

Scientific Meetings

Role of Council for International Organizations in Medical Sciences

The Council for International Organizations in the Medical Sciences is now 6 years old and has demonstrated its usefulness in a difficult area of essential activity. Scientific organizations are obviously useful to scientists or they would not continue to exist and flourish. However, there are more obvious, more direct, and more personal services performed by societies covering a single discipline in a single country or region than is the case with interdisciplinary and international organizations. Nevertheless, there are strong reasons for maintaining and promoting nongovernmental activities in science at interdisciplinary and international levels.

Many serious students of science believe that the fragmentation owing to specialization and the increments in volume of publication threaten to throttle advancement of basic knowledge. With more than 50,000 journals of primary publication and more than 1 million papers per year in the whole area of natural science, the problem of identification of information has become impossible to accomplish on an individual basis. In one area, physiology, it has been calculated that in the year 1900 a scholar could scan everything published in that year in 91 days of 8 hours, reading at the rate of 2 minutes per page, but that the volume published in 1950 would require about 5 years to scan in the same way.

One needs no further information to understand why the age of the nonspecialist is past. Every scientist must obviously limit his systematic reading of original literature to subspecialties. It is primarily for reasons related to these facts that abstracting and indexing journals, annual reviews, summarizing literature, and the like are indispensable to science and scientists. Likewise, the special services of seminars, symposia, summarizing lectures, and discussions become more pertinent to the ongoing of science.

CIOMS, at its third assembly, held in Paris, 30 Sept. and 1 Oct. 1955, had the task of formulating a program for international, interdisciplinary work for the next period and preparing a budget to

present to WHO and UNESCO, its major financial supporting agencies, to aid scientists in medicine to improve communications. Obviously we must do what we can with existing tools, but we should also attempt to improve our tools. We should eliminate duplication in abstracting, indexing, and reviewing wherever possible, because, for example, a half-dozen incomplete and inadequate abstracting services could, if they cooperated, give substantially complete coverage at no extra cost to anyone. CIOMS is in a strategic position to promote such integration of effort. The only force it has is persuasion, because it is made up of private nongovernmental organizations. It has no vested interests and no national pride. It is interested in getting jobs done effectively for medical science and its application to the welfare of man. It can be altruistic because it has no other justification for existence.

CIOMS is in some danger of losing the support of its sponsors because it does not have as wide organizational support in various countries as it should if it is to function effectively. Most scientists are greatly preoccupied with their immediate research problems and service functions. They rarely take the time or trouble to concern themselves with thought and action about the mechanisms that are essential to the long-time promotion of science. They take journals of primary and of secondary publication for granted. They appear to assume that seminars, symposia, and general lectures "just happen," and that their thought and effort are not needed for improvement or even for continuance.

It is undoubtedly true that voluntary international cooperation is difficult and that it has frequently been frustrating. But as our world shrinks in effective time and space, and as we approach greater interdependence, and particularly as science becomes a world enterprise, such cooperation becomes imperative. We must be willing to devote some of our time and energies to planning and executing cooperative ventures. The world interest in the development and extension of medical knowledge and its utilization should encourage us in our efforts in this organization. CIOMS is

the first world-wide interdisciplinary organization in the medical sciences ever to be established. It was born out of the optimism of the late 1940's, but if it should collapse it will take even more optimism to begin another such unusual venture.

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Biological Abstracts

Biological Abstracts, an abstracting and indexing service of the world's biological literature, celebrated its 30th anniversary on 17 Feb. with a scientific symposium at the University of Pennsylvania. Participants in the symposium included David R. Goddard, professor of botany at Pennsylvania; G. Miles Conrad, director of Biological Abstracts; and D. H. Wenrich, professor emeritus of zoology at Pennsylvania. At a dinner meeting, guests were greeted by Gaylord P. Harnwell, president of the university. His welcome was followed by addresses by Ralph E. Cleland, professor of botany at the University of Indiana, and Maurice B. Visscher, professor of physiology at the University of Minnesota.

Although it is an independent organization, Biological Abstracts has been housed at the University of Pennsylvania since it was established in 1926 under a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation. Thus far it has published abstracts of more than 750,000 original articles on research in the medical sciences, agriculture, food technology, and other fields related to the study of animal and plant life.

