

Scientific Meetings

American Bacteriologists

A record attendance of 3016 scientists marked the 55th annual meeting of the Society of American Bacteriologists that was held 8–12 May at the Statler Hotel, New York.

The scientific program was divided as usual into four sections, corresponding to the divisions of the society—agricultural and industrial, general, medical, and physiology. At five concurrent sessions that occupied three full days, 390 papers were presented by members of the society. In addition to these short (10 minute) research reports, the scientific functions included several symposiums organized by the divisions of the society and a number of informal round-table discussions. The host organization, the New York City Branch, also arranged a number of scientific and educational exhibits, as well as the usual commercial exhibits of microbiological apparatus, equipment, supplies, and literature. The scientific exhibits were highlighted by a display of the recently developed agar-diffusion techniques for antibody analyses. A scientific exhibit that dealt with special equipment and the current status of microbiological problems under investigation at the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research was presented in the library of the institute at a smoker attended by 330 visiting bacteriologists.

Although the diverse fields of microbiology were well represented by the scientific reports, particular emphasis was shown in the direction of medical bacteriology, with more than 40 percent of all papers falling into this category. Within this group, the growing attention that has been paid to studies in virology during the past few years was again evident. Other fields of interest to which a larger than usual number of reports were dedicated included cytology and cytochemistry, radiation biology, biosynthesis of complex molecules, and the intermediary metabolism of carbohydrates and proteins.

Of the many papers of outstanding interest, only a few can be mentioned here. Igor Tamm (Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research) reported further studies on the selective inhibition of influenza-B virus multiplication by benzimidazole derivatives. Progress in the development of a vaccine against type-2

dengue fever, and of combined dengue and yellow fever vaccines, was revealed by Schlesinger, Gordon, Frankel, Winter, Patterson, and Dorrance (Public Health Research Institute of the City of New York). Neutralizing antibodies to the virus of poliomyelitis were found by Bartell and Klein (Temple University School of Medicine) in the serums of some, but not all, domestic animals. The investigators concluded that antibodies to the polio virus are widely distributed in nature; they failed, however, to isolate the virus itself from these animals.

P. Gerber, C. G. Loosli, and D. Hamre (University of Chicago School of Medicine) presented evidence that antigenically different strains of human influenza virus are developed following repeated passage in mice immunized with the inactivated homologous agent; Gerber discussed the significance of these findings to the epidemiology and immunology of influenza in man. The isolation of keratin-digesting microorganisms from carious teeth by Schatz, Karlson, and Martin (National Agricultural College) suggested that these organisms are incriminated in the etiology of dental decay. Doudoroff, Palleroni, and MacGee (University of California) discussed the metabolism of fructose by a *Pseudomonas* species, and developed additional evidence for the existence of alternate pathways of carbohydrate oxidation.

Protection of x-irradiated animals against fatal septicemia by injections of spleen homogenate was reported by M. Silverman and L. Cole (U.S. Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory). In another study on radiation disease, Paulissen and Shechmeister (Washington University School of Dentistry) found that they could protect mice against postirradiation salmonellosis by previous vaccination. B. Bjorklund (State Laboratory of Bacteriology, Stockholm) and Isabel M. Mountain, K. Sprunt, and H. E. Alexander (Columbia University) reported the destruction *in vitro* of malignant human cells by antisera that are produced in animals repeatedly inoculated with such cells.

The subjects of the eight symposiums also reflected the diversity of interests that characterizes "microbiology" today: genetics and epidemiology, preservation by radiation, microbial toxins, electron transport, maintenance of cultures of

microorganisms, salmonella in food, problems in taxonomy, and rumen microbiology. A symposium on the early history of bacteriology in the New York area was arranged by the local committee.

At the annual banquet of the society, trends and problems in the training of bacteriologists were discussed by H. O. Halvorson in his presidential address. Halvorson then presented the 18th annual Eli Lilly Research Award in Bacteriology to Willis Avery Wood (University of Illinois) for his outstanding contributions in the field of bacterial metabolism. On the following day, Wood presented his award address to a joint meeting of all divisions.

