News and Notes

The AIBS Meeting

FROM September 6 to 10, 1953, most of the member societies of the American Institute of Biological Sciences held their annual meetings on the campus of the University of Wisconsin. This was the fourth time in as many years that the AIBS has held a large campus meeting in September, an event that has become as characteristic of the AIBS as the Christmas meetings are of the AAAS.

The recent Wisconsin meetings were predominantly botanical, the majority of the 2700 registrants having come to attend the meetings of the Botanical Society of America, the American Phytopathological Society, the American Society for Horticultural Science, the American Society of Plant Physiologists, and the Mycological Society of America. Not all of the societies meeting at Madison were members of the AIBS; some were affiliates, others had not yet become formally connected with the Institute. For example, other botanical societies meeting with the AIBS were the American Bryological Society and the American Society of Plant Taxonomists (members), the Potato Association of America and the Society for Industrial Microbiology (affiliates), and the American Fern Society and the Phycological Society of America (not affiliated). Still other societies having an interest in the animal sciences in varying degrees, held meetings at Madison: The American Society of Parasitologists, the Society of Protozoologists, the American Microscopical Society, the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography, the Biometric Society (ENAR), the Ecological Society of America, the Society for the Study of Evolution, and the National Association of Biology Teachers. Also participating in the meetings were Sigma Xi and Sigma Delta Epsilon.

Attendance at any national scientific meeting from a given state is directly proportional to the scientific population of the state and inversely proportional to its distance from the meetings. It might have been predicted that Wisconsin would be followed by New York and Illinois in attendance and that declining attendance figures would follow from Michigan, Ohio, Minnesota, Maryland, California, and Iowa. Held as they are in the academic vacation month of September, the AIBS meetings cater especially to biology teachers. It was estimated that 72 per cent of the registrants at the Wisconsin meetings hold positions in academic institutions. Many came by automobile and brought their families. They looked and acted as if they were on vacation. They filed up to the registration desk wearing comfortable field clothes, and when they received their housing assignments in one of the dormitories they settled down as informally as if they were staying at a tourist court. The weather and the environment favored a comfortable relaxed approach to the business of the occasion. When the meeting of old friends and new acquaintances became physically tiring, they could retreat to chairs on the shore of Lake Mendota and yield themselves to the fascination of the blue sky and water, white clouds, and sails.

In his "Contributions from the Captive Audience" (*AIBS Bull.*, July 1953, p. 24), Russell B. Stevens called for a "smoker on the night preceding the first full day of the affair . . ." This was arranged in the form of a welcoming tea sponsored by Sigma Delta Epsilon and AIBS and held on Sunday afternoon in the Great Hall of the Union. President Fred and other officials of the University were present to greet the incoming guests. The traditional Biologists' Smoker was held on Wednesday night in the Rathskeller of the Union where more than twenty exhibitors' booths were displaying biological books and equipment. The crowd eddied through the vaulted room, in and out of exhibitors' booths, back and forth upon the lighted lakefront terrace, past the refreshment stands, around and around, happily jostling one another and filling all available space.

There were more serious general affairs, of course, than the social whirls. T. C. Byerly, chairman of the AIBS, presided at the General Meeting held on Monday evening in the Union Theater. Here President Fred gave his address of welcome. The principal scientific address was then delivered by E. J. Kraus on the "Significance of Growth-Regulating Substances in Agricultural Practice." This scholarly review by a pioneer in this field was sponsored by Sigma Xi and AIBS and was regarded as a birthday message to the American Society for Horticultural Science, then celebrating its Fiftieth Anniversary.

Each of the societies meeting at Madison had some special events of its own: a breakfast, luncheon, or dinner; a foray, field trip, or excursion; a symposium or colloquium. There were also symposia of interest to more than one society, such as the symposium sponsored by the Society for Industrial Microbiology, on "Biology and Industry," and that of the American Phytopathological Society on "Cooperative Agricultural Research in the Western Hemisphere."

