SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE ASSOCIATION OF GERMAN MEN OF SCIENCE AND PHYSICIANS

THE Berlin correspondent of the *Journal* of the American Medical Association gives the following account of the reorganization of the Association of German Men of Science and Physicians:

The Versammlungen Deutscher Naturforscher und Aerzte, as it has existed for more than a generation, has adopted a new order of business and a new constitution. The object of the new organization is to oppose the splitting up of medicine and the natural sciences into various specialties. It is proposed to emphasize the problems in which all (or at least many) branches of natural science and medicine have a common interest. At the same time, the traditional task of the society must not be forgotten; namely, to give the public an insight into the growth of German science.

The general assembly will be held only once in two years, which will necessitate using great care in the choice of topics and in applying sharp criticism to the subject-matter to be presented. The scientific section as such will cover three and one half days at the most. The board of trustees will henceforth organize only general sessions, sessions of the main scientific and medical groups, and joint sessions of several branches but no sessions of single branches. In addition, there will be evening lectures on popular scientific subjects. The topics for all sessions will be decided on by the officers of the society after consultation with the "scientific committee" and, as far as possible, with the large scientific societies representing individual specialties. In the general sessions and the sessions of the main group, scientific questions will be discussed that have either reached a reasonably definite settlement or that present a high degree of general interest. As speakers, such investigators will be chosen as have shown special merit in the fields concerned. In the opinion of the officers of the society, a general discussion, the course of which no one can foresee, would weaken the force of these communications and lessen the effect on the world's scientific circles; hence all discussion will be reserved for the so-called joint sessions, which will deal with topics that are of interest to the representatives of at least several of the branches of natural science or medicine and that will be presented by several speakers in the form of concise papers, to be followed by a detailed thorough discussion. In these sessions particularly the principle of combining several problems of common interest will come to the fore.

The officers of the society will not organize any professional meetings for the discussion of topics pertaining to a single branch of science or medicine. It is expressly stated that there is no place in the Versammlungen Deutscher Naturforscher und Aerzte for those persons who have no interest in anything outside their own specialty. Furthermore, no "unofficial" sessions of representatives of specialists will be allowed to disturb or take time away from the regular program as announced. Affiliated societies representing specialists will, however, be permitted to hold sessions in the convention city immediately before or immediately after the regular sessions.

The endeavors of the aforementioned society to emphasize the solidarity of the natural sciences and the medical sciences will likewise be furthered by the Zweckverband der Deutschen naturwissenschaftlichen und medizinischen Kongresse. The declared objective of this league is to create sentiment that will make for a broader organization of congresses of specialists. The propaganda will be confined to a publicity campaign and will not include any attempts to exert an immediate influence on the several societies of specialists. It is hoped that, in this manner, greater coherence will be injected into the organization of German scientific congresses as a whole.

PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL FOREST RESERVATION COMMISSION

THE National Forest Reservation Commission has announced the approval of a program of expanding by more than 3,000,000 acres the national forest purchase units on the headwaters of the Tennessee River in the Southern Appalachian area. The commission also approved the immediate purchase of 762,186 acres of forest lands in 45 national forest purchase units in states east of the Great Plains, these lands to come at once under the protection and administration of the Forest Service. In addition, the commission approved a new land exchange plan between the Forest Service and the State Conservation Commission of Michigan involving the future development of both state and national forests.

A new national forest purchase unit to which approval was given is situated in the southwestern corner of Virginia, comprising a gross area of 658,000 acres in the upper drainage of the Clinch River, a tributary of the Tennessee. It is to be called the Clinch Unit. Four other large units lying in Tennessee, North Carolina and Georgia will be added to the existing Unaka, Nantahala, Cherokee and Pisgah National Forests.

Acquisition of the new units, nearly doubling the areas of national forests in the Southern Appalachians, will enable the Forest Service and cooperating agencies to consolidate fire protection, to combat excessive erosion in many portions of the Tennessee drainage, and to put thousands of acres of forests in better productive condition to sustain the economic interests of the people.

Rehabilitation of the new national forest areas, it is expected, will help reduce the occurrence of disastrous floods that have resulted from the removal of timber and the farming of steep mountain slopes, and will furnish continuous and even streamflow for

the benefit of hydro-electric development and for municipal and community water supply.

