell, Biophysics Laboratory, University of Pittsburgh; Gardner Murphy, Director of Research, Menninger Foundation, Topeka, Kansas; Hornell Hart, Department of Sociology, Duke University, representing J. B. Rhine's Parapsychology Laboratory; F. J. M. Stratton, Professor Emeritus of Astrophysics, Cambridge; Hans Schafer, Professor of Physiology, Heidelberg; S. G. Soal, Professor of Mathematics, University of London; H. H. Price, Professor of Philosophy, Oxford; and Gabriel Marcel, Académie des Sciences, Morales et Politique.

GARDNER MURPHY

Menninger Foundation
Topeka, Kansas

Celebration in Honor of Dr. E. C. Stakman

Professor Emeritus may now be added to the many titles of E. C. Stakman, who relinquished the headship of the Department of Plant Pathology at the University of Minnesota on June 30, 1953, to his former student and long-time academic and professional associate, J. J. Christensen. Retirement is a most inappropriate term under the circumstances: while the departmental administrative responsibilities have been laid aside, the opportunities for productive scholarship and scientific leadership are as boundless and as challenging as ever. Dr. Stakman has the ageless enthusiasm, the imagination, and the vigorous inquisitiveness of a youth beginning a scientific career, plus the disciplines and tempered judgments from a rich experience during these past forty years of change and progress in science. Dr. Stakman was raised on a farm near Brownton, Minnesota, and has been a Uni-

versity staff member for 44 years. He is 68 years old.

Investigations of the cereal rusts have been among the major researches of Dr. Stakman ever since 1909, and he will continue these researches for the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine of the United States Department of Agriculture, with his headquarters at the University of Minnesota. Working as a member of a team of agronomists, cereal chemists, and plant pathologists, he has helped develop new varieties of wheat, oats, and other grains which have meant millions of dollars in increased yields to American farmers. Today he is active in research aimed at developing wheats resistant to Race 15B of stem rust, which in recent years has taken a heavy toll of the nation's wheat crop. As Consultant for Agriculture, he also continues his work for the Rockefeller Foundation on their program for agricultural improvement in the Latin American countries. In July, 1953, he traveled in Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, and Mexico for the Foundation.

The AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE, in which he has served as president and member of the executive committee, has designated Dr. Stakman as their representative on the United States National Commission for UNESCO. Since 1951 he has been a member of the executive committee of that commission. He continues to serve as chairman of the National Research Council's Committee on Science in UNESCO.

The National Science Board of the United States still has Dr. Stakman's services on its executive committee. In addition, he is a member of the Committee on Policy of the Office of International Relations in the National Academy of Sciences and the National Research Council.

Various other committees with the National Academy of Sciences and the National Research Council command his services. Since 1950 he has been a member of the executive committee of the Agricultural Board. In the Division of Biology and Agriculture, he has a membership on the Committee on Plant and Crop Ecology and is chairman of the Subcommittee on Aerobiology. In the Division of Medical Sciences in the National Research Council, he is a member of the Committee on Sanitary Engineering and Environment and of the Subcommittee on Atmospheric and Industrial Hygiene. He serves on the Lilly Fellowship Board for the Council and on the U.S.A. National Committee of the International Union of Biological Sciences. In the National Academy he also serves on the Committee on the John J. Carty Fund.

In 1953 Dr. Stakman became chairman of the Advisory Committee for Biology and Medicine in the United States Atomic Energy Commission, a committee of which he has been a member since 1948.