The real substance of the meetings consisted of 1140 contributed papers, each bringing its author to the attention of his colleagues and adding something to the structure of biological science. Which papers were most significant and stimulating can be determined only by those specialists who heard them. The papers that had some bearing on human affairs were brought to the attention of the press by the efficient University of Wisconsin News Service.

For all scheduled papers and events not mentioned above, the reader should consult the *AIBS Bull.*, Aug., 1953. Unscheduled events are likely to remain longest in the minds of those who were present—a profitable contact made at the AIBS Placement Service, an old friend seen again after a lapse of many years, unusual experimental material, instrumentation or data seen

during a visit to a colleague's laboratory, a view of the lake at sunset. Surely this is recreation!

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Science News

Because of the great importance of the matter to the nation, and in particular to all scientists, the following editorial on **manpower resources** from *Chemical and Engineering News,* Oct. 19, 1953, is reprinted in its entirety:

Arthur S. Flemming, director of Defense Mobilization, has appointed a 24-man Advisory Committee on Manpower Resources for National Security to help him prepare a report on the extent to which military manpower procurement policies and procedures have an impact on the availability of manpower for other national security needs.

The report will deal also with the availability of manpower to operate a national security training program while at the same time supplying military personnel for active service and meeting the needs of the civilian economy. The committee is to assess the resources of and requirements for manpower under current conditions and as they would be under stepped-up as well as full mobilization. Special attention, we are assured, will be given to manpower requirements for agricultural, scientific, professional, technical, and skilled personnel.

We are strong for facts, of course, but we wonder frankly what facts there are about the manpower problem not already known—that have not been known for several years.

Action is what we need desperately. We need an aroused public that will demand that Congress stop the military from trying to run the manpower show on an exclusively school-tie basis and without proper civilian representation.

We need an educated public that will demand the word "selective" really mean something in the interpretation and administration of the Selective Service Act by local draft boards, even if this means rewriting the Act, although we are by no means completely convinced such action is necessary.

We need top administration officials, including the President, who will take the facts we already know and with them as a guide develop a really intelligent and realistic manpower program—not one based on political expediencies, nor one dictated solely by the wishes of the military.

We need administration officials, Senators and Congressmen who boldly will support S.1551 and H.R.3893 —identical bills having the purpose of amending the Armed Forces Reserve Act of 1952 to include a National Manpower Board under the President, such board to consist of both civilian and military members familiar with the functions of specialized personnel.

The proposed amendment would prevent a National Manpower Board from being dominated by the military. The amendment would authorize a nine-man board but only three members would come from the Armed Forces on active duty, regular or reserve. This proposal is opposed by the military.

The new committee can perform a very worthwhile service if after whatever study it feels is necessary it does decide to recommend strongly that S.1551 and H.R.3893 be passed. Dr. Flemming, head of ODM, likewise can perform a great public service if he will actively support the idea of a National Manpower Board.

It should soon be evident whether the new committee is simply going to chew on an old cud or if its influence is going to be felt constructively here in Washington. If it is to be largely window-dressing for UMT, then the valuable time of important men is about to be wasted.

Frankly, we are disappointed that a number of individuals long associated with the manpower problem and well-known and respected for their intimate knowledge of the subject were not asked to serve on the committee. These are men who already have the facts and know what remedial steps are necessary.

If no constructive *actions* follow the findings of this latest group to probe into our manpower problem, then we will have made no progress whatsoever in preparing to meet a manpower situation that is serious today but which would be desperate if World War III erupts. We will be back where we were some years ago when the committee appointed by President Truman and headed by Charles A. Thomas, Chairman of the ACS Board of Directors, made substantially the recommendations now embodied in S.1551 and H.R.3893. We will have assembled a lot of facts but will have done nothing of a practical nature to solve what admittedly is one of the knottiest problems this country faces.

