Meetings

International Nutrition Congress

The Fifth International Congress on Nutrition, organized by the American Institute of Nutrition and the National Committee for Nutritional Sciences of the National Academy of Sciences, will be held in Washington, D.C., 1–7 Sept. 1960, under the auspices of the International Union of Nutritional Sciences. C. Glen King, executive director of The Nutrition Foundation, New York, N.Y., has been named president of the congress; Elmer V. McCollum, professor emeritus of biochemistry, Johns Hopkins University, is honorary president. Paul György, professor of pediatrics, University of Pennsylvania, is chairman of the organizing committee.

In addition to papers submitted for the usual scientific sessions, a number of panel discussions and symposia on major problems in the field of nutrition in its broader aspects will be presented. There will also be scientific and industrial exhibits. For additional information write to Dr. Milton O. Lee, General Secretary, 9650 Wisconsin Ave., Washington 14, D.C.

Magnetism Conference

The fourth Conference on Magnetism and Magnetic Materials will be held in Philadelphia, 17–20 November, at the Sheraton Hotel. This conference is sponsored by the American Institute of Electrical Engineers in cooperation with the American Physical Society, the Institute of Radio Engineers, the Metallurgical Society of AIME, and the Office of Naval Research. Authors should submit abstracts by *1 September* to the program chairman, H. B. Callen, Department of Physics, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa. Further details may be obtained from C. J. Kriessman, Local Chairman, Remington Rand Univac, 1900 W. Allegheny Ave., Philadelphia, Pa.

Applied Spectroscopy

The fifth Ottawa Symposium on Applied Spectroscopy will be held 15–17 September in the Lecture Hall, Victoria Museum, Ottawa, Ont. Any inquiries should be directed to Program Committee, Fifth Ottawa Symposium on Applied Spectroscopy, c/o Noranda Copper and Brass Limited, P.O. Box 1238, Place D'Armes, Montreal, Quebec.

Nutrition Society of Canada

A meeting of persons interested in nutrition research was held in Ottawa on 7 October 1957 to discuss the formation of a nutrition society. A provisional committee was appointed to prepare a list of founding members and to draft a constitution. A formal meeting took place in Queen's University, Kingston, Ont. A membership of 90 was accepted, a constitution adopted, and the society was named the Nutrition Society of Canada. Membership is restricted to persons concerned with the scientific aspects of nutrition. President of the society is E. W. McHenry of Toronto. The society intends to hold annual meetings.

21st International Congress of Physiological Sciences

The 21st International Congress of Physiological Sciences will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 9–15 August 1959. Bernardo A. Houssay is the president.

This congress is the first of its kind

to be held in the Southern Hemisphere, and to make it possible, many international and Argentine institutions are lending their financial support.

The deadline for the receipt of titles and abstracts of communications is *31 January 1959*. The address of the secretary's office is 21st International Congress of Physiological Sciences, Facultad de Ciencias Medicas, Paraguay 2151, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Clinical Chemists' Meeting

The American Association of Clinical Chemists tenth anniversary meeting will be held on the campus of the State University of Iowa, Iowa City, *4–6 September 1958*.

This will be the first meeting in the history of AACC devoted entirely to the interests of clinical chemistry, and it will also be the first national meeting to be organized completely by the association.

Chemical Organization of Cells

A Conference on the Chemical Organization of Cells, Normal and Abnormal, will be held in Madison, Wis., 21–23 August. The meeting is being supported by the National Institutes of Health as part of the program to increase the pathology research potential. For information, write to Dr. Joseph J. Lalich, Professor of Pathology, University of Wisconsin, 426 North Charter St., Madison, Wis.

The National Institutes of Health has made funds available to assist a limited number of workers in basic science fields to attend the Madison conference. This money will provide conference fees and up to a maximum of $200 for transportation. In general, these funds are intended to support the travel and attendance of younger workers.

