

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

WORK OF THE BRITISH HYDROGRAPHIC DEPARTMENT

THE annual report of the Hydrographer of the Navy, Rear-Admiral J. A. Edgell, for 1937, summarized in the *London Times*, shows that the Service surveyed during the year a total length of 667 miles of coastline and sounded an area of 6,599 square miles. Seven ships were employed, three in home waters and four in foreign stations. In addition a surveying unit was employed on the West Coast of Scotland on a survey from Loch Killisport to Loch Crinan, and also surveyed Lake Windermere. The South Coast of England survey continued its work at Portsmouth, the Solent and Plymouth.

Provision has been made in the 1938 estimates for a new 53-foot surveying launch, equipped with echo sounding gear, for use by the latter survey. The tidal stream survey of the waters surrounding the British Isles, begun in 1933, was continued, observations being made by surveying vessels at 26 stations, at one station by the Southampton Harbor Board, and at 15 stations by the French Hydrographic Society.

Work on four new ships for service in home waters and two for service on foreign stations was continued, in addition to the Royal research ship *Research*. The keel of the latter was laid on September 9, 1937, and satisfactory progress has been made since that date.

A statistical summary shows that 63 new charts (compared with 29 in 1936) were published for general use, and 49 new editions of charts (compared with 45 in 1936). The number of corrections to charts inserted by hand was 259,888. The department issued 2,472 Admiralty notices to mariners during the year. The net receipts from the sale of charts amounted to £67,727, compared with £51,351 in 1936.

There was again an increase in the number of rocks and dangers to navigation discovered by surveying ships, the total being 135, against 112 in 1936, and 53 in 1935. In addition, 21 were reported by other British warships and 302 by various British and foreign governments and authorities, making a total of 458, against 435 in 1936 and 358 in 1935.

The number of broadcast wireless navigational warnings issued was 541, being larger than ever before and 49 more than in 1936. These reports are telegraphed from the Admiralty to various wireless stations in the British Isles, and are broadcast from these stations according to the area affected by the warning.

THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

ANNOUNCEMENT is made by Dr. A. Graeme Mitchell, director of the Children's Hospital Research Foundation, Cincinnati, and Dr. Glenn E. Cullen, director of

laboratories, that upon authorization of the board of trustees a Scientific Advisory Council has been appointed. This consists of:

Dr. O. T. Avery, member of the Hospital of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research.

Dr. Ernest Goodpasture, professor of pathology, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine.

Dr. A. Baird Hastings, professor of biological chemistry, Harvard University Medical School.

Dr. A. N. Richards, professor of pharmacology, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine.

The second meeting of this council was held in Cincinnati on September 28 and 29.

The Children's Hospital Research Foundation was established in 1929 through the generosity of William Cooper Procter. Its facilities include its own laboratory building and affiliations with the Children's Hospital of Cincinnati, the Pediatric Department and the Contagious Disease Pavilions of the Cincinnati General Hospital, the Children's Convalescent Home, the Babies' Milk Fund Association and the Ohio Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphans' Home at Xenia, Ohio. The Children's Hospital and its Research Foundation are affiliated by agreement with the University of Cincinnati, the professor of pediatrics in the University of Cincinnati being the director of the medical service and the director of the foundation. Approximately one hundred and fifty publications have appeared from the research foundation. Present plans contemplate additions to the staff and certain new lines of investigation.

REORGANIZATION OF THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SECRETARY HENRY A. WALLACE has announced important changes in the structure of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. These are designed to expedite the services of the department to the public. The new organization unifies four lines of work which have assumed importance in recent years as new responsibilities have been laid on the department.

- (1) The forming of programs and plans to guide the entire group of agricultural adjustment, conservation and marketing services to farmers and the general public is assigned to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, which will be charged with department-wide responsibility.
- (2) The execution of marketing work is lodged in four units responsible to the secretary through a director of marketing and regulatory work.
- (3) The execution of all physical land-use programs which involve operations by the Government on farm lands is consolidated in the Soil Conservation Service.
- (4) Research work in the field of agricultural and in-

dustrial technology is placed under unified direction.