Official announcement of plans for the first day-by-day use of an electronic computer in a trial run on **weather forecasting** is expected in 1954. The experimental program, expected eventually to give much more accurate weather forecasts, will be run jointly by the Navy, Air Force, and Weather Bureau. Using electronic computers is a revolutionary method in numerical weather prediction, pioneered at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, N. J. The system is so new that there are comparatively few experts on it in the world, yet it is so promising that government weather officials have completed plans for its trial, and need only the necessary funds to start the program. During its operations, the computer will be fed information on air pressures at several levels in the atmosphere, from near the ground to about 30,000 feet. It will then perform mathematical calculations on this information and come up, within an hour, with the figures from which nation-wide upper wind charts can be drawn.

These wind charts, needed in predicting weather patterns over the entire country, will then be sent to local forecasters. With this nation-wide picture as a background, the weathermen will then apply their specialized knowledge of local weather conditions to make their 24-hour prediction. The importance of these winds is emphasized by the statement from the Weather Bureau that the recent unexpected snow storm that blanketed the Northeast failed to be predicted because of lack of knowledge of the upper winds.

In the trial run with an electronic computer for making the wind charts, most, if not all, of the fore-

caster's subjective judgements concerning winds will be eliminated, although he will still have to make subjective decisions to go from the wind charts to actual weather forecasts.

At present, numerical forecasting proceeds as follows: Information on current weather conditions across the country is fed into the computer. Stored in the computer's "memory" are certain mathematical formulas describing the motions of great air masses. Using these formulas, the "brain" computes the winds one hour in the future. Then, working in one-hour jumps, these forecasts are repeated until finally a picture of the winds 24 hours in advance of the "present" is obtained. One computer can perform the millions of steps necessary to make such a 24-hour prediction in somewhat less than an hour.

With the use of formulas not now completely worked out, which would take into account such energy sources as variations in the heat received from the sun and those that result from water evaporation and condensation, meteorologists hope eventually to be able to use computing machines to make numerical weather forecasts for 5 to 30 days, or perhaps even further into the future. Such long-range predictions, however, are not expected very soon.

Experts in numerical forecasting believe this system has two advantages over present methods:

1. The computer can use and store in its "memory" many hundred times as much information as a human forecaster could possibly keep in his head.

2. A human forecaster cannot use a precise, step-by-step, hour-by-hour method and stay ahead of the weather. He has to jump directly to the desired future time by subjective methods. Step-like predictions are more accurate than such relatively long-time jumps.

Scientists in the News

Paul R. Burkholder, Professor of Botany and Chairman of the Department of Plant Science at Yale University, has resigned to accept appointment as Chairman of the Department of Microbiology at the University of Georgia. He is succeeded, for the year 1953–54, by **Paul B. Sears,** who will continue with his previous duties as Chairman of the Yale Conservation Program.

Paul Gyorgy, Chief of Service, Department of Pediatrics, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, delivered the 37th Mellon Lecture before the Society for Biological Research of the School of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh, on Nov. 20. Subject: Some Aspects of Protein Nutrition.

Five scientists and two organizations distinguished for medical research and public health achievement have been named as the 1953 winners of the annual **Albert Lasker Awards** of the American Public Health Association. The awards, considered among the nation's highest medical honors, were presented formally at the Association's 81st annual meeting on Nov. 12. The individual winners received cash prizes of $1000, hand-illuminated and leather-bound citations, and gold statuettes of the Winged Victory of Samothrace. The group winners received silver statuettes, statuettes that are symbolic of victory over death and disease. A list of the winners follows:

Hans A. Krebs, 54, Professor of Biochemistry at the University of Sheffield, England, who recently was named to share the 1953 Nobel Prize for Medicine and Physiology. Dr. Krebs was cited as the "discoverer of the urea and citric acid cycles which are basic to our understanding of how the body converts food into energy."

Felix J. Underwood, 71, of Jackson, Miss., state health officer for 30 years, "for demonstrating how a long-sustained, sound, and expanding pattern of public health services benefits a people."

Michael Heidelberger, 65, Professor of Immunochemistry at Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons, "for decisive contributions to mankind in developing a new subscience, the precise measuring tool of immuno-chemistry."

George Wald, 47, Professor of Biology at Harvard University, "in recognition of his outstanding achievements in explaining the chemistry of vision in man."