On June 26 the departmental faculty, secretaries, and students, the federal collaborators, a few old friends, and several former students honored Dr. and Mrs. Stakman at an informal dinner in the Campus Club of the University of Minnesota. In spite of the fact that 120 persons dined together, there was the "Gemütlichkeit" of the family gathering. Speeches were short, sincere, and witty: C. O. Rosendahl, Professor Emeritus in Botany, was in the position of witnessing the retirement of one of his star pupils; C. M. Christensen spoke for his faculty colleagues concerned with the continued welfare of the department; Laura Hamilton represented the secretaries who experienced many of the departmental growing pains over the years; Donald Fletcher reviewed the many years of collaboration on cereal rusts with the plant breeders, the federal plant pathologists, the state barberry leaders, and the personnel of the grain industries; and the graduate students caricatured a departmental seminar in a short skit. Dr. Stakman was invited to be one of a quartet for a few musical moments, after which he was presented with two pipes for his future minutes of meditation and relaxation. Four volumes of letters from friends and associates, each volume appropriately illustrated by C. M. Christensen, were presented to Dr. Stakman by J. J. Christensen. A radio-television set was presented to Mrs. Stakman in appreciation of her sympathetic contributions to the scientific career of a busy husband. In responding to the fun, gentle irony, and heartfelt appraisals expressed by the various speakers, Dr. Stakman spoke of his privileges and opportunities in teaching and pursuing researches at the University of Minnesota, and of his satisfaction whenever a student attained scientific eminence and contributed to the advancement of knowledge and to the welfare of mankind.

A Stakman Award Fund has been set up by his friends and former students. The nature of the award will be determined later. Dr. Stakman will hold life membership on a committee of five to administer the award funds and select deserving recipients.

HELEN HART
Department of Plant Pathology and Botany
Institute of Agriculture
University of Minnesota

Scientists in the News

J. W. Duffield, who has been a forest geneticist at the California Forest and Range Experiment Station of the U.S. Forest Service since 1946, has resigned to accept a position on the staff of the University of Washington. Dr. Duffield has been in charge of the pine breeding program at the Institute of Forest Genetics, a branch of the California Station located near Placerville, Calif., where he has conducted hybridization studies on most of the important timber pines of the world.

Kenneth M. Earle, who has been associated with Wilder Penfield at the Neurological Institute of McGill University, Montreal, has accepted appointment as Associate Professor of Neuropathology at the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston. Dr. Earle will conduct teaching and research jointly in the

Departments of Pathology, and of Neurology and Psychiatry.

Four scientists who are not British subjects have been elected honorary fellows of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. They are: **Gustav Egloff,** Director of Research for Universal Oil Products Company, Des Plaines, Ill.; **Prof. Otto Struve,** Department of Astronomy, University of California; **Prof. Carl Peter Henrick Dam,** Department of Biochemistry, Polytechnic Institute, Copenhagen; and **Prof. Karl Manne Georg Siegbahn,** physicist, of Stockholm.

John Einset, Professor of Pomology at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Cornell University, Geneva, has been appointed Associate Head of the Station's Pomology Division. He succeeds **Richard Wellington,** who retired July 1 after 40 years of service.

The Geneva Experiment Station has been designated as a regional plant introduction station for the northeastern United States under a cooperative arrangement between the U.S. Bureau of Plant Industry and the 11 states of the northeastern region for the "discovery and preservation of valuable plant germ plasm." Similar stations serving other regions are located at Ames, Iowa; Experiment, Ga.; and Pullman, Wash.

Charles A. Farish has resigned his position as Director of Sanitation for the State Board of Health, Columbia, S.C., to join the staff of the Testing Laboratory of the National Sanitation Foundation at Ann Arbor.

Howard L. Farrow, formerly Lubricants Research Supervisor for the Richfield Oil Corporation, has been made Plant Manager of the Arthur C. Withrow Company of Los Angeles.

J. S. Fawcett has been named Director of Fisher Scientific Company's Development Laboratories.

W. W. Grigorieff, Director of the Institute of Science and Technology of the University of Arkansas, has been named Chairman of the University Relations Division of the Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies. Dr. Grigorieff succeeds **Russell S. Poor,** who has left Oak Ridge to become Provost of the University of Florida-Health Center. The University Relations Division administers a number of fellowship programs for the Atomic Energy Commission and, with the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, directs research participation, Oak Ridge graduate work, and other programs of interest to universities.

Charles M. Gruber, Jr., formerly Associate Professor of Pharmacology at Jefferson Medical College, has assumed charge of the applied pharmacology and clinical study of hypnotic and analgesic drugs for Eli Lilly and Company, Indianapolis.

