

Scientific Meetings

Importance of Seaweeds

The scientific and commercial importance of seaweeds was again emphasized when about 130 persons from 24 countries registered for the second international symposium at Trondheim, Norway, 14–17 July. The meeting was the result of a decision made at the first symposium held in Edinburgh in 1952. A third symposium is anticipated in Ireland in 1959. The remarkable international character of the gathering is indicated by the fact that delegates were present from such widely scattered countries as China, Japan, South Africa, Egypt, Iceland, the Faeröerne, Canada, and the United States as well as from European countries.

About 40 papers were presented, and most of them were of a chemical nature. Countries that would appear to be most active in this field are the United Kingdom, Norway, and Canada. The meetings were conducted almost exclusively in English. The sessions were held at the Norwegian Technical University under the general chairmanship of Trygve Braarud of the University of Oslo and were organized by the staff of the Norwegian Institute of Seaweed Research at Trondheim. The symposium lasted 3 days, and on two occasions separate sessions for chemical and botanical communications were held.

Papers of chemical interest included the description of a polysaccharide isolated from the green alga, *Cladophora rupestris*, by Percival (Scotland). It was shown to contain L-arabinose, D-galactose, D-xylose, L-rhamnose, and D-glucose in the ratio of 48:38:12:5:3 and was sulfated. This is the first recorded instance of arabinose in an algal polysaccharide. Linberg (Sweden) described the isolation of a disaccharide, mannitol 1-β-D-glucopyranoside, and a trisaccharide, mannitol diglucopyranoside, from several brown algae. Methyl inositol (laminitol) was isolated from several species of brown seaweeds, D-volemitol as a glucoside from *Pelvetia canaliculata*, and a new glycoside, floridoside α-mannoside from *Furcellaria fastigiata*.

Smith, O'Neill, and Perlin (Canada)

described the fractionation of preparations of carrageenin from *Chondrus crispus* with potassium chloride and subsequently with ethanol. They established several components, one consisting of D-galactose sulfate as λ-carrageenin, one consisting of this ester combined with 3,6-anhydrogalactose, designated κ-carrageenin, and minor fractions containing glucose, xylose, and L-galactose. The structural configuration of κ- and λ-carrageenins was further clarified by studies of the x-ray diffraction patterns of their fibers by Bayley (Canada). Alginate stearate has been synthesized by the action of stearyl chloride on alginic acid in pyridine, and the product has been shown to be capable of forming a film suitable for use in the photographic industry by De Keyser (Belgium).

Haxo and O'Chocha (U.S.A.) reported on the cultivation and chemical characteristics of the unicellular red alga, *Porphyridium cruentum*. An extracellular sulfated polysaccharide was isolated which contained glucose, galactose, xylose, and an unidentified uronic acid. The coloring matter of the alga was shown to consist of phycoerythrin, phycocyanins, chlorophyll a, β-carotene, zeaxanthin, and probably lutein.

Two communications dealt with bacterial enzymes capable of hydrolyzing laminarin and alginate (Chesters, England) and agar and carrageenin (Yaphe, Canada). Carrageenase from some marine organisms offers a means of distinguishing between κ- and λ-carrageenins and between agarophytes and carrageenophytes in algal taxonomy. An interesting paper by Liaaen and Sørensen (Norway) dealt with the distribution and interconversion of the carotenoids in *Fucus vesiculosus* and presented evidence for the biological relationship of violaxanthin and zeaxanthin.

More strictly botanical papers were concerned with surveys in different parts of the world and ecological studies. Aleem (Egypt) has explored the habitat of *Macrocystis pyrifera* at La Jolla, Calif., with the aqualung. The production per square meter at different depths has been measured for benthic communities and bottom dwellers. Rate of growth of tagged *Macrocystis* has been

measured, and an attempt made to determine the influence of fauna grazing upon it.

Chairmen for the various sessions were F. N. Woodward (Scotland), E. G. Young (Canada), W. Bergmann (U.S.A.), H. Lundin (Sweden), E. Conway (Scotland), D. T. Flood (Ireland), C. G. C. Chesters (England), W. E. Isaac (South Africa), N. Sørensen (Norway), and L. Newton (Wales). It is planned to publish a volume of the proceedings.

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Meeting Notes

■ J. A. Hutcheson, vice president and research director of the Westinghouse Electric Corp., East Pittsburgh, Pa., will be the principal speaker at the opening general session of the fall general meeting of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers that will take place in the Morrison Hotel, Chicago, Ill., on 3 Oct. More than 1000 engineers, scientists, research experts, and engineering executives from many parts of the country are expected to attend the meeting, which ends on 7 Oct. The general chairman is F. A. Cox, an engineering executive with Commonwealth Edison Co.