Meeting Notes

■ A conference on the need for high-school physics was held 27-28 Jan. in Pittsburgh, Pa., under the joint sponsorship of the University of Pittsburgh and the National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council. Participants included representatives from university physics departments, science teachers and supervisors from secondary schools, school superintendents and principals, and representatives from industry and labor in the Pittsburgh area. Recommendations from the conference will soon be published and may be obtained by writing to Prof. W. G. Kelly, Department of Physics, University of Pittsburgh.

■ The AAAS Science Teaching Improvement Program will sponsor a regional conference of scientists to be held on the downtown campus of Northwestern University on 9 Mar. The purpose

of the meeting is to provide an opportunity for university and college scientists to discuss science teacher education programs and relations with secondary schools. All staff members in science and mathematics in colleges and universities in Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Indiana are cordially invited to attend.

Invitations are being sent to the presidents of the colleges in these states, suggesting that members of science departments be named as representatives of their institutions. Members of the advisory committee for the conference are J. W. Buchta, physics (Minn.); S. S. Cairns, mathematics (Ill.); Ralph E. Cleland, botany (Ind.); Farrington Daniels, chemistry (Wis.); and Emil Witschi, zoology (State University of Iowa).

■ An attendance of 45,000 engineers and scientists is expected for the national convention of the Institute of Radio Engineers that is to be held on 19-22 Mar. in New York. The program includes 55 technical sessions and 714 engineering exhibits. Sessions are scheduled for all four days at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, the Kingsbridge Armory, and the Belmont Plaza Hotel.

The program will be highlighted by two special symposia on "The U.S. earth satellite program" and "Color television tape recording." The remainder of the program will cover a wide variety of topics, such as the "Impact of computers on science and society," "Nuclear effects on communication systems," "The future of medical electronics," and "Air traffic control."

■ A conference on communication of information by workers studying sounds of biological significance will be held at Pennsylvania State University 16-19 Apr. Great interest in auditory communication among animals has arisen in recent years. The development of tape recording has made possible simple field and laboratory recording at small expense. Much published information is beginning to appear, but unfortunately, printed words cannot adequately describe bird songs, insect sounds, underwater noises, or the ultrasonic sounds such as those of bats.

The purpose of this conference is to discuss acceptable procedures for recording sounds produced by animals, so that an international collection of these sounds can be established. This would be a collection of sounds whose effects on animal behavior have been determined by field or laboratory observations, not merely a collection of animal sounds, the biological significance of which is unknown or hypothetical.

The conference is viewed as a starting point, not as a conventional symposium for the sharing of information already

at hand. The speakers for the first day of the conference will be Donald Griffin, Harvard University; R.-G. Busnel, Laboratoire de Physiologie Acoustique (France); F. Mohres, Universität Tübingen (Germany); and R. J. Pumphrey, University of Liverpool (England).

The remaining days will be given over to informal consideration of recording techniques and standards. Persons who are interested, whether or not they expect to attend, are requested to submit in advance to the committee or to a person who will attend topics that they would like to have discussed.

The planning committee consists of Hubert Frings, Mable Frings, H. K. Schilling, Bertil G. Anderson, and A. Anthony, all of Pennsylvania State University; Donald Griffin of Harvard University; William Schevill of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution; and T. C. Schneirla of the American Museum of Natural History.

Society Elections

■ Interamerican Society of Psychology: pres., Otto Klineberg, Columbia University; v. pres., Guillermo Davila, National University of Mexico; sec. general, Werner Wolff, Bard College; treas., Gustave M. Gilbert, Michigan State University.

■ Institute of Radio Engineers: pres., A. V. Loughren, Hazeltine Corporation, 59-25 Little Neck Parkway, Little Neck 62, N.Y.; senior past pres., W. R. Hewlett, Hewlett-Packard Company, Palo Alto, Calif.; junior past pres., J. D. Ryder, Michigan State University; v. pres., Herre Rinia, Philips Research Laboratories, Kastanjelaan, Eindhoven, Netherlands; sec., Haraden Pratt, 1216 Hope St., Springdale, Conn.; treas., W. R. G. Baker, General Electric Company, Syracuse, N.Y. Representative to the AAAS Council is John C. Jensen.

■ American Medical Writers' Association: pres., Richard M. Hewitt, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn.; pres.-elect, Dean F. Smiley, Chicago; past pres., Lee D. van Antwerp, Chicago; 1st v. pres., Russell L. Cecil, New York; 2nd v. pres., Austin Smith, Chicago; sec.-treas. and representative to the AAAS Council, Harold Swanberg, 510 Maine St., Quincy, Ill.