George Russell Harrison, Dean of Science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is to receive an Elliott Cresson Medal from the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, for his valuable work in spectroscopy.

Henry W. Kumm has been appointed Director of Research for the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of **Harry M. Weaver.** Dr. Kumm, who spent 23 years on the staff of the Rockefeller Foundation for Medical Research before joining the National Foundation in 1951, is well known for his part in the Rockefeller Foundation investigations leading to the control of yellow fever. He has also done extensive work in the study of the transmission of yaws and the control of malaria.

James A. Lane has been appointed Director of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory Reactor Experimental Engineering Division. He succeeds **Charles E. Winters,** now Acting Head of the Division and Assistant Research Director of ORNL.

I. Melville Stein, former Vice President of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, has succeeded **Charles S. Redding** as President of Leeds & Northrup Company, Philadelphia. He has been associated with the firm since 1919. Mr. Redding has become Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Walter C. Voss, Head of the Department of Building Engineering and Construction at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has retired. Prof. Voss, who was born in Chicago in 1887, graduated from Teachers College in 1907, the University of Illinois in 1912, and M.I.T. (Master of Science) in 1932.

After two years of work in structural design in Chicago, he became Head of the Department of Architectural Construction at the Wentworth Institute in Boston in 1914; from 1925 until he became associated with M.I.T., he served as District Structural Engineer with the Portland Cement Association. He is a consultant in architectural construction and materials, director of the California Stucco Products Company, a member of the Committee on Masonry of the American Standards Association, chairman of the Administrative Committee on Research of the American Society for Testing Materials, and chairman of the Committee on Building Codes of the American Institute of Architects.

Sir Lionel Whitby, M.D., Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University, England, has accepted an invitation to join the Robert Roesler de Villiers Foundation, New York City, as an Associate. Sir Lionel, a Regius Professor of Physic, is an authority on leukemia and allied diseases of the blood. The de Villiers Foundation is a nonprofit organization encouraging research into the causes, treatment, and cure of leukemia.

George N. Wolcott, Head of the Division of Entomology, Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Puerto Rico, is spending a sabbatical year in Remsen, N.Y., during which he will prepare a revision of *Entomología Económica Puertorriqueña* (1924).

Education

The opening of the first graduate school at Brandeis University, the **Brandeis Graduate School of Arts and Sciences,** has been announced. Degrees awarded by the school will be Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies, Master of Arts in Chemistry, Master of Fine Arts in Music Composition, and Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology. The school will be under the chairmanship of Max Lerner, Professor of American Civilization and Institutions.

The **Charles H. Best Institute** in Toronto was formally opened last month before an assembly of scientists. The Institute, named in honor of the co-discoverer of insulin, is a hundred-room structure adjacent to the crowded Banting Institute and will ease the pressure there by housing all the latter's research projects. Investigations in the new institute will not be confined to any one field, but at present the focus of attention is on diabetes or closely related problems.

The **University of California Press** is offering a new service to scientists on all campuses of the University by the appointment of a science editor especially to aid authors who contemplate publishing through the University Press, but also to advise and assist those who are publishing elsewhere.

Emlen Littell, formerly of the Williams & Wilkins Company and of the U. S. Air Force School of Aviation Medicine, has been appointed to this post. He will be stationed in Berkeley, but will call on science departments on all campuses and will be available for consultation with anyone who is planning to write a scholarly or general scientific book.

Grants and Fellowships

Twenty-five fellowships are offered by the **American Association of University Women** to American women for advanced study or research during the academic year 1954–55. In general, the $2,000 fellowships are awarded to young women who have completed residence work for the Ph.D. degree or who have already received the degree; the $2,500–$3,500 awards to the more mature scholars who need a year of uninterrupted work for writing and research. Unless otherwise specified, the fellowships are unrestricted as to subject and place of study.

Applications and supporting materials must reach the office in Washington by Dec. 15. For detailed information concerning these fellowships and instructions for applying, address the secretary, Committee on Fellowship Awards, American Association of University Women, 1634 Eye St., N.W., Washington 6.