At its business meetings, the council of the society initiated plans for the creation of an organization that would consist of members of the society with advanced professional standing in the various branches of microbiology. This organization will be empowered to set up certifying boards and to engage in other activities designed to raise the standards of performance in the several specialties. The Society of American Bacteriologists itself will continue to remain purely a scientific organization with membership open to any person interested in bacteriology and the stated aims of the Society.

DAVID W. WEISS

Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research

Meeting Notes

■ The 62nd annual convention of the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States will be held at the Statler Hotel in Washington, D.C., 7–9 Nov. The entire program has been devoted to the medical problems facing the military services and the nation in an atomic war.

The convention will be addressed by Lewis L. Strauss, chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission; by Frank B. Berry, Assistant Secretary of Defense (health and medical); by the surgeons general of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Public Health Service; and by the medical chiefs of the Veterans Administration and the Federal Civil Defense Administration. The medical industries of the country also will choose a speaker to address the convention.

The first afternoon session will deal with the medical effects of nuclear warfare, including the characteristics of nuclear explosions, and the injuries caused by blast, heat, and radiation. The second day's program will be devoted to the principles of the care of mass casualties. The topics to be discussed include: protective measures; initial aid and rescue, sorting of casualties; emergency medical

care; cost of delays in treatment; the treatment of large numbers of blast, thermal, radiation, and neuropsychiatric casualties; the use of drugs, blood, and anesthetics in dealing with mass casualties; and public health, sanitation, and welfare problems.

The theme for the third day will be organization for the management of mass casualties. These last sessions will discuss the roles to be played by physicians, dentists, veterinarians, nurses, Medical Service Corps officers, Women's Medical Specialist Corps officers, and technical assistants. Ways and means will be proposed to train these people for atomic warfare. Finally, the methods for organizing sorting facilities, transportation, fixed and field hospitals, and holding units, to deal with thousands of casualties at one time, will be presented.

■ "Converting the old-growth forest" is the theme of the 55th annual meeting of the Society of American Foresters to be held in Portland, Ore., 16-19 Oct. Headquarters will be in the Multnomah Hotel.

Eleven technical sessions have been scheduled, and the papers to be presented will deal with forest management, silviculture, forest products, private forestry, forest economics, watershed management, forest recreation, forest-wildlife management, range management, public relations, and professional education in forestry.

■ The 8th annual scientific meeting of the Detroit Institute of Cancer Research will take place 17-19 Oct. in the auditorium of the Engineering Society of Detroit, 100 Farnsworth Ave., Detroit, Mich.

As an innovation this year the program includes two ½-day symposiums: the first will be directed to the general problem of host factors in resistance; the second will touch upon several facets of lung cancer.

There will be no registration fee; individuals who desire more information about this program may write to Dr. William L. Simpson, Detroit Institute of Cancer Research, 4811 John R St., Detroit 1, Mich.

■ The Illinois State Geological Survey will celebrate its 50th anniversary on 11 Oct. The anniversary program will center around two themes: "The Survey's response to the changing economic pattern of the past fifty years," and "The relation of mineral resource research in Illinois to the economy of the State." Among those attending will be delegates of national and local societies in geology and related fields and delegates of universities and colleges. During the forenoon of the following day the laboratories

will be open for inspection, and in the afternoon the Geological Survey will be host to the Association of American State Geologists.

The survey's program of research in the field and laboratory provides information of fundamental, economic, and educational value on the geology, geochemistry, geophysics, and mineral economics of the natural resources of Illinois. The full-time staff numbers 48 geologists; 22 chemists and physicists; 4 chemical, mechanical, and petroleum engineers; 2 mineral economists; 1 librarian; 2 editors; 30 technical assistants; and 20 nontechnical persons.

Headquarters for the organization are in the recently completed Natural Resources Building on the University of Illinois campus in Urbana. The building and accessory units were built solely for the research and extension work of the geological and natural history surveys at a cost of about \$3.5 million. Forty geological laboratories are equipped for specialized purposes.

■ The Clinical Congress of the American College of Surgeons convenes in Chicago, Ill., 31 Oct.-4 Nov. Attendance at this 41st annual meeting is expected to reach 10,000, with surgeons, physicians, and related medical personnel from all parts of the nation and a number of foreign lands present. J. Garrott Allen of Chicago is chairman of the local advisory committee on arrangements.

