

be held at Washington, beginning on November 9. The conference is called for general discussion and consideration of matters affecting radio communication in the United States from the viewpoint of the public interest. The conference will include representatives of all interested commercially in any degree in radio activities. Representation will be accorded also to the Institute of Radio Engineers, the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, the National Electric Light Association and other bodies.

THE University of North Carolina, the oldest state university in the country, will celebrate on October 12 the semi-centennial of the reopening of the institution following the civil war. In the afternoon the dedication of the new chemistry building, recently completed at a cost of \$400,000, will take place. Dr. P. P. Claxton, former United States commissioner of education, will deliver the principal address.

THE executive committee of the American Medical Library Association is making an investigation of the present high cost of German medical publications. It is hoped to determine whether or not concerted action on the part of medical libraries of America will cause German publishers to reduce the cost of their publications. In order to obtain some joint action in the matter, those willing to aid in the movement are asked to communicate with Miss Margaret Brinton, librarian, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn.

A PARTY of sixteen French engineers have arrived in this country, where they will conduct a six weeks' investigation of American power-plant practice.

AN international institute at Rome for the study and cure of malaria has been proposed at the International Anti-Malaria Congress in session there. The Italian government has promised support.

A NEW department of geophysics has been established by St. Louis University, to investigate problems relating to the dynamics of earth and its atmosphere.

THE Bufalini Prize of 6,000 lire is offered for the best work presented on the subject of the necessity of the experimental method in study of all the sciences—as opposed to a speculative and dogmatic philosophy—with a review of what this method has contributed to special sciences during the twenty years since the last awarding of the prize. The competing articles must be in Italian or Latin, with the name in a sealed envelope, and be received before July 30, 1926, addressed to the Segreteria della R. Università, Piazza S. Marco, Florence.

ACCORDING to the Prague correspondent of the *Journal* of the American Medical Association, the chamber of deputies has passed the bill creating the institute of hygiene in Prague, by joint action of the

Czecho-Slovak government and the International Health Board of the Rockefeller Foundation. The institute, which will be under the ministry of health, will make investigations for the public health service, foster education in preventive medicine and take care of the education of the health personnel. The government may create branches of the institute in provincial cities, especially where there are medical faculties. The ministry of health will create a special advisory council to the institute of hygiene. It was pointed out to the parliament that a modern health organization needs the closest contact with scientific investigators in preventive medicine. The opposition, including the communists, voted for the bill, which passed the house of deputies unanimously. The bill will come before the senate in September, and there is no doubt that it will be accepted without any material change. The date for the official opening of the institute has been set for the end of September.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

ANNOUNCEMENT has been made that residents of Baltimore have contributed half of the \$1,500,000 which is being sought as this city's share of the \$10,890,000 fund for development of the Johns Hopkins University and the Johns Hopkins Hospital.

TEXAS TECHNOLOGICAL COLLEGE, at Lubbock, a state institution with an initial appropriation of \$1,000,000 for buildings, opened its doors formally with 742 students on October 1. Its program includes arts and sciences, engineering, agriculture and home economics. During the first year only freshmen and sophomores are admitted, the junior and senior courses to be added in 1926. Among the faculty are included the following: A. H. Leidigh, dean, W. L. Stangel and C. H. Mahoney in agriculture; R. A. Studhalter in biology; W. T. Read, W. L. Ray and F. D. Galbraith in chemistry; Wm. J. Miller, dean, and E. W. Camp in engineering; L. T. Patton in geology; Miss Margaret Weeks, dean, Miss Johnnie McCrery and Miss Dorothy McFarlane in home economics; J. N. Michie, D. A. Flanders, W. M. Whyburn and Miss Elizabeth S. Stafford in mathematics, and E. F. George and C. S. Mast in physics.

THE two new positions of assistant professor of epidemiology and assistant professor of industrial hygiene in medicine have recently been filled in the Institute of Public Health of the School of Medicine of Columbia University. Dr. Alton S. Pope, on completion of studies on scarlet fever carried out chiefly at Providence, R. I., under the guidance of Dr. Charles V. Chapin, has assumed the duties of assistant professor of epidemiology; Dr. Frank G. Pedley,

having resigned as physician at the Cheney Silk Mills at South Manchester, Conn., is the new assistant professor of industrial hygiene now engaged in the development of an occupational disease class at the Vanderbilt Clinic.