■ Torrey Botanical Club: pres., Lela V. Barton, Boyce Thompson Institute; 1st v. pres., Edwin T. Moul; 2nd v. pres., David D. Keck; cor. sec., Eleanor Witkus, Fordham University; rec. sec., Frank G. Lier; treas., Gily E. Bard. Representatives to the AAAS Council are A. E. Hitchcock and Lindsay S. Olive.

■ American Institute of Chemical Engineers: pres., Walter Gordon Whitman, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; v. pres., J. Henry Rushton, Purdue University; treas., George Granger Brown, University of Michigan; exec. sec., F. J. Van Antwerpen.

Forthcoming Events

March

24-25. American Psychosomatic Soc., 13th annual, Boston, Mass. (T. Lidz, APS, 551 Madison Ave., New York 22.)

24-31. Perspectives in Marine Biology, La Jolla, Calif. (A. A. Buzzati-Traverso, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla.)

25-28. American Assoc. of Dental Schools, annual, St. Louis, Mo. (M. W. McCrea, 42 S. Greene St., Baltimore 1, Md.)

25-29. American College Personnel Assoc., Washington, D.C. (Miss C. M. Northrup, Univ. of Denver, Denver, Colo.)

28-3. Colloquium on Frontiers in Physical Optics, Boston, Mass. (S. S. Ballard, Visibility Laboratory, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, San Diego 52, Calif.)

29-31. Alpha Epsilon Delta, 11th national convention, Jackson, Miss. (M. L. Moore, 7 Brookside Circle, Bronxville 8, N.Y.)

29-31. Pennsylvania Acad. of Science, Indiana. (K. Dearolf, Public Museum and Art Gallery, Reading, Pa.)

29-31. Southern Soc. for Philosophy and Psychology, Asheville, N.C. (J. E. Moore, Georgia Inst. of Technology, Atlanta.)

29-31. Symposium on Fundamental Cancer Research, 10th annual, Houston, Tex. (G. Taylor, Univ. of Texas Postgraduate School of Medicine, Houston 25.)

30-31. Alabama Acad. of Science, annual, Montevallo. (H. A. McCullough, Howard College, Birmingham, Ala.)

April

2-5. Assoc. of American Geographers, annual, Montreal, Canada. (B. W. Adkinson, Library of Congress, Washington 25.)

2-7. Symposium on Crystallography, Madrid, Spain. (M. Abbad, Serrano 118, Madrid.)

3. Microcirculatory Conf., 3rd, Milwaukee, Wis. (G. P. Fulton, Dept. of Biology, Boston Univ., 675 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 15, Mass.)

3-4. Tissue Culture Assoc., 7th annual, Milwaukee, Wis. (D. C. Hetherington, Duke Univ. School of Medicine, Durham, N.C.)

3-9. International Symposium on Macromolecular Chemistry, Rehovoth, Jerusalem, and Haifa, Israel. (A. Katchalsky, Weizmann Inst. of Science, Rehovoth.)

4-6. American Assoc. of Anatomists, annual, Milwaukee, Wis. (N. L. Hoerr, 2109 Adelbert Rd., Cleveland 6, Ohio.)

4-6. American Soc. of Lubrication Engineers, 11th annual, Pittsburgh, Pa. (Administrative Secretary, ASLE, 84 E. Randolph St., Chicago 1, Ill.)

4-7. International Cong. of Medical Radiography 2nd, Paris, France. (Secretariat, 66, Boulevard St. Michel, Paris 6.)

5-6. Conf. on Magnetic Amplifiers, Syracuse, N.Y. (C. A. Priest, 314 Hurlburt Rd., Syracuse 3.)

5-7. Optical Soc. of America, Philadelphia, Pa. (A. C. Hardy, Room 8-203, Massachusetts Inst. of Technology, Cambridge 39.)

6-7. American Assoc. of University Professors, St. Louis, Mo. (R. F. Fuchs, AAUP, 1785 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington 6.)

6-7. National Speleological Soc., Nashville, Tenn. (Mrs. L. Cutler, 2829 Buchanan St., Arlington 6, Va.)

6-8. American Assoc. of Physical Anthropologists, Chicago, Ill. (J. L. Angel, Daniel Baugh Institute of Anatomy, Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia 7, Pa.)