The American Society for the Study of Sterility announces the 1954 contest for the most outstanding contribution to the subject of infertility and sterility. The winner will receive a cash award of $1,000 and the essay will appear on the program of the 1954 meeting of the Society. *Essays submitted in this competition must be received not later than March 1, 1954.*

The author should append on a separate sheet of paper a short biographical sketch of himself and include a photograph to be used in the necessary publicity should he be the winner of the award. For full particulars concerning requirements of this competition, address The American Society for the Study of Sterility, c/o Dr. Herbert H. Thomas, Secretary, 920 South 19th Street, Birmingham, Ala.

Applications are invited for the **André Dreyfus Foundation's International Genetics Prize** of 150,000 cruzeiros ($3300). The prize is open to scientists from any country, working either individually or as a team. The award is primarily intended for the promotion of scientific research in connection with genetics, travel for purposes of study, or publication of research in connection with genetics.

Applications should be accompanied by a curriculum vitae; a list of published works, if any; and a detailed plan of the research or travel proposed or three copies of the work for publication. *Applications accompanied by supporting documents should be received not later than Nov. 30* by the Secretary General of the Foundation at Rua Anchieta, 5, Apto. 1002, Leme, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay has announced the approval of nine new research contracts to implement the search for the most economical and efficient methods for **converting salt and brackish waters** to fresh water that can be used for human consumption, irrigation, or industry.

The program is being carried on under the terms of Public Law 448, for which Congress appropriated $400,000 for this fiscal year. In addition to the nine contracts, two other research projects are under way. A total of $123,950 has been allocated to the projects. The Department's objective is to find ways to convert saline water not only in the coastal areas, but also inland where brackish waters are available in sufficient quantity to have potential value to replenish short supplies of usable water.

The projects cover varied fields, the primary objective being the discovery of a process which will reduce production costs. Several processes are now in operation, but production costs are so high that their use is limited in most cases. Shortages of potable water in many areas are approaching critical stages and use of converted sea water is believed by experts to offer a solution. During legislative hearings on Public Law 448, scientists testified that the need was for research to develop processes, rather than for the construction of expensive demonstration plants as envisioned in previous legislation.

Among the contracts is one for $6000 with George O. G. Löf of Denver which calls for the determination of the best method or methods for low-cost demineralization of saline water through the use of solar

energy. Included in this project will be an estimate of the probable ultimate minimum cost and recommendations as to which of the solar methods should be developed for large-scale use. Dr. Löf is expected to consult with other authorities on the utilization of solar energy in this field.

The University of Florida has contracted to conduct laboratory research in the development and testing of synthetic osmotic membranes to be used in separating salt from water. C. E. Reid is conducting the principal investigations. Amount, $18,080.

Yale University will investigate methods for improving heat transfer rates in vapor-compression evaporators. It may be practical to use smaller operating temperature differences without significant change in heat transfer area and with resultant reductions in the energy requirements of vapor compression distillation. This is the most economical and efficient method of conversion known today. Harding Bliss and Barnett F. Dodge are directing the Yale research. Amount, $16,330.

A study to determine more exactly the actual energy demands, including energy losses as compared with the basic theoretical thermodynamic minimum energy requirement, is being carried on under the direction of George W. Murphy, Professor of Chemistry and Chairman of the Department at the State University of New York, Albany. Results will be used in studying the potentialities of actual and proposed separation processes as a guide to future research. Amount, $6,140.

Heinz Engineering Company, Arlington, Va., has been assigned $19,980 to develop an improved method for analyzing vapor compression distillation cycles. Procedures are to be prepared in a form suitable for general use by industry and for developing extensive design cost data on vapor compression distillation plants with compressors driven by steam turbines exhausting into the vapor compression cycle.

Battelle Memorial Institute, receiving $3,000, will undertake studies in the evaporation of saline waters by steam from solar radiation. Battelle scientists and engineers will prepare preliminary designs, calculate performance, and estimate gross costs. The principal investigator on this project is B. S. Landry.

