

THE Board of Control of the Michigan College of Mining and Technology has officially named the mining building Sperr Hall in honor of the late Frederick William Sperr, head of the department of mining and

civil engineering from 1894 to 1926. Professor Sperr died in November, 1929. The building now named in his memory was designed, erected and equipped under his supervision.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### THE PROPOSED DIVERSION OF THE WATERS OF YELLOWSTONE LAKE

PROFESSOR L. G. ROMELL, of Djursholm, secretary of the Swedish Government Committee on Planning and Recreation, who was at one time head of the department of forest soils at Cornell University, recently addressed a letter to Secretary Harold L. Ickes protesting against attempts made in the seventy-fifth Congress to permit diversion of the waters of the Yellowstone Lake for irrigation purposes in the Upper Snake River basin, Idaho.

Professor Romell wrote: "It may not be the business of anybody outside the United States to express himself on the proposed engineering and water diversion project in the heart of the world's oldest national park. However, in a way, the wonderland of Yellowstone belongs to the world. If commercial interests should be allowed to encroach upon Yellowstone Lake it would mean far more than despoliation and would be a terrific blow to the entire national park idea which could not fail to have its repercussions throughout the world."

In reply Secretary Ickes wrote in part:

I have received your letter of June 24, describing the damaging effects upon national park standards throughout the world that would follow if Congress were to authorize the diversion of waters of Yellowstone Lake for irrigation purposes, proposed in S. 3925 and H. R. 10469, introduced but not acted upon in the last session of the Congress.

It is gratifying to hear from you that Yellowstone National Park is taken as the international model for all national parks. It will be my endeavor to keep it so by opposing the present irrigation project and all proposals tending to break down the integrity of our national park standards. The enjoyment of its magnificent natural wonders is not limited to Americans. Last year alone some 6,400 visitors from 37 foreign countries visited the park.

Recalling that the Congress, in establishing the park in 1872, made it the duty of the Secretary of the Interior to provide "for the preservation, from injury or spoliation, of all timber, mineral deposits, natural curiosities, or wonders within said park, and their retention in the natural condition," Mr. Ickes said: "Like my predecessors I insist that this condition is indispensable if the Yellowstone National Park is to continue to fulfill the purpose for which it was established."

### CHANGES OF PERSONNEL IN THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

A NUMBER of changes have been made in the personnel of the Food and Drug Administration, of which Dr. W. G. Campbell is chief. These are:

Joseph Callaway, Jr., now chief chemist of the Eastern Food and Drug Inspection District, with headquarters at New York, becomes senior chemist to serve as technical assistant and secretary of the reorganized Food Standards Committee of four state food law enforcement officials and two members of the Food and Drug Administration. This committee will consider data on the authentic composition of food materials and formulate standards of identity and reasonable standards of quality and fill of container for various foods.

Roy S. Pruitt, now chief chemist of the New Orleans Food and Drug Inspection Station, also will be transferred to Washington and attached to the office of the chief to handle administrative details of the new cosmetic section of the law.

Dan Dahle, at present associate chemist in the Food Division of the Food and Drug Administration in Washington, who has had long experience in the development of food methods, has been assigned to develop laboratory methods for the analysis of cosmetics and will work in close cooperation with Mr. Pruitt.

Dr. J. J. Durrett, now chief of the Drug Division of the administration in Washington, becomes principal technical adviser and is attached to the office of the chief of the administration. He will share with other officers the responsibility of determining administrative questions on the application of the new law to drugs, devices, special dietary products and cosmetics, and will give special consideration to the adequacy of information submitted by manufacturers with their applications on new drugs filed in compliance with the provisions of the act.

Dr. Theodore G. Klumpp, now senior medical officer of the Drug Division, succeeds Dr. Durrett as chief of that division. Dr. Klumpp is a graduate of Princeton University, received his medical degree at Harvard Medical School in 1928, served his internship at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston, was assistant resident physician at Lakeside Hospital, Cleveland, Ohio, instructor at Yale University Medical School, and an associate physician at the New Haven Hospital.