7-8. American Soc. of Hospital Pharmacists, Detroit, Mich. (Miss G. Niemeyer, 2215 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington 7.)

7-10. National Assoc. of Boards of Pharmacy, annual, Detroit, Mich. (P. H. Costello, NABP, 77 W. Washington St., Chicago 2, Ill.)

8. American College of Apothecaries, Detroit, Mich. (R. E. Abrams, Hamilton Court, Philadelphia 4, Pa.)

8-10. American Assoc. of Colleges of Pharmacy, Detroit, Mich. (R. A. Deno, College of Pharmacy, Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor.)

8-13. American Chemical Soc., Dallas, Tex. (A. H. Emery, ACS, 1155 16 St., NW, Washington 6.)

8-13. American Pharmaceutical Assoc., annual, Detroit, Mich. (R. P. Fischelis, APA, 2215 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington 7.)

8-13. Symposium on Problems of Automation, Milan, Italy. (Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Ufficio Congressi e Mostre, 7 Piazzale delle Scienze, Rome, Italy.)

9-11. American Assoc. of Feed Microscopists, annual, Terre Haute, Ind. (R. C. Wornick, Agricultural Research Dept., Chas. Pfizer & Co., Inc., Terre Haute.)

9-12. International Anesthesia Research Soc., 30th annual cong., Miami Beach, Fla. (R. J. Whiteacre, 13951 Terrace Rd., Cleveland 12, Ohio.)

10-11. Symposium for Management on Applications of Analog Computers, Kansas City, Mo. (O. Fanning, Midwest Research Inst., 425 Volker Blvd., Kansas City 10.)

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

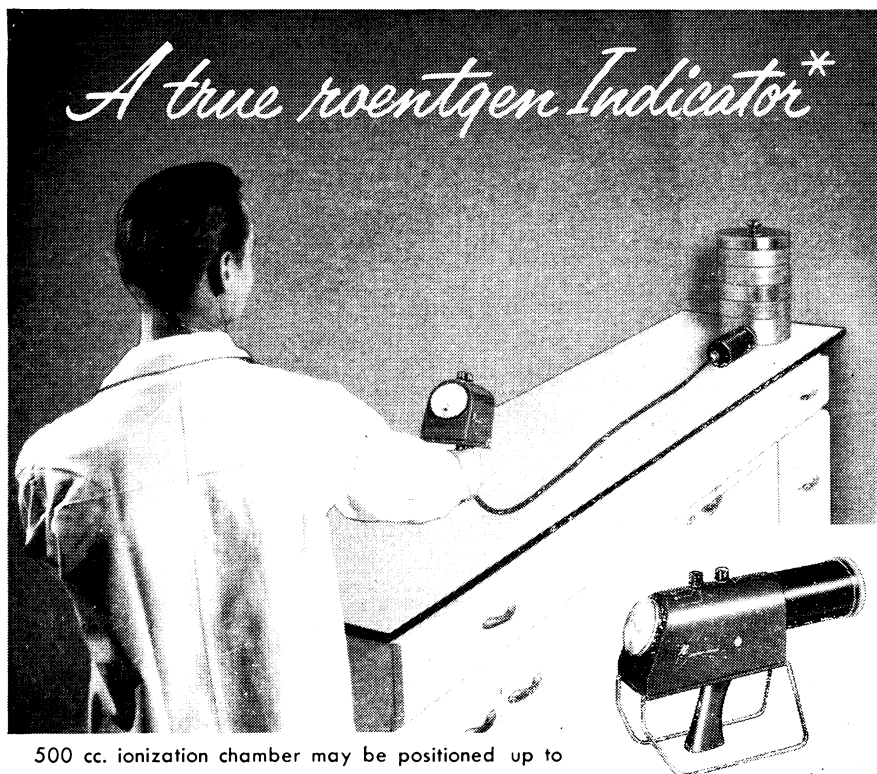
13-14. Louisiana Acad. of Science, annual, New Orleans, La. (H. B. Boudreaux, Dept. of Zoology, Louisiana State Univ., Baton Rouge 3.)

14. South Carolina Acad. of Science, annual, Clemson, S.C. (H. W. Freeman, Univ. of South Carolina, Columbia.)

15-16. American Soc. for Artificial Internal Organs, Atlantic City, N.J. (P. F. Salisbury, Cedars of Lebanon Hospital, 4751 Fountain Ave., Los Angeles 29, Calif.)

(See issue of 17 February for comprehensive list)

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