# SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

## APPROPRIATIONS OF THE BRITISH COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

THE British Colonial Development Advisory Committee, according to the London *Times*, has recommended appropriations from the funds at its disposal of £781,698. Plans for which assistance is recommended include the development and conservation of the water and forest resources of Tanganyika; the further development of water supplies in the Bechuanaland Protectorate and Swaziland; and the construction of a water supply system in Malta designed to increase the irrigated area by about 45 per cent. Anti-soil erosion measures bulk largely, particularly in proposals for reclamation and land drainage in the Machakos district in Kenya.

The *Times* states that the committee regards the tsetse fly problem as a matter of supreme importance to the British Empire. Two thirds of the total area of Tanganyika Territory are still infested with the fly, and the remaining third is threatened with rapid infestation. Huge areas in other African dependencies are similarly infested, the result being that pressure of human beings and stock on the fly-free areas constantly increases and brings with it dangers of over-grazing and consequent soil erosion. The Tsetse Research Department in Tanganyika is the central organization, and the work carried out there benefits all African territories affected by the fly. The committee has recommended a free grant to this organization of £207,974, spread over the next seven years.

Other grants are made for the development of peasant agriculture in the Leeward Islands; the recruitment of probationers for the Colonial Forest Service; and the improvement of transport and communications in various West Indian islands.

## CONTROL OF EROSION IN NORTH CAROLINA

AN official statement given out by the Department of the Interior reports that out of the North Carolina Beach Erosion Control Project, now well under way with Emergency Relief Appropriation funds, an unusual and valuable possibility is being developed by the National Park Service. This is expected to have far-reaching effect in protecting the Atlantic Coast in the Cape Hatteras area from further depredations through storms.

The area embraced in the project is that section of the sea-coast lying south of the Virginia-North Carolina line and extending to Coracoke Inlet, comprising some 175 miles of ocean front. It entails the creation of protective foredunes and dune ranges over approximately 70 per cent. of the area. This will be followed by sand fixation through protective planting and reforestation, to correct the devastation that has been in progress for more than a century. The entire project is under the control of the National Park Service.

The area consists chiefly of a barrier spit between sound and ocean varying from several miles to a few hundred feet. It has been provided by Congress that ultimately this coast may be set aside as a national seashore recreational area, the first of its kind on the Atlantic coast. For this purpose the Cape Hatteras section was selected as one of the most promising for development, because of its nearly primitive character and its historic value. Before the national seashore can be established, however, the enabling legislation provides that the lands involved in the project must be donated to the Federal Government.

From the new nursery of the Park Service already have come thousands of seedlings to plant many acres on the beach. Since the spring planting additional thousands of seeds have been planted in the nursery and new beds are now being prepared for next fall. If the nursery is successful in providing seedlings for each planting, a considerable amount of money will be saved on the project. It is believed that seeds collected locally probably have a better chance to survive the exposure to which they are subjected than seeds purchased from other sources.

## INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL COMMISSION OF PHARMACOPOEIAL EXPERTS

AT the recent session of the Health Organization of the League of Nations a commission was appointed to carry on the work of the Brussels conference for the establishment of standards for potent medicines. The committee consists of: Dr. C. H. Hampshire, chairman, London; Professor H. Baggesgaard, Copenhagen; Professor V. E. Zunz, Brussels; Professor M. Tiffeneau, Paris; Professor R. Eder, Zurich; Professor L. van Itallie, Leyden; Professor E. Fullerton Cook, Philadelphia; a member of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

The conference was the outgrowth of earlier efforts to establish an International Pharmacopoeia. In 1902 a group of pharmacists from Brussels, in the name of the Belgian Government, issued invitations to practically all nations of the world to participate in a conference for the purpose of establishing uniformity in the definition and strength of the more potent medicines in use throughout the world.

At that time, the Pharmacopoeia of the United States was officially represented by Dr. H. C. Wood, Sr., and by Dr. Frederick B. Power. The chairman of the committee of revision, Professor Joseph P. Remington, was at that time greatly interested in this

international movement and in a contribution to the conference urged the practical policy of establishing standards meeting the approval of the conference and offering these to the Pharmacopoeial Commissions throughout the world for voluntary adoption.