The gross extent of the new purchase areas approved is 3,227,000 acres, but only about 2,326,000 acres have been classed as purchasable, since the wooded lands are interspersed with many small fertile valleys and farms, and developed areas which will not be purchased.

The new areas are largely mountainous and formerly were covered with vast forests of mountain hardwood, usually mixed with pine and hemlock. In some areas there are stands of spruce. A few small patches of virgin timber remain. Larger lumbering operations in the region have been followed in many places by small portable mills, and in most instances not much attention has been paid to forest reproduction. Fires have ravaged the lands and seriously damaged the young growth.

Industries that can be aided by the protection and development of timber stands in the region include pulp and paper mills, wood-using factories of various kinds, rayon mills and other factories depending more or less upon the forest products.

Purchases in the new unit and the current additions as approved will be made with a portion of the $20,000,000 allotted from Emergency Conservation Work funds by President Roosevelt last summer for the purchase of lands for the national forests in the East as an emergency relief measure. Acquisition in the new areas will be subject to the same policy as in areas previously established by the commission and will not be given prior status. That is, the remaining unexpended portion of the fund will be apportioned for use among all the units established in the East.

COLD SPRING HARBOR SYMPOSIA ON QUANTITATIVE BIOLOGY

THE Cold Spring Harbor Symposia on Quantitative Biology will be continued at the Biological Laboratory this year during July with a consideration of some aspects of growth. It will be recalled that the conference-symposia were inaugurated last year as a further method of fostering a closer relationship between biology and the basic sciences, mathematics, physics and chemistry. Representatives of these sciences are invited to join with biologists during July in the discussion of some aspect of biological research.

A small number of participants are in residence throughout the whole month, or an appreciable part of it, while others are invited to present papers and take part in discussions without being in continuous residence at Cold Spring Harbor.

The former this year include: George L. Clark, chemistry, University of Illinois; Charles B. Davenport, genetics, Department of Genetics, Carnegie Institution of Washington; M. Demerec, genetics, Department of Genetics, Carnegie Institution of Washington; Hugo Fricke, biophysics, The Biological Laboratory; Hans Mueller, physics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Otto Rahn, bacteriology, Cornell University; Nicolas Rashevsky, physiology, University of Chicago; Victor C. Twitty, embryology, Stanford University; Harold C. Urey, chemistry, Columbia University.

Participants not in continuous residence include: W. T. Astbury, textile physics, The University, Leeds (paper to be read by Dr. Clark); Felix Bernstein, mathematical statistics, Columbia University; H. W. Chalkley, physiology, National Institute of Health, Washington; J. W. Gowen, biology, Rockefeller Institute, Princeton; F. Gudernatsch, biology, New York University; F. S. Hammett, physiological chemistry, Research Institute, Lankenau Hospital; Theo. L. Jahn, biology, Yale University; L. G. Longsworth, physical chemistry, Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research; Charles Packard, zoology, Columbia University; Oscar W. Richards, biology, Yale University; Charles R. Stockard, anatomy, Cornell Medical College; C. Voegtlin, pharmacology, National Institute of Health, Washington; C. P. Winsor, physiology, Harvard University; Sewall Wright, zoology, University of Chicago; Ralph W. G. Wyckoff, biophysics, Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research.

The building up of the discussion on the aspects of growth under consideration this year will probably be of interest both from the point of view of the method in general and of this year's conference-symposia in particular.

The physical background is supplied by discussions of the following aspects by the men indicated: the structure of liquids and solids, Mueller; the principles of crystal growth, Clark; ultra-violet photography as a means of studying crystal growth and cell structure, Wyckoff; x-ray studies of protein structure, Astbury; the chemical-physical foundation of the biological activities of x-rays, Fricke; the effects of x-radiation upon cell growth and structure, Clark; diffusion in cell models and volume changes analogous to growth, Longsworth; possible uses of heavy water in the study of biological phenomena, Urey.

Physico-mathematical aspects of cellular multiplication and development will be discussed by Rashevsky, mathematical analysis of growth of mixed population, by Winsor, and a critique of curves of growth and of relative growth will be given by Davenport.

The chemistry of growth receives considerable attention in the following: building materials and energy, and the growth mechanism, both by Rahn; natural chemical factors in growth and development, Hammett; observations concerning the chemistry of cell growth and division, Voegtlin and Chalkley, and