Fifty sessions on advances, discoveries, and new applications in electrical engineering and the allied arts are planned by the technical program committee, of which Robert M. Bergslien is chairman. These sessions will include x-ray engineering, mining and metal, power generation, transmission and distribution, radio and television, telegraph systems, and a score of other fields. Since the AIEE meeting coincides with the National Electronics Conference, members of both organizations will attend the NEC annual dinner.

■ The Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies is planning a conference on Rare Earths in Biochemical and Medical Research, to be held in Oak Ridge, Tenn., 27–29 Oct. The conference will stress chemical, pharmacological, and biochemical problems and possible medical applications of the lanthanons and of yttrium. The emphasis on chemical considerations during the first part of the conference is to provide background for succeeding discussions and interpretations of biochemical and pharmacological studies. The last portion of the meeting will include topics that point up possible medical applications of various radioisotopes.

The program of the conference is divided into the following general cate-

gories: (i) chemical considerations, (ii) radioisotopes of special interest, (iii) pharmacological considerations, (iv) biochemical and metabolic considerations, and (v) dosimetric consideration and possible applications. The conference will include both invited and contributed papers by approximately 25 speakers.

■ More than 40 technical papers will be presented at the 25th anniversary meeting of the Society of Exploration Geophysicists, which will take place 3-6 Oct. in Denver, Colo. A wide variety of scientific methods used in exploring for mineral wealth will be discussed, and special attention will be given to uranium and petroleum.

Several speakers, including U.S. Geological Survey specialists, will take part in a full day devoted to mining geophysics, which will be climaxed by the final session of the convention on uranium exploration. Some 1500 delegates from several countries are expected in Denver during the convention week. For information, write to the society at 624 South Cheyenne, Tulsa, Okla.

■ The 3rd Interamerican Congress of Psychology is scheduled for 16-21 Dec. at the University of Texas, Austin. The

congress is sponsored by the Interamerican Society of Psychology; the University of Texas and the Hogg Foundation for Mental Hygiene will serve as hosts. Selected delegates from the United States, Canada, and the various Latin American countries will be guests of the congress.

The theme of the meeting will be the "psychology of social tensions," which will be treated from the points of view of applied psychology, mental health, social anthropology, and teaching. There will be four major symposiums, exhibitions, discussions of films, and guided tours.

To apply for participation in the congress, send 5 copies of a 250-word abstract, *deadline 15 Oct.*, to the Program Committee, c/o Werner Wolff, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, N.Y. Registration fee is \$10.

Society Elections

■ International Council of Scientific Unions: pres., Lloyd V. Berkner, president of Associated Universities, Inc., which operates the Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, N.Y.; retiring president, B. Lindblad (Sweden); sec. general, A. V. Hill (United Kingdom);

treas., E. Herbays (Belgium). The vice presidents are K. S. Krishnan (India) and P. Lejay (France). These officers and two other elected representatives constitute the bureau, one of ICSU's three governing bodies; the two new members of the bureau are V. A. Engelhardt (U.S.S.R.) and A. Stoll (Switzerland).

■ Plant Science Seminar: chairman, Raymond W. Vander Wyk, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy; 1st vice chairman, Arthur Schwarting, University of Connecticut; 2nd vice chairman, Harold E. Bailey, Wayne University; sec.-treas., J. Hampton Hoch, Medical College of South Carolina.

Forthcoming Events

October

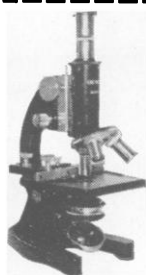
22-24. American Heart Assoc., 28th annual scientific session, New Orleans, La. (Medical Director, AHA, 44 E. 23 St., New York 10.)

24. American Ethnological Soc., New York, N.Y. (Miss A. G. James, 695 Park Ave., New York 21.)

24-26. National Conf. on Standards, 6th, Washington, D.C. (G. P. Paine, ASA, 70 E. 45 St., New York 17.)

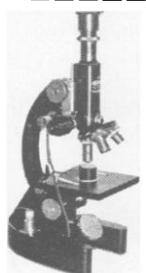
24-28. American Soc. of Civil Engi-
(Continued on page 568)

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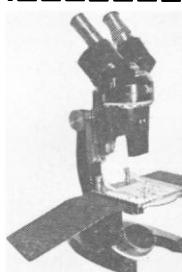
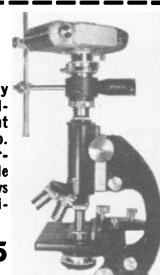
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24-1. International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, annual, Copenhagen, Denmark. (General Secretary of Council, Charlottenlund Castle, Charlottenlund, Denmark.)