The late **Prof. Earle B. Phelps,** research engineer at the University of Florida, "in recognition of a lifetime of pioneering and leadership in public health and sanitary science." Prof. Phelps died at 76 last June shortly after notice of his selection for the award. A son, Winston Phelps, received the award for the family.

The Division of Research Grants of the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md., "for outstanding administration of a research grants program enabling thousands of capable scientists in hundreds of institutions to contribute knowledge substantially advancing the nation's health." **Ernest Allen,** director, received the award on behalf of the division.

The University Laboratory of Physical Chemistry Related to Medicine and Public Health, Harvard University, "for basic protein studies leading to fundamental achievements in the field of blood separation, and more particularly, in gamma globulin preparation." Douglas M. Surgenor, executive officer of the laboratory, received the award which was to have been presented to **Edwin J. Cohn,** director of the laboratory until his death Oct. 1.

At the 4th annual convention of the United Cerebral Palsy Association on Nov. 14, **Horace W. Magoun,** neuroanatomist at the School of Medicine, University of California at Los Angeles, was awarded the $1000 Max Weinstein Prize. Dr. Magoun was honored for his study of the cerebral cortex and basal ganglia in relation to cerebral palsy. He has also investigated factors promoting regeneration of nerve fibers in the central nervous system.

J. Kenneth Salisbury, formerly engineer in charge

of thermal power system development for the General Electric Company, is now professor of mechanical engineering at Stanford University.

Heyworth N. Sanford, who has served as acting head of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Illinois College of Medicine since September, 1952, has been appointed head of the department.

Charles T. West has been appointed Acting Chairman of the Department of Mechanics in the College of Engineering at Ohio State University.

Harold O. Wyckoff, who joined the National Bureau of Standards in 1941, has been appointed Chief of the Radiation Physics Laboratory.

Education

The first graduate school in France devoted to advanced training of engineers in work with reinforced concrete has been opened. It is called **L'Institut Superieur du Beton Arme** and it is located at 110 Boulevard de la Liberation, Marseille.

A **matching plan** designed to eliminate some of the problems of selecting candidates for admission to medical schools has been proposed by John A. D. Cooper and Harold A. Davenport in an article published in the October issue of *The Journal of Medical Education.* The matching plan is designed to enable the student applicant and the medical school to form a mutually satisfactory association without the anxieties and pressures that now occur. Some of the current problems stem from the fact that approximately three times as many students apply to medical schools as can be admitted. The projected system is modeled after the highly successful intern-hospital matching plan which has operated for the past three years.

Under the plan, students would remain free to apply for admission to the school or schools of their choice, and the medical schools would be allowed free indication of preference. All choices, to be filed at the central office of the Association of American Medical Colleges, would be confidential. A deadline for applications to the medical schools would be set, possibly for March 1. Sometime within the succeeding two months each medical school would mail to the Association's central office a list of applicants arranged in order of preference, rejecting any not qualified for admission by their own standards. Simultaneously, students would send in a list, also arranged in order of preference, of the medical schools to which they had applied. A card for each applicant would be made by the central office; then the matching would be accomplished with complete objectivity, governed entirely by the information recorded on IBM punch cards.

The plan helps the applicant to gain admission to the school of his first choice, and at the same time allows each school to secure the highest ranking students available to it. The authors point out that the system offers numerous advantages, not the least being the uniform deadline dates for applications. At the present time, each school sets its own dates. This creates much uncertainty, sometimes resulting in a student accepting a place in a school with an early deadline, only to withdraw when later a preferred school selects him as a candidate.

The 1953–54 list of lecturers available through the **Oak Ridge Traveling Lecture Program** has been prepared. The list includes 68 lecturers in the physical sciences and 22 in the biological sciences. Practically all of the lecturers are members of the staff of Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

As its name implies, the Traveling Lecture Program was established to provide speakers from Oak Ridge for college and university functions such as graduate seminars, symposia, colloquia, and departmental meetings. This was early recognized as one of the means through which the Oak Ridge scientific staff could add its weight to efforts to strengthen education in this region. Conversely, the stimulation of the campus and the opportunity of meeting new people is felt to be of value to the Oak Ridge scientists. The Traveling Lecture Program is a joint activity of the Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies and ORNL. Copies of the new schedule of lectures may be obtained from the University Relations Division of the Institute.

Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation has announced a second series of 25 scholarships to be awarded on the basis of a national competition during 1954. The scholarships, known as the **Alfred P. Sloan National Scholarships,** and financed by the Foundation, will be awarded and administered by four of the nation's leading technological institutions: California Institute of Technology, Carnegie Institute of Technology, Cornell University College of Engineering, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Recipients will be selected on a national basis from applicants received by all four of these schools.

Any male student resident in the continental United States, who meets the formal entrance requirements of the cooperating institutions, is eligible to apply for these scholarships. Applications may be made to one or more of the four institutions; in case of a duplicate award, the recipient will be free to accept the award at the school of his choice. The scholarships will apply to all courses of study at CalTech; only to courses of study in the College of Engineering and Science at the Carnegie Institute; only to courses of study in the College of Engineering at Cornell; and to all courses of study except Architecture and City Planning at MIT. The scholarships carry a maximum annual stipend of $2000. They may be renewed after the first year.

At the 10th Annual Meeting of the **American Medical Writers' Association** new regulations were adopted for the Association's Journalism Awards. These awards are given annually to U.S. and Canadian

medical periodicals and are made possible by a gift from Harold Swanberg, Secretary of the Association. The new regulations divide medical periodicals into six classifications with an award for each, i.e., the general medical periodicals, specialty journals, city or county medical society bulletins, and the free journals of pharmaceutical, publishing, and related companies. The awards are akin to the Pulitzer Prizes given to newspapers, and nominations are conducted in a similar manner.

The same Review Committee which served last year will again function in 1954. It consists of Morris Fishbein, chairman, F. Smiley of Chicago, and Richard M. Hewitt of Rochester, Minn. *Nominations for the 1954 awards must be received by Feb. 1, 1954.* Regulations and nominating forms may be obtained from Harold Swanberg, M.D., W.C.U. Bldg., Quincy, Ill.

Eight **fellowships in industrial medicine** will be offered by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission for the 1954–1955 academic year. The fellowship program, begun by the AEC four years ago, is designed to provide advanced training and on-the-job experience for men and women physicians in the field of industrial medicine, particularly in relation to the atomic energy industry.

The fellowships are open to United States citizens who hold M.D. degrees from approved medical schools, and who have had at least one year of internship. In exceptional cases, equivalent experience may be accepted in lieu of the internship requirement. Successful candidates must be investigated by the FBI and approved by the AEC before receiving fellowships.

Awards are for one year's academic training at institutions which offer approved graduate courses in industrial medicine and which can provide special training facilities in the health problems associated with the atomic energy program. Normally, fellows will be eligible for a second, or in-plant, training year upon successful completion of the academic year. In-plant training will be given in medical departments of major AEC plants and laboratories.

There is a critical need for qualified industrial physicians in atomic energy installations, and at the end of the two-year training period fellows may find employment in the program. However, there will be no commitment on the part of the AEC to continue the applicant's training beyond the first year or to provide employment for him upon the completion of training. Fellows will not be obligated to take the second year of training or to seek employment with the AEC or its contractors.

The stipend during the first year is $3600, with $350 additional for a wife and for each dependent child. Tuition and laboratory fees will be paid. The stipend for the second year is $6000, with no additional amounts for a wife or children. The program is administered for the AEC by the Atomic Energy Project of the School of Medicine and Dentistry, University of Rochester, Rochester, New York. Fellows are selected by a committee headed by Robert A. Kehoe, Director, Institute of Industrial Health, University of Cincinnati, and Medical Director, Ethyl Corporation. *Applications for 1954–55 fellowships should be submitted by Jan. 1, 1954 to*: AEC Fellowships in Industrial Medicine, Atomic Energy Project, University of Rochester, School of Medicine and Dentistry, Rochester, N.Y. Attention: Dr. Henry A. Blair.