In South Dakota, where there is a limited and often brackish water supply, the South Dakota School of Mines will conduct an inventory of saline water resources as a basis for development of processes. J. H. Cope is directing the project. Amount, $6,140.

Texas A. & M. Research Foundation is to explore the possibility of separating salt from water by a solvent extraction process similar to that which is used for the separation of certain industrial fluids. Principal investigator, D. W. Hood. Amount, $5,000.

The University of Minnesota is to prepare a survey of waste heat which might be harnessed and put to use in any of the possible separation processes. E. N. Kemler is director of the project. It is well known that vast quantities of heat are wasted, but whether these can be used economically for this purpose must be determined before extensive expenditures are made to develop processes that might use that energy. Amount, $8,280.

Earlier, two contracts were made on developments that were already under way by others. The larger contract is with Ionics, Inc., of Cambridge, Mass., to investigate the process variables of an electrical membrane demineralizer applied to typical brackish waters and to sea water. Emphasis is toward minimizing the cost of demineralizing water by this process. Amount, $30,000.

A grant of $5,000, made earlier to the University of California at Berkeley, calls for testing and evaluating existing laboratory installations of a diesel waste heat plant, a solar still, and a low temperature difference plant. Dean E. D. Howe is directing the project.

Applications for research contracts and grants are submitted in a standard form. They are evaluated by several eminent scientists and are coordinated with the programs of the Department of Defense and the National Science Foundation before Secretarial approval is granted. Contractors agree to disclose to the Government promptly all discoveries and inventions made within the scope of their contracts, and to make the results of the research available for Government use.

Three $4,000 post-doctoral **fellowships in Statistics** are offered for 1954–55 by the **University of Chicago.** The purpose of these fellowships, which are open to holders of the doctor's degree or its equivalent in research accomplishment, is to acquaint established research workers in the biological, physical, and social sciences with the role of modern statistical analysis in the planning of experiments and other investigative programs, and in the analysis of empirical data.

The development of the field of Statistics has been so rapid that most current research falls far short of attainable standards, and these fellowships (which represent the fourth year of a five-year program supported by The Rockefeller Foundation) are intended to help reduce this lag by giving statistical training to scientists whose primary interests are in substantive fields rather than in Statistics itself. *The closing date for applications is February 15, 1954*; instructions for applying may be obtained from the Committee on Statistics, University of Chicago, Chicago 37.

The Nash-Kelvinator Corporation has announced the creation of annual awards amounting to $5,000 in the field of conservation of natural resources. The nationwide program will be known as the **Nash Conservation Awards.**

Ten cash prizes of $500 each will be presented to ten professional conservationists working in education, research, administration, or enforcement in any field related to soil, water, forest, fish, or wildlife conservation. In addition, ten awards consisting of plaques and citations will be given to non-professionals whcse contributions to conservation have been performed as acts of good citizenship. Nominations

are to be made by newspaper rod-and-gun conservation editors, rod-and-gun clubs, and public and private conservation agencies. This year's awards will be presented at a dinner in Washington, January, 1954. Further information may be obtained from the Nash Conservation Awards Committee, 745 Fifth Ave., New York 22, N. Y.

In the Laboratories

New facilities for research on agricultural chemicals have been opened at the **American Cyanamid Company's** consolidated Research Laboratories in Stamford, Conn. These facilities will provide a modern and complete industrial laboratory for research on fertilizers, insecticides, fumigants, fungicides, herbicides, and other related chemicals. The new laboratory consists of a two-story, reinforced concrete building with two adjoining greenhouses, and with a total area of over 21,000 square feet.

The first floor of the building will be devoted primarily to research on insecticides, with certain rooms designed for evaluating compounds to determine their toxicity to insects. A conditioned room will be used to raise species of insects needed for this work. In one of the rooms on the first floor, three chambers are to be installed for controlled environmental conditions of temperature, humidity, and light.