The program will include a résumé of the year's progress, including demonstrations and discussions of both current practical aspects of surgery and the new and experimental aspects. Noted surgeons and teachers will participate in the reports, panel discussions, and symposia. Exhibits on subjects of interest to surgeons, with information on fundamental research, diagnostic procedures, and new techniques, will be on display.

Alfred Blalock of Baltimore, Md., current president of the college, will preside at the opening evening session, at which Grayson L. Kirk, president of Columbia University, will be guest speaker. Frank B. Berry, Assistant Secretary of Defense (health and welfare), will give the Trauma oration on 3 Nov., speaking on "Mass casualties." On the final evening Warren H. Cole of Chicago will be installed as president for the coming year. His presidential address will consider "Surgical philosophy, old and new."

■ New York's first peacetime atomic energy exposition will be held 20 Oct.-3 Nov. 1955 at the Carnegie Endowment International Center on United Nations Plaza. Sponsored jointly by the Atomic Industrial Forum, the Fund for Peaceful Atomic Development, and the Carnegie Endowment for International

Peace, the display will be entitled "Man, the Atom, and the Future" and will stress the uses of atomic energy for the advancement of human welfare.

Exhibitors will be drawn from industrial organizations exhibiting in the first U.S. Trade Fair of the Atomic Industry, to be held in Washington, D.C., 26-30 Sept. [*Science* 122, 208 (29 July 1955)], and from a group of foreign firms to be invited by the sponsors of the exhibit. The exhibit, which will be conducted under the direction of the Atomic Industrial Forum, Inc., 260 Madison Ave., New York, will be open to the general public without charge.

■ The American College of Cardiology will hold its 4th interim meeting at the Hotel Claridge, Memphis, Tenn., 10-12 Nov. The scientific program will feature symposia on rheumatic fever, rheumatic heart disease, and vascular surgery. It will include speakers from the medical schools of Vanderbilt and Emory universities and the universities of Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Kansas City, as well as the National Children's Cardiac Hospital of Miami, Fla. Further information may be obtained from the secretary, Dr. Philip Reichert, American College of Cardiology, Empire State Bldg., New York 1.

■ The Polish Academy of Sciences honored the memory of Albert Einstein on 18 May at a special session devoted to his scientific achievements. Speakers included Leopold Infeld, Michal Smialowski, and Stanislaw Loria.

Forthcoming Events

September

26-29. Assoc. of Iron and Steel Engineers, annual, Chicago, Ill. (Secretary, AISE, Empire Bldg., Pittsburgh 22, Pa.)

26-30. International Dairy Federation, annual, Bonn, Germany. (IDF, 154, rue Belliard, Brussels, Belgium.)

26-30. Atomic Industrial Forum and Trade Fair, Washington, D.C. (C. Robbins, 260 Madison Ave., New York 16.)

26-30. Colloquium on Deformation and Flow of Solids, Madrid, Spain. (H. L. Dryden, National Advisory Comm. for Aeronautics, Washington 25.)

26-1. Endocrine Soc., 7th annual postgraduate assembly, Indianapolis, Ind. (Postgraduate Office, Indiana Univ. School of Medicine, Indianapolis 7.)

27-1. International Symposium on Analogue Computers, Brussels, Belgium. (P. Germain, Institut de Physique Appliquée, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Bruxelles.)

28-29. Industrial Electronics Conf., Detroit, Mich. (G. Ferrara, 8106 W. Nine Mile Rd., Oak Park 37, Mich.)

28-30. Mississippi Valley Medical Soc., St. Louis, Mo. (H. Swanberg, 209-224 W.C.U. Bldg., Quincy, Ill.)



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29-1. International Soc. of Vegetative Neurology, 6th annual symposium, Strasbourg, France. (R. Fontaine, Univ. of Strasbourg Faculty of Medicine, Strasbourg.)

30. American Medical Writers' Assoc., St. Louis, Mo. (H. Swanberg, 209-224 W.C.U. Bldg., Quincy, Ill.)

30-1. Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences, 3rd general, Paris, France. (J. F. Delafresnaye, CIOMS, 19, avenue Kléber, Paris 16e.)