At the University of Pennsylvania the following promotions are announced in the mathematics department: Dr. M. J. Babb from assistant professor to professor; Dr. J. D. Eshleman from instructor to assistant professor, and N. E. Rutt from assistant to instructor. New appointments are: Dr. P. A. Caris, assistant professor; W. A. Bristol, instructor; H. M. Lufkin, instructor, and M. Brooks and L. Zippin, assistants.

At Yale University Dr. William Clark Trow, associate professor of educational psychology at the University of Cincinnati, has been appointed visiting professor of educational psychology; Edward A. Bott, associate professor of psychology in the University of Toronto, visiting associate professor of psychology, and Dr. Barnett Fred Dodge, formerly of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, assistant professor of chemical engineering.

Dr. HAROLD HIBBERT, professor of industrial chemistry at Yale University, has been appointed to the professorship of cellulose chemistry at McGill University, Montreal.

Dr. L. R. CLEVELAND, National Research Council fellow in zoology at the Johns Hopkins University, has been appointed assistant professor of protozoology in the department of tropical medicine at the Harvard Medical School.

Dr. HARLEY E. FRENCH, formerly professor of anatomy and dean of the school of medicine of the University of North Dakota, has been appointed assistant professor of anatomy in the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine.

Dr. ALEXANDER LOW, reader in embryology, attached to the anatomy department, Aberdeen University, has been appointed Regius Professor of Anatomy in that university in place of Professor Reid, resigned.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

TRYPARSAMIDE

A RECENT issue of SCIENCE (September 18, 1925, lxii, 251) contained an article by Professor Chauncey D. Leake, of the University of Wisconsin, in which he relates the history of a cooperative organization composed of members of the faculties of the University of Wisconsin and Northwestern University and others associated with them. Referring to the achievements

of this organization, Professor Leake mentions (page 255) "the finding that tryparsamide . . . is of great value in the treatment of syphilis of the central nervous system" as "the most important achievement of this cooperative research which has been published to date." He prefaces his account of this achievement by saying that it "has been heralded as the greatest advance in the therapy of syphilis since Ehrlich introduced salvarsan." In recounting "the steps leading up to this discovery" Professor Leake makes the unqualified statement that "Ehrlich's preparations (arsphenamine and neo-arsphenamine) are of no value in neuro-syphilis" and he makes it appear that the "finding" referred to above was the result of chance studies of drugs that "had been discarded for use in general types of syphilitic infections" based on certain theoretical conceptions of Professor Loevenhart and Professor Lorenz and refers to tryparsamide specifically as "among such substances."

For the benefit of the readers of SCIENCE, it should be pointed out that the statements made by Professor Leake concerning the importance of tryparsamide and the value of the arsphenamines in neuro-syphilis are not representative of current medical opinion; furthermore, his version of the events leading to the discovery of the therapeutic value of tryparsamide in neuro-syphilis is a novel one and does not agree at all with the brief but clear statement given in the first four paragraphs of the paper by Lorenz, Loevenhart and their associates¹ or with the more detailed account given by Brown and Pearce,² who studied the action of tryparsamide in animals and conducted the preliminary clinical investigations which formed the basis of its application to neuro-syphilis as stated by Lorenz, Loevenhart, Bleekwenn and Hodges.

There are few, if any, syphilologists who would subscribe to Professor Leake's statement concerning the lack of value of the arsphenamines in neuro-syphilis. On the contrary, these drugs are generally regarded as the most effective therapeutic agents that are available for the treatment of most forms of neuro-syphilis and as of some value in all forms of the disease.

Tryparsamide is still used less extensively than the arsphenamines and its usefulness in neuro-syphilis appears to be more restricted. In the present state of our knowledge, no final judgment of its value can be made, but the consensus of opinion among those who have investigated this subject is that tryparsamide is of great value in properly selected cases and

¹ Lorenz, W. F., Loevenhart, A. S., Bleekwenn, W. J., and Hodges, F. J., *J. A. M. A.*, 1923, May 26, lxxx, No. 21, 1497-1502.

² Brown, Wade H., and Pearce, Louise, *J. A. M. A.*, 1924, Jan. 5, lxxxii, 5-9.