To direct the planning work Dr. H. R. Tolley, administrator of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, formerly director of the Giannini Foundation of the University of California, has become chief of the reconstituted Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Secretary Wallace, according to the official announcement, said:

It is imperative that we establish over-all planning work for the whole department in order to provide for proper functioning of the many new activities authorized in recent years by the Congress. It has become all the more necessary since the department last July entered into a significant and far-reaching agreement with the Land Grant College Association. Under the agreement the colleges and the department are establishing democratic procedure that will give farm people an effective voice in forming, correlating and localizing public agricultural programs. Farm people and official agencies in the states are now forming community, county and state groups to carry on land-use planning and program building. In the expanded Bureau of Agricultural Economics, the department is now establishing its part of the machinery needed to integrate state and local planning with general planning and program-forming activities within the department.

To consolidate the marketing work, A. G. Black leaves the post of chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and becomes director of the Bureau of Marketing and Regulatory Work. His associates, the chiefs of the four agencies combining all marketing and regulatory activities, will be: Jesse W. Tapp (formerly assistant administrator of the AAA), surplus commodity diversion and marketing agreements programs; C. W. Kitchen (formerly assistant chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics), marketing research, service and regulatory work; J. W. T. Duvel, continuing as chief, Commodity Exchange Administration; and Joshua Bernhardt, continuing in charge of activities under the Sugar Act of 1937. R. M. Evans leaves the post of assistant to the secretary and becomes administrator of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration.

The consolidation of physical operations in land-use programs for farm land brings them all under H. H. Bennett, chief of the Soil Conservation Service. Widening the uses of farm products is the purpose of merging technological research work, including that in the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils and that in the Bureau of Agricultural Engineering, under the direction of the chief of chemistry and soils, H. G. Knight.

THE DEDICATION OF THE ABBOTT LABORATORIES

THE fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Abbott Laboratories, pharmaceutical manufacturers,

in North Chicago, was celebrated on October 7 with the dedication of a new laboratory building.

There was a special program in the afternoon, following an inspection tour in the morning. The speakers and their subjects were: Dr. Karl T. Compton, president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, "The University and the Public Welfare"; Dr. Herbert M. Evans, Morris Hertzstein professor of biology at the University of California, "The Task and Spirit of Research," and Dr. Thomas Parran, surgeon general, U. S. Public Health Service, Washington, D. C., "Research and Public Health." In the evening a program was presented at the Palmer House with the following speakers: Dr. Harrison E. Howe, editor of *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry*, "The Contributions of Organized Chemistry"; Dr. George D. Beal, assistant director of the Mellon Institute, Pittsburgh, "The Scientific Development of Drug Standards"; Dr. Morris Fishbein, Chicago, editor of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, "The Contributions of Medicine to the Public Welfare."

The new building is three stories high with an attic and basement, providing facilities for the chemical, bacteriologic, botanic, medical and pharmaceutical research activities of the firm. In addition to laboratories it contains a micro-analytic laboratory, a library with accommodation for 20,000 volumes, hot and cold rooms for stability studies, dark rooms on each floor for the use of optical instruments, one dark room for use as a laboratory for light-sensitive reactions and an air-conditioned auditorium seating 800 persons.

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

AT its annual meeting each year the council of the association votes a number of grants in aid of research. In order that applications for such grants may be examined and passed on by the committee on grants in time for the annual meeting, they must be filed in the office of the permanent secretary before November 1 on forms that will be supplied upon request. These forms contain full instructions respecting the information that must support the applications.

The funds from which the grants are made are derived from the income of endowments of the association by various gifts, from investments of reserve funds and from the income from the life membership fees of deceased life members. Although the income available for the support of research is as yet very limited, it fortunately has been increased in recent years by gifts from a friend of the association.

As a rule grants are not made to pay salaries of investigators or traveling expenses or for printing reports of the results of investigation. They are gen-