For the third successive year the **Ford Foundation** is offering a number of foreign study and research grants in keeping with its policy of supporting selected activities which may contribute to international understanding. These fellowship awards will be given to younger American men and women of ability who wish either to begin or continue study or research concerning Asia, the Near and Middle East.

Students who will graduate from college next year are invited to apply, as well as persons who have completed their formal educational training and have already initiated their careers. While the Board cannot undertake to obtain leaves of absence for successful applicants, it will encourage employers to permit acceptance of these grants without termination of employment. Application forms may be obtained from the Ford Foundation Board on Overseas Training and Research, 575 Madison Avenue, N.Y. 22, N.Y. *Applications must be completed and returned on or before Jan. 8, 1954.* The awards will be announced on or about April 15, 1954.

In the Laboratories

The **American Cyanamid Company** plans to build a new plant for the manufacture of titanium dioxide pigments at Savannah, Ga. The plant will be operated by the Calco Chemical Division, a major producer of titanium dioxide white pigments for manufacturing industries such as paint, paper, hard floor covering, ceramic, rubber, and plastic.

The **Borden Company's Chemical Division** has concentrated its general research facilities in a new laboratory in Philadelphia, a laboratory which will augment the Division's present Development and Applications Laboratories on the East and West coasts. Research in a wide range of basic problems in materials evaluation, production processes, and applications for new and improved products of the Chemical Division's line of chemicals, resins, and adhesives.

The **Engineering Research Institute of the University of Michigan** is undertaking research on the atmospheric diffusion and penetration into buildings of allergenic pollens and industrial contaminants, under the sponsorship of the Geophysics Research Directorate of the Air Force Cambridge Research Center. The Department of Civil Engineering and School of Public Health are associated with the Institute in the research program. The principal investigator is E. Wendell Hewson, with Earnest Boyce and Clarence J. Velz acting in an advisory capacity.

Meetings and Elections

The Winter General Meeting of the **American Institute of Electrical Engineers** will be held in New York City, Jan. 18–22, 1954. The Institute, which was organized in 1884, has a world-wide membership of more than 46,000 and is the largest technical society of its kind.

The **American Society for the Study of Arteriosclerosis** has elected the following officers for 1953–54: pres., Russell L. Holman; v. pres., Louis N. Katz; sec.-treas., O. J. Pollak.

Physicians and scientists are invited to present papers at the **VIth International Cancer Congress** to be held in São Paulo, Brazil, July 23–29, 1954, under the sponsorship of the International Union Against Cancer. The program will include sections on fundamental cancer research, on clinical studies on cancer, and on cancer control. Registration blanks are available from the Chairman, National Committee on the International Union Against Cancer, National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington 25, D.C.

It is expected that round trip transportation by air from Miami to São Paulo will be available for about $480. Detailed information regarding travel arrangements and hotel reservations may be obtained from Dr. Brewster S. Miller, American Cancer Society, Inc., 47 Beaver Street, New York 4, New York.

In accordance with similar arrangements being made in other countries to coordinate participation in the Congress, residents of the United States who desire to present papers must send *five* copies of an abstract of each paper proposed for presentation to the Chairman, National Committee on the International Union Against Cancer, at the above address *by January 15, 1954*. Abstracts are not to exceed 250 words and must be accompanied by a title and the name, address, academic or professional title, and institutional affiliation of the investigator or physician. These requirements do not apply to people who have been invited to participate by the President of the Congress, unless application is made for travel allotments as described below.

Travel allotments of approximately $600 each will be available to a limited number of individuals requiring such assistance. Applications for travel allotments must be submitted in quintuplet to the Chairman, National Committee on the International Union Against Cancer, at the above address *by January 15, 1954*. They should be in letter form giving information concerning age, training, publications in cancer or related fields, and academic or professional status. Applicants not planning to present papers should include five copies of abstracts, as described above, of major current investigative work. A letter from the laboratory director, or appropriate administrative officer, approving the application is also necessary.