Chemical and biological research on fertilizers, herbicides, and fungicides will be conducted in six laboratories on the second floor. In addition, there are offices, a conference room, wash rooms, showers, and other general purpose rooms on this floor. The working corridor connecting the two greenhouses opens off the second floor. In the corridor is dusting and spraying equipment for making precise applications of chemicals to plants and soils. Adjoining the corridor is a potting room and storage facilities for soil and equipment.

A cornerstone-laying ceremony for the new building of the **Armed Forces Institute of Pathology** will take place on Oct. 20 at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Brig. Gen. Elbert DeCoursey, MC, USA, Director of the AFIP, will preside at the ceremony. The Honorable Melvin A. Casberg, M.D., Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health and Medicine) will be the principal speaker.

Occupancy of the building is slated for late next spring. The building will have five stories above ground and three below, and is one of the first institutions in Washington designed for resistance to an A-Bomb attack. Concrete blast walls reinforced with steel enclose the main portion of the building. Except for an administrative wing, the entire structure will be windowless. To offset the physiological and psychological characteristics caused by the lack of windows, high-intensity lighting will be installed throughout the building. The extraordinary features of the architectural and structural designs were necessary because all of the activities ordinarily found individually in office buildings, research laboratories, hospitals, printing establishments, educational centers, and other public institutions will be incorporated into the new AFIP building.

Facilities have been planned for a variety of new AFIP activities, including laboratories for investigative work in such fields as histochemistry, cytophysics, historadiobiology, histobacteriology, and virus and tissue culture. Plans also call for animal holding rooms, an x-ray suite, and closed circuit color television for teaching purposes.

Meetings and Elections

The American Phytopathological Society has elected the following officers for 1953–54: pres., G. F. Weber, Agricultural Experimental Station, University of Florida, Gainesville; v. pres., Helen Hart, Dept. of Plant Pathology and Agricultural Botany, University of Minnesota, St. Paul; and sec. (3-yr. term), Glenn S. Pound, Dept. of Plant Pathology, University of Wisconsin, Madison 6. Representative to the AAAS Council is G. L. McNew, Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research, Inc., Yonkers, N. Y.

On Dec. 1–2 there will be a **Frequency Response Symposium** at the Hotel Statler, New York City, in connection with the annual meeting of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. This symposium is sponsored by the Instruments & Regulators Division of the ASME. Of the sixteen papers to be given, ten will be by eleven foreign scientists. These scientists come from England, Holland, France, Germany, and Sweden. Among them are: R. Oldenbourg and Hans Sartorius of Munich, Germany; A. Leonhard of the Stuttgart Institute of Technology, Stuttgart, Germany; and R. H. Macmillan of Cambridge University, Cambridge, England. These men are all authors of books on frequency response. H. Nyquist of the Bell Telephone Laboratories, a pioneer in the field, will be one of the American speakers.

Participation of the foreign scientists is being made possible by contributions from American industrial concerns. The ASME plans to publish the proceedings of the symposium. For further details write to the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, 29 W. 39 St., New York 18, N.Y., or Dr. Rufus Oldenburger, Woodward Governor Co., Rockford Ill., who is chairman of the symposium.

The Autumn Meeting of the **National Academy of Sciences** is to take place at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Nov. 9–11. The scientific sessions on Monday and Tuesday mornings, and Wednesday morning and afternoon, will be held in the lecture rooms in the Main Building, entrance at 77 Massachusetts Avenue. On Tuesday morning there will be a symposium on a subject in the biological sciences, and on Wednesday morning a symposium on solid state and chemical problems has been planned. The Academy will hold a business meeting (members only) on Monday afternoon.

On Monday evening a Public Lecture on "The

Production and Use of Solar Energy" will be given in Huntington Hall, located in the Main Building. The speakers will be Dr. Harlow Shapley of Harvard University and Dean George R. Harrison of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. No sessions have been scheduled for Tuesday afternoon, to allow time for informal conferences at Harvard and M.I.T., and there will be opportunity for members and guests to visit points of interest about the Institute.