30-2. Indiana Geological Field Conf., 8th, Clifty Falls State Park, Ind. (C. F. Deiss, Dept. of Geology, Indiana Univ., Bloomington.)

October

1-9. International Food Fair, Cologne, Germany. (International Trade Fair Staff, USDA, Washington 25.)

3-6. Soc. of Exploration Geophysicists, 25th annual, Denver, Colo. (C. Campbell, SEG, 624 S. Cheyenne, Tulsa, Okla.)

3-7. American Inst. of Electrical Engineers, fall general, Chicago, Ill. (N. S. Hibshem, 33 W. 39 St., New York 18.)

4-6. American Meteorological Soc., Stillwater, Okla. (K. C. Spengler, 3 Joy St., Boston 8, Mass.)

4-6. International Assoc. of Milk and Food Sanitarians, Augusta, Ga. (H. L. Thomasson, IAMFS, Box 437, Shelbyville, Ind.)

6-8. Optical Soc. of America, Pittsburgh, Pa. (A. C. Hardy, Room 8-203,

Massachusetts Inst. of Technology, Cambridge 39.)

6-8. Soc. of Industrial Designers, 11th annual, Washington, D.C. (S. G. Swing, SID, 48 E. 49th St., New York 17.)

6-8. Academy of Psychosomatic Medicine, 2nd annual, New York, N.Y. (E. A. Brown, 75 Bay State Rd., Boston, Mass.)

9-13. Electrochemical Soc., Pittsburgh, Pa. (H. B. Linford, 216 W. 102 St., New York 25.)

9-14. American Acad. of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology, Chicago, Ill. (W. L. Benedict, 100 First Avenue Bldg., Rochester, Minn.)

10-12. American Acad. for Cerebral Palsy, annual, Memphis, Tenn. (R. A. Knight, AACCP, 869 Madison Ave., Memphis 3.)

10-12. American Oil Chemists' Soc., Philadelphia, Pa. (Mrs. L. R. Hawkins, AOCS, 35 East Wacker Drive, Chicago 1, Ill.)

10-12. National Prestressed Concrete Short Course, 1st, St. Petersburg, Fla. (A. M. Ozell, Civil Engineering Dept., Univ. of Florida, Gainesville.)

10-13. National Clay Conf., 4th, University Park, Pa. (T. F. Bates, College of Mineral Industries, Pennsylvania State Univ., University Park.)

10-21. New York Acad. of Medicine Graduate Fortnight on Problems of Aging, New York (R. L. Craig, 2 East 103 St., New York 29.)

11. Illinois State Geological Survey, 50th anniversary, Urbana, Ill. (J. C. Frye,

121 Natural Resources Bldg., Univ. of Illinois, Urbana.)

12-13. Symposium on Phospholipids, London, Ontario. (R. J. Rossiter, Dept. of Biochemistry, Univ. of Western Ontario, London, Ont.)

13. Assoc. of Vitamin Chemists, Chicago, Ill. (M. Freed, 4800 S. Richmond, Chicago 32.)

13-15. Indiana Acad. of Science, Notre Dame. (W. A. Daily, Eli Lilly and Co., 740 South Alabama St., Indianapolis 6, Ind.)

13-15. Canadian Physiological Soc., annual, London, Ontario. (J. M. R. Beveridge, Dept. of Biochemistry, Queen's Univ., Kingston, Ont.)

14-15. National Soc. of Professional Engineers, Memphis, Tenn. (K. E. Trombly, NSPE, 1121 15 St., NW, Washington 5.)

16. American College of Dentists, San Francisco, Calif. (O. W. Brandhorst, 4221 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, Mo.)

16-19. Soc. of American Foresters, Portland, Ore. (H. Clepper, 425 Mills Bldg., Washington 6.)

17-19. Detroit Institute of Cancer Research, 8th annual, Detroit, Mich. (Wm. L. Simpson, 4811 John R St., Detroit 1.)

17-20. American Dental Assoc., annual, San Francisco, Calif. (H. Hillenbrand, 222 E. Superior St., Chicago 11.)

(See 19 August issue
for comprehensive list.)