### FOOD STANDARDS COMMITTEE OF THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE HENRY A. WALLACE has approved the recommendation of the Food and Drug Administration for the appointment in that organization of a Food Standards Committee, which will func-

tion under the terms of the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act of June 25, 1938.

It is the intention of the Food and Drug Administration to perpetuate the food standards committee which has functioned in promulgating administrative standards for the last twenty-five years. This committee has consisted of representatives from the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists, the Association of Dairy, Food and Drug Officials of the United States and the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Members of the committee are:

*For the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists:*

C. D. Howard, director and chief, Division of Chemistry and Sanitation, State Board of Health, Concord, N. H.; Guy G. Frary, state chemist, Vermilion, S. D.

*For the Association of Dairy, Food and Drug Officials of the United States:* J. J. Taylor, state chemist, Department of Agriculture, Tallahassee, Florida; Mrs. F. C. Dugan, director, Bureau of Foods, Drugs and Hotels, State Board of Health, Louisville, Ky.

*For the Food and Drug Administration:* W. B. White, chief, Food Division; W. S. Frisbie, chief, Division of State Cooperation.

The work of the committee will be to formulate definitions and standards both of identity and of quality, including fill of container, after consideration of all the data—analytical and inspectional—deemed essential to support them. The committee will meet in the Food and Drug Administration at Washington at intervals to review the data which have been assembled, draft tentative standards, and then upon the conclusion of public hearings, required by the act, make its final recommendations. Under the new act these definitions and standards when promulgated by the Secretary will have the full force and effect of law.

The first committee to consider food standards was one appointed by the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists in 1897. This committee was originally headed by Dr. Harvey W. Wiley. By virtue of the congressional appropriation act of June 3, 1902, the Department of Agriculture was authorized to investigate food standards and the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists committee was named for this purpose. This committee was supplemented in 1905 by the appointment of a representative of the Association of Dairy, Food and Drug Officials. The tripartite form of the committee was established as the result of a general conference between State and Federal food and drug officials held in November, 1913.

#### THE AMERICAN CONGRESS ON OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY

THE first American Congress devoted to a consideration of medical, nursing and other problems associated with human reproduction will be held in Cleveland, Ohio, from September 11 to 15, 1939, inclusive.

It will be designated the American Congress on Obstetrics and Gynecology. The promotion and sponsorship of the congress has been delegated to the American Committee on Maternal Welfare, which includes the following organizations in its membership:

American Association of Obstetricians, Gynecologists and Abdominal Surgeons.  
American College of Surgeons.  
American Gynecological Society.  
American Hospital Association.  
American Nurses Association.  
American Protestant Hospital Association.  
American Medical Association, Section on Obstetrics and Gynecology.  
American Public Health Association.  
Central Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.  
Chicago Maternity Center.  
Maternity Center Association of New York.  
National Medical Association.  
National League of Nursing.  
National Organization for Public Health Nursing.  
New England Obstetrical and Gynecological Society.  
Pacific Coast Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology.  
Southern Medical Association.  
U. S. Bureau of the Census.  
U. S. Children's Bureau.  
U. S. Public Health Service.

The purpose of the congress is to afford opportunities for discussing and publicizing the problems associated with human reproduction and the health of women and new-born babies. The value of more generally disseminated knowledge about the processes and problems of human reproduction and of the special diseases of the female generative organs and of the new-born is important in the maintenance of public health and therefore the interest of woman's welfare extends not only to the medical profession but to associated groups, including nurses, public health officials, hospital administrators, eugenists and many others.

The last International Congress of Obstetrics and Gynecology was held in Amsterdam in May of the present year. Its success stimulated a desire to hold a subsequent one in five years in another European country. It is felt that the difficulties associated with an international assembly, such as languages, expense, long distance travel and limited participation, lack of common interest, call for a regional gathering in which opportunities for more general discussions would prevail. The proposed American congress will therefore be modeled on different lines and includes participation not only by medical groups but by those devoted, as already stated, to nursing, public health and institutional administration.

In addition to the scientific sessions it is planned to provide for several evening meetings at which speak-