A **Symposium On the Origins of Resistance to Drugs** is being organized by the Office of Naval Research and the University of Pennsylvania. The symposium will consist of five successive sessions each devoted to one of the following groups of topics: (1) The Origins of Microbial Drug Resistance; (2) Tolerance and Addiction to Drugs, and Alcoholism; (3) Resistance to Insecticides, Herbicides; (4) Factors in Resistance to Infectious Agents, Biochemical Mechanism of Carcinogenesis, and The Nature of Tumor Immunity; and (5) Concluding Session, devoted to the integration of the questions of resistance from the genetic, physiological, and chemical points of view.

The papers by the invited speakers will be followed by open discussion from the audience. The symposium will take place during March 25, 26, and 27, 1954, in Washington, D.C. Those who are interested in attending are invited to write early for information and reservations to: Dr. M. G. Sevag, Department of Microbiology, School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia 4, Pa.

The **University of Maine** observed the 50th anniversary of the founding of its forestry department and the 40th anniversary of the establishment of its courses in pulp and paper on October 1–3. A university convocation, technical sessions, activity reports, and addresses by several national authorities, including Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay, made up the joint programs. The third annual Open House of the University of Maine Pulp and Paper Foundation was held in conjunction with the anniversary activities.

Miscellaneous

The Government of India, with technical assistance from UNESCO, has established the **Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre (Insdoc).** The Centre is in operation at the National Physical Laboratory, Hillside Rd., New Delhi 12, and is under the administrative control of Sir K. S. Krishnan, Director of the Laboratory. Insdoc's functions are as follows: (1) to receive and retain all scientific periodicals required in India, particularly those required by the universities, scientific research organizations, and government laboratories; (2) to supply photo-copies and translations of articles required by laboratories or individual workers; (3) to meet demands for abstracts; (4) to prepare an index of the journals available and the journals required for various subjects; (5) to answer inquiries from information available in the Centre; (6) to be a national repository for reports of the scientific work of the nation, both published and unpublished; (7) to be a channel through which the scientific work of India and the surrounding countries is made known and made available to the rest of the world.

The Metropolitan Life Insurance Company has announced that the average **lifetime of the American people** reached a new high of 68.4 years in 1950. This represents a gain of 21 years since 1900; from 1850 to 1900 the increase was only 7 years.

Women have not only had a longer average lifetime than men during the past half century, but they have also made the more rapid gains in longevity. In 1950 the expectation of life at birth for white females was 72.4 years as compared with 66.6 years for white males, a difference of nearly six years.

The **Pittsburgh Section of the American Chemical Society** celebrated its 50th anniversary last month.

Chemicals wanted by the **Registry of Rare Chemicals,** Armour Research Foundation of Illinois Institute of Technology, 35 W. 33 St., Chicago 16: ruthenium nitrate; di-tert.-butyl magnesium; rubidium sulfide; indazole; fluoroiodomethane; 2,4,5-trimethyl-1,4-hexadiene; 1,2,5-trihydroxy-2-methyl-4-pentanone; 2-methylol-1,3-dioxolane; N-methyl-6(1)-pyridone-3-carboxamide; 2,1,3,4-tetrazole-5-carboxylic acid; cis-diphenylethylene oxide; 4-methoxyproline; 1-methylxathine; capsaicin; cinchol; kynurenine; gymenmic acid.

The **Society for Endocrinology** has embarked on the publication of a series of "Memoirs of the Society for Endocrinology." These will be issued separately from time to time. It is intended to use them as records of the Proceedings of the Society's Conferences; for special reviews; or for any other purposes in which separate publication appears to the Editorial Board of the Society as being preferable to an article, or a series of articles, in the *Journal of Endocrinology.*

It is hoped that this form of publication will have the merit of permitting the speedy and inexpensive publication of a series of communications dealing with a single subject. Memoirs Nos. 1 and 2, "The Thyroid Gland" and "The Determination of Adrenocortical Steroids and their Metabolites," are already in print and may be obtained from Messrs. Dennis Dobson Ltd., 12, Park Place, St. James, London, S.W.1 or from the British Book Centre, 420 W. 45th St., New York 36, N.Y.