A second conference was called for 1914, but was postponed because of the world war. It was finally assembled at Brussels in 1925, with representatives from more than forty nations participating. Additional uniformity in standards and preparations was recommended at that time and the conference adjourned after passing recommendations that its work be taken over by the health organization of the League of Nations.

The establishment of a pharmacopoeial secretaryship, at the League, has been the basis for discussion for many years, but the actual establishment of the program has only now been completed. The chairman of the committee, Dr. Hampshire, is the secretary of the British Pharmacopoeial Commission, which has recently published the first supplement to the British Pharmacopoeia. This International Commission plans to compile a list of the more important medicines used throughout the world and invite the respective National Pharmacopoeial Commissions in various countries to prepare model monographs, which when finally approved will be presented to the Pharmacopoeial Commissions of the world with the hope that they may assist in bringing about greater uniformity.

It is hoped that the International Commission may also be able to compile the Pharmacopoeial literature of the world for the use of all Pharmacopoeial Commissions, thus avoiding the duplication of literature reviews by each nation.

## CELEBRATION OF THE CENTENARY OF THE CELLULAR THEORY

THE Mexican Society of Natural History has appointed a committee to invite participation in the publication of a commemorative volume, which will celebrate the centenary of the foundation of the cellular theory by Schleiden and Schwann.

The president of the society, Dr. M. Martínez Báez, is chairman of the committee. Other members are Professor Enrique Beltrán, Dr. Alfonso Dampf and Ing. José R. Alcaraz. This committee has issued the following appeal:

> The scientific world celebrates this year the centenary of the cellular theory which was founded by the German botanist Mathias Jacob Schleiden and by the zoologist Theodor Schwann a hundred years ago. To commemorate this event, which according to E. B. Wilson, the famous cytologist, has had the same far-reaching consequences as the theory of evolution, the Mexican Society of Natural History (Sociedad Mexicana de Historia Natural) resolved at their meeting, May 6, to publish a special volume which would contain papers relating to problems of the cellular theory and kindred subjects.
>
> The undersigned committee respectfully submits the resolution to the learned sister societies of the world and begs to invite all biologists interested in the cellular theory to collaborate in the preparation of the volume. The paper which, according to the jury, is the outstanding contribution, will be awarded the Schleiden-Schwann medal of the Mexican Society of Natural History. The terms of the contest are given below. Every cytological paper is welcome, but only those which have a direct bearing on the theory will be judged.
>
> The committee hopes that the publication of a commemorative volume, with contributions by scientists of many countries, will not only serve science, but establish also friendly relations with Mexico, where research in biology has found in the last years an enthusiastic support by government authorities. The committee would be pleased if scientific societies, academies, editors of scientific reviews, etc., would insert these lines in their editions and if scientists would call the attention of their learned friends to the planned publication.

## TABLET IN HONOR OF W. J. S. LOCKYER AND NORMAN LOCKYER

A CORRESPONDENT of the London *Times* reports that a memorial to the late Dr. W. J. S. Lockyer, who was the director from 1920 to 1936 of the Norman Lockyer Observatory, was unveiled on July 16. Founded by the late Sir Norman Lockyer, the distinguished astronomer, who was long editor of *Nature,* and Sir Frances McClean as a private observatory twenty-six years ago, it has since been equipped and maintained entirely by private donations. The buildings have a commanding position on the top of Salcombe Hill, Sidmouth, and visitors had an opportunity to inspect different departments. The observatory is especially equipped with telescopes and cameras.

The memorial includes a panel containing a portrait of Dr. Lockyer, surrounded by smaller portraits of Lady Lockyer, Miss Lockyer and several friends who assisted in the administration and organization of the observatory during his period of office. Beneath the panel is a cabinet containing the insignia and other records of the life and work of Sir Norman Lockyer, who died in 1920, and was succeeded as director by Dr. Lockyer, his son.

The memorial was unveiled by Sir Francis McClean. Sir Robert Mond presided, and those present included Sir Richard Gregory, chairman of the council of the observatory; Lady Lockyer, honorary treasurer; Captain W. N. McClean, honorary secretary; Mrs. J. Lockyer, Dr. H. Spencer Jones, Astronomer Royal, and D. L. Edwards, director of the observatory.

In his address Sir Richard Gregory, who succeeded Sir Norman Lockyer as editor of *Nature,* said that it ought not to be too much to hope that an observatory