Forthcoming Events

September

2–5. Alaskan Science Conf., 9th, College. (R. L. Rausch, Alaska Div., AAAS, Box 960, Anchorage, Alaska.)

2–5. American Physiological Soc., 10th autumn, London, Ontario, Canada. (APS, 9650 Wisconsin Ave., Washington 14.)

2–6. Engineering Societies, Pan American Federation, 5th, Montreal, Canada. (L. A. Wright, Engineering Inst. of Canada, 2050 Mansfield St., Montreal 2.)

2–6. Glaucoma, intern. symp., Liége, Belgium. (R. Weekers, Clinique Ophtalmologique, Hôpital de Baviere, Liége.)

3–5. Cryogenic Engineering Conf., annual, Cambridge, Mass. (K. D. Timmerhaus, Chemical Engineering Dept., Univ. of Colorado, Boulder.)

3–6. Blood Transfusion, 7th intern. cong., Rome, Italy. (G. Marinone, Clinica Medica, Policlinico, Pavia, Italy.)

3–10. Cybernetics, 2nd intern. cong., Namur, Belgium. (Association Internationale de Cybernetique, 13, rue Basse-Marcelle, Namur.)

4–5. Air Pollution, 2nd intern, conf., New York, N.Y. (American Soc. of Mechanical Engineers, 29 W. 39 St., New York 18.)

4–6. American Assoc. of Clinical Chemists, 10th annual, Iowa City, Iowa. (R. L. Dryer, Clinical Biochemistry Laboratory, State Univ. of Iowa, Iowa City.)

4–6. American Political Science Assoc., St. Louis, Mo. (E. M. Kirkpatrick, APSA, 1726 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington 6.)

4–6. Calorimetry Conf., 13th annual, Lemont and Chicago, Ill. (D. H. Andrews, Dept. of Chemistry, Johns Hopkins Univ., Baltimore, Md.)

5–10. Formal Deductive Systems in Mathematics and in Natural Science, symp., Brussels, Belgium. (International Union for the History and Philosophy of Science, 4, rue Thenard, Paris 5e, France.)

5–13. Tropical Medicine and Malaria, 6th intern. cong., Lisbon, Portugal. (M. R. Pinto, Instituto de Medicina Tropical, Lisbon.)

6–12. Pharmaceutical Sciences, 18th intern. cong., Brussels, Belgium. (J. W.

Birza, 196 Bilderdijkstraat, Amsterdam W, Netherlands.)

7–10. Planetaria, symp., Bloomfield Hills, Mich. (J. A. Fowler, Cranbrook Inst. of Science, Bloomfield Hills.)

7–11. Diseases of the Chest, 5th intern. cong., Tokyo, Japan. (M. Kornfeld, American College of Chest Physicians, 112 Chestnut St., Chicago 11, Ill.)

7–12. Laurentian Hormone Conf., annual, AAAS, Blaney Park, Mich. (G. Pincus, 222 Maple Ave., Shrewsbury, Mass.)

7–13. Hematology, 7th intern. cong., Rome, Italy. (S. Haberman, Baylor Univ. Hospital, 3500 Gaston Ave., Dallas, Tex.)

7–20. Industrial Chemistry, 31st intern. cong., Liége, Belgium. (Society of Industrial Chemistry, 28, rue Saint Dominique, Paris 7e, France.)

8–12. Spectroscopy Colloquium, 7th Intern., Liége, Belgium. (Association des Ingénieurs de l'Université de Liége, 22, rue Forgeur, Liége.)

8–13. International Council of Aeronautical Sciences, Madrid, Spain. (R. R. Dexter, Inst. of Aeronautical Sciences, 2 E. 64 St., New York 21.)

8–17. Sociology, 18th intern. cong., Nürnberg, Germany. (International Inst. of Sociology, Findelgasse 7–9, Nürnberg.)