J. R. Porter, Chairman of the Department of Bacteriology, School of Medicine, University of Iowa, has been appointed Chairman of the **Office of Naval Research Advisory Panel for Microbiology.** Other members of the panel are as follows: W. J. Cromartie, University of North Carolina; N. F. Conant, Duke University; Emil Mrak, University of California; H. R. Morgan, University of Rochester; W. D. McElroy, The Johns Hopkins University; and H. P. Treffers, Yale University. The fall meeting of the Panel will be held in Washington, D.C., Dec. 7–8. Applications for the support of research in the field of microbiology will be reviewed at this time.

The program of the Microbiology Branch of ONR includes projects in bacteriology, virology, parasitology, mycology, and immunology. At present this branch has under supervision nearly 90 contracts with 52 universities in 29 states.

The **New Orleans Academy of Sciences** has elected the following officers for 1953–54: pres., Karlem Riess, Tulane University; v. pres., Joseph A. Ewan, Tulane University; sec., John H. Mullahy, Loyola University; treas., Philip C. Wakeley, U.S. Forest Service; curator, Garland Taylor, Tulane University.

A **Scintillation Counter Symposium,** which will present recent advances in this branch of technology, will be held in Washington, D.C., Jan. 26–27, it has been announced by the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, one of the four sponsors. The other sponsors are the Institute of Radio Engineers, the Atomic Energy Commission, and the National Bureau of Standards.

The meeting will consist of four sessions on energy spectrometry, cosmic ray and high energy particle measurements, scintillation counter applications, and phosphors and photomultipliers. The design and performance of instruments and the components of scintillating counter instruments, and the application of such counters to the solution of both industrial and purely scientific problems, also will be discussed.

G. A. Morton, R. C. A. Laboratories, Princeton, N.J., is chairman of the symposium committee and H. O. Wyckoff of the National Bureau of Standards is chairman of the attendance committee.

Since 1953 marks the 200th anniversary of the publication of one of Linnaeus' most important works, *Species Plantarum,* the Hawaiian Botanical Society considered it appropriate to sponsor a **symposium on the life and work of Linnaeus.** Speakers who participated in the bicentenary program were Constance Hartt, the life of Linnaeus; J. Lloyd Collins, Linnaeus and the early stages of genetics; F. G. Krauss, Linnaeus' botanical garden and the place of botanical gardens in science; Harold St. John, Linnaeus as a physician and the place of early naturalists in the medical profession; and Maxwell S. Doty, the *Species Plantarum* of Linnaeus and its importance in botany.

It is suggested by the Society that other organizations would do well to make similar observance of the bicentennial of the publication of this classical work.

Miscellaneous

Assumption College, Worcester, Mass., which was partially destroyed in the tornado of June 9, 1953, is in dire need of collateral reading matter in the field of science. Any reasonably recent book that could become part of a reading list in chemistry, biology, or allied sciences would be most welcome.

The **Medical Indexing Research Project,** carried out at the Welch Medical Library of The Johns Hopkins University under the direction of Sanford W. Larkey, and sponsored and underwritten by the Armed Forces Medical Library, has now come to a close. Under the contract, work began on Nov. 5, 1948, and came to an end Sept. 30, 1953, fulfilling the original prediction that 4 or 5 years would be required for this effort. The cost of the project averaged approximately $2170 per month over the entire period, including salaries, machine rentals, supplies, equipment and maintenance, and overhead charges. For most of the period 5 persons were employed on the investigative and clerical staff. A final report of the work is expected by the end of the year.

A group of educators, headed by John D. Rockefeller III, has formed a non-profit corporation, to be known as **The Population Council, Inc.,** to encourage research and education concerning the relationship of the world's population to its material and cultural resources. The new organization has opened offices at 230 Park Ave., New York City. Frederick H. Osborn, a writer on population factors, will serve as executive vice president with responsibility for directing the work of the Council during its formative period. Mr. Osborn is a director and past president of the Population Association of America and secretary of the American Eugenics Society. He is also a trustee of the Council, as are Frank G. Boudreau, Detlev W. Bronk, Karl T. Compton, Frank W. Notestein, Thomas Parren, John D. Rockefeller III, and Lewis L. Strauss.