25-30. American Ornithologists' Union, Boston, Mass. (H. F. Mayfield, 2557 Portsmouth Ave., Toledo 13, Ohio.)

27-28. New Mexico Acad. of Science, Albuquerque. (C. C. Hoff, Dept. of Biology, Univ. of New Mexico, Albuquerque.)

27-29. American Ceramic Soc., 8th Pacific Coast Regional, Seattle, Wash. (C. S. Pearce, 4055 N. High St., Columbus 14, Ohio.)

27-29. Conf. on Rare Earths in Biochemical and Medical Research, Oak Ridge, Tenn. (G. C. Kyker, Oak Ridge Inst. of Nuclear Studies, P.O. Box 117, Oak Ridge.)

27-29. Electron Microscope Soc. of America, University Park, Pa. (Miss J. R. Cooper, General Electric Co., Lamp Div., Nela Park, Cleveland 12, Ohio.)

27-29. Gerontological Soc., Baltimore, Md. (N. W. Shock, Baltimore City Hospitals, Baltimore 24.)

27-29. Pharmaceutical Industry: Rensselaer Polytechnic Inst. Industrial Council, 5th annual, Troy, N.Y. (F. Tift, News Bureau, RPI, Troy.)

28-30. American Soc. for Aesthetics, Chicago, Ill. (J. F. White, Western Reserve Univ., Cleveland 6, Ohio.)

30-1. West Virginia Science Fair Work Conf., Weston. (D. E. Large, Science Fair Program, P.O. Box 117, Oak Ridge, Tenn.)

31-1. East Coast Conf. on Aeronautical and Navigational Electronics of Inst. of Radio Engineers, Baltimore, Md. (G. R. White, Bendix Radio Div., Bendix Aviation Corp., Towson 4, Md.)

31-4. American College of Surgeons, 41st annual clinical cong., Chicago, Ill. (P. R. Hawley, 40 E. Erie St., Chicago.)

31-5. Conf. on Solar Energy, Scientific Basis, Tucson, Ariz. (31-1 Oct.); World Symposium on Applied Solar Energy, Phoenix, Ariz. (1-5 Nov.). (M. L. Kastens, Stanford Research Inst., Stanford, Calif.)

November

1-3. Enzymes: Units of Biological Structure and Function, International Symposium, Detroit, Mich. (C. E. Rupe, Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit 2.)

2-4. American Documentation Inst., annual, Philadelphia, Pa. (S. Rosenberg, Library of Congress, Washington 25.)

2-4. Society of Rheology, annual, New York. (W. R. Willets, Titanium Pigment Corp., 99 Hudson St., New York 13.)

2-4. Symposium on Antibiotics, 3rd annual, Washington, D.C. (H. Welch, Div. of Antibiotics, Food and Drug Admin., U.S. Dept. of Health, Education, and Welfare, Washington 25.)

2-5. American Soc. of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Boston, Mass. (J. E. Larsh, Jr., School of Public Health, Univ. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.)

3. American Federation for Clinical Research, Midwestern, Chicago, Ill. (R. J. Glaser, Barnes Hospital, 600 S. Kingshighway, St. Louis 10, Mo.)

4-5. American College of Anesthesiologists, Boston, Mass. (S. C. Hershey, 235 E. 22 St., New York 10.)

4-5. Central Soc. for Clinical Research, 28th annual, Chicago, Ill. (CSCR, Suite 1215, 25 E. Washington St., Chicago 2.)

4-5. Kentucky Academy of Science, Frankfort, Ky. (Mary E. Wharton, Georgetown College, Georgetown, Ky.)

5. Committee for the Scientific Study of Religion, Cambridge, Mass. (R. V. McCann, Andover Hall, Harvard Univ., Cambridge 38.)

6-7. American Soc. for the Study of Arteriosclerosis, 9th annual, Chicago, Ill. (O. J. Pollak, P.O. Box 228, Dover, Del.)

6-13. International Cong. of Allergology, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. (F. Alves, Avenida Rio Branco 277, 7° andar, Rio de Janeiro.)

7-9. Assoc. of Military Surgeons of the United States 62nd annual, Washington, D.C. (AMSUS, 1726 Eye St., NW, Washington 6.)

7-9. Eastern Joint Computer Conf., AIEE, IRE, ACM, Boston, Mass. (I. Travis, Burroughs Res. Center, Paoli, Pa.)