9–11. Engineering Meteorology 2nd natl. conf., Ann Arbor, Mich. (K. C. Spengler, American Meteorological Soc., 3 Joy St., Boston 8, Mass.)

11–19. Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, 6th general assembly, Athens and Delphi, Greece. (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, 31, rue Vautier, Brussels, Belgium.)

13–17. Bronchoesophagology, 7th intern. cong., Kyoto, Japan. (C. L. Jackson, 3401 N. Broad St., Philadelphia 40, Pa.)

14–20. Ceramics Cong., 6th intern., Wiesbaden, Germany. (Sekretariat des VI Internationalen Keramischen Kongresses, Reuterstrasse 235, Bonn/Rh., Germany.)

14–21. Cardiology, 3rd world cong., Brussels, Belgium. (F. Van Dooren, 80, rue Mercelis, Brussels.)

15–19. Instrument-Automation Conf., 13th annual, Philadelphia, Pa. (H. S. Kindler, Instrument Soc. of America, 313 Sixth Ave., Pittsburgh 22, Pa.)

15–20. Agriculture, European Confederation 10th anniversary, Vienna, Austria. (European Confederation of Agriculture, Pestalozzistrasse 1, Brugg, Argovie, Switzerland.)

15–20. Carboniferous Stratigraphy and Geology, 4th intern. cong., Heerlen, Netherlands. (Secretary, 4th Carboniferous Cong., Geological Bureau, Akerstraat 86–88, Heerlen.)

16–20. Nuclear Electronics, intern. symp., Paris, France. (Colloque Electronique Nucléaire, 10, avenue Pierre-Larousse, Malakoff (Seine), France.)

16–24. Glacier Movement Symp., Chamonix, France. (International Assoc. of Scientific Hydrology, 61, rue de Ronces, Gentrugge, Belgium.)

21–25. Differential Anthropology, 5th intern. cong., Amsterdam, Netherlands. (R. A. M. Bergman, Royal Tropical Inst., Linnaeusstraat 2A, Amsterdam.)

(See issue of 18 July for comprehensive list)

Letters

Monitoring of Foods

I heartily agree with Barry Commoner [*Science* **127**, 1023 (1958)] on the necessity for more data regarding the basic facts of fallout. Because of the extreme complexity of the problem, a detailed understanding can result only from the analysis of very large numbers of samples derived from sampling networks providing intensive, as well as extensive, coverage of the world. One of the practical difficulties preventing the development of such a network has been the extreme difficulty of the radiochemical analysis for significant fission products which are present only to the extent of a small fraction of the natural radioactivity levels.

However, I wish to point out that the nationwide monitoring of foods is not as limited as his reference to the six-station network of the U.S. Public Health Service would imply.

Intensive effort at the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory over the past 6 years has led to the development of large liquid scintillation counters which are capable of measuring and identifying changes as small as 10 percent of the natural gamma activity of people and foods in counting times of only 3 minutes per sample. Because of the large sample capacity (10,000 per year), the cost per sample is much less than that of conventional techniques. This system was placed in routine operation in the spring of 1956, and the results of the first year's operation were reported in *Science* [**125**, 1273 (1957)]. During 1956, 1133 measurements were made on people, including subjects from 29 states. The milk program included 168 samples from 11 states, and additional measurements were reported on meat and vegetables. During 1957, the milk network was expanded to include weekly or monthly samples from 31 locations within the United States and a few foreign countries. Eight hundred and eighty-seven milk samples were processed, and 820 determinations were made on people, including 311 subjects from 30 states. The total number of determinations was 2200, with the machine operating at about one-fifth its capacity. A preliminary report has been published [*Science* **127**, 283 (1958)], and a more detailed report is in preparation. During 1958, the milk network has been further expanded, and over 1300 samples will be measured for their potassium-40, cesium-137, and barium-140 activities.

Now that the feasibility of such a foodstuffs monitoring program has been demonstrated, I join Commoner in hoping that other agencies, both state and national, will apply these techniques on