The basic purposes of the Council are as follows: to study the problems presented by the increasing population of the world; to encourage and support research and the advancement and diffusion of knowledge resulting from such research; to serve generally as a center for the collection and exchange of information on ideas and developments relating to population questions; to cooperate with individuals and institutions having similar interests; and to take the initiative in the broad fields that constitute the population problem.

Recent Deaths

Francis H. Allen (87), ornithologist and editor, Cambridge, Mass., Oct. 24; **Frank K. Boland** (78), surgeon and former vice chairman of the American Medical Association, Atlanta, Ga., Nov. 11; **Ned J. Burns** (53), head of the museums of the National Park Service, Washington, D.C., Oct. 12; **Max Danzis** (79), surgeon and cofounder of Beth Israel Hospital, Newark, N.J., Oct. 20; **William H. Donner** (89), philanthropist and president of the International Cancer Research Foundation, Philadelphia, Pa., Nov. 3; **Gaston F. DuBois** (73), consulting chemical engineer and former president of Monsanto Chemical Co., St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 1; **Alice Eastwood** (94), former curator of botany at the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, Calif., Oct. 30; **Martin F. Engman** (84), founder of the National Leper Home at Carville, La., and former clinical professor of dermatology at Washington University, St. Louis, Mo., Oct. 12; **William L. J. Griffin** (75), former lecturer on the history of dentistry at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa., Oct. 23; **George A. Grubb** (73), dean emeritus of the University of Nebraska College of Dentistry, Lincoln, Neb., Nov. 1; **Percival Hall** (81), president emeritus of Gallaudet College, Washington, D.C., Nov. 7; **Harry P. Hammond** (68), dean emeritus of the School of Engineering at the Pennsylvania State College, State College, Pa., Oct. 21; **James B. Hays** (64), designing engineer, Summit, N.J., Oct. 24; **Edwin E. Jacobs** (76), science writer and president emeritus of Ashland College, Ashland, Ohio, Oct 31; **Carl Kelsey** (83), author and emeritus professor of sociology at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa., Oct. 15; **Albert M. Kessel** (44), chief of the pathological technology unit of the National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, Md., Oct. 14; **Charles L. Kinsloe** (71), former professor and head of the Department of Electrical Engineering at the Pennsylvania State College, State College, Pa., Oct. 14.

Maxime Laignel-Lavastine (78), psychiatrist and medical historian, Paris, France, Sept. 5; **Maurice Lugeon** (83), geologist, Lausanne, Switzerland, Oct. 23; **Ewen Maclean** (88), surgeon, obstetrician, gynecologist, and former president of the British Medical Association, Cardiff, Wales. Oct. 13; **Harry A. Marmer** (68), former assistant chief of the Div. of Tides and Currents of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, Washington, D.C., Nov. 5; **George E. Marsh** (76), former professor and retired electrical engineer for the Veterans Administration, Washington, D.C., Oct. 16; **Charles F. Martin** (85), prominent physician and former dean of the Faculty of Medicine at McGill University, Montreal, Canada, Oct. 28; **Frank Mossberg** (94), mechanical engineer, inventor, and president of the Mossberg Engineering Co., Attleboro, Mass., Oct. 15; **Ernest Myller** (60), gynecologist and obstetrician, New York City, Oct. 23; **James E. Rice** (88), former professor of poultry husbandry at Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., Oct. 25; **Albert Strickler** (68), former professor of skin diseases at Temple University and founder of the Skin and Cancer Hospital, Philadelphia, Pa., Nov. 8; **Sterling P. Taylor, Jr.** (30), researcher and instructor in biochemistry at Cornell University Medical College, New York City, Oct. 9; **Robert J. Trinkle** (61), professor and head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Va., Oct. 18; **Jacques S. Uhr** (61), pediatrician and researcher in allergy treatment, New Brunswick, N.J., Oct. 9.