SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

HURRICANE DAMAGE TO THE STATIONS OF THE BUREAU OF FISHERIES

IT is reported in the *Bulletin* of the Fisheries Service that several of the bureau's stations were in line of the hurricane which visited the New England States during the week of September 19. Fortunately, no injury was suffered by members of the personnel. Superintendent Goffin of the Woods Hole, Mass., station writes in regard to the situation there:

> You have probably been informed of my telegrams to the commissioner relative to the hurricane and tidal wave which struck this village the afternoon and night of September 21. The wind and sea were terrific, the east dock and sea wall is practically gone, the coal dock, west dock and south docks are badly damaged, the capstones of the sea wall have been knocked out. All basement windows and doors of the residence building are smashed; this basement had 6 feet of water which has been pumped out by the local fire department. We were able to get up steam on the boiler and syphon out the hatchery building. Six of our pontoons are a total loss, having been swept out to sea; the sea entered the buildings through the front door and basement windows. The slate roofs of both the residence and the hatchery building are badly damaged. The fence along the street has been mostly carried away and the grounds between the residence and sea wall are badly washed out. The boilerhouse had 3 feet of water, but this disappeared when the waters receded, leaving very little damage there; the basement of the residence building has a great deal of debris, seaweed and sand washed in from the sea. We are without lights and can not cook until the gas company gets its mains in operation. I am happy to say that out of all this havoc our boat, the *Phalarope II*, was damaged very little so far as I can now see. The salt water suction pipe line, where it lay along the wall, is practically all destroyed. As it is now, the property and the *Phalarope* are without protection against the winter storms due to the loss of the east side sea wall.

The Nashua, N. H., station was damaged by the uprooting of a number of trees which caused injury to buildings and damage to the ponds. It is estimated that the amount of $15,000 will be necessary to rehabilitate this station. Both the Gloucester, Mass., and the Boothbay Harbor, Maine, stations escaped without any appreciable damage. At the Pittsford, Vt., hatchery the creek overran the station grounds and flooded out the ponds. The brood stock was thoroughly mixed, but comparatively few fish were lost. Mr. Lord, in charge at Pittsford, reports, however, that many wild trout were undoubtedly destroyed, since they were discovered stranded, in numerous instances, along the line of débris marking the high water. A bridge, the property of the bureau, was washed out, but the structure was to be razed within the next few days.

The oyster laboratory at Milford, Conn., escaped damage, although the Yacht Club building located next to the station was demolished and a large number of elm trees surrounding the station and along the street leading to it had fallen. The station grounds were under from 1 to 3 feet of water, but all the equipment and material had been placed on higher shelves or otherwise made secure.

THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE AND THE PRACTICE OF CHEMISTRY

AN attempt to deprive chemists of the right to direct clinical laboratories in Pennsylvania is being opposed by the American Chemical Society. The society, according to an announcement made by the secretary, Dr. Charles L. Parsons, of Washington, D. C., has filed a brief through its attorney, A. J. Nydick, of Philadelphia, with the Attorney General of Pennsylvania setting forth "the clear demarkation between the practice of medicine and the practice of chemistry."

Dr. Parsons states that:

> Evidence in the possession of the society shows that there has been an organized effort to wrest from the chemist his natural position in the field of factual investigation in the laboratory. This evidence shows that the attempt originates with a small group of laboratory physicians with obvious self interests.
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> The method adopted is to have the existing law so interpreted by the State Board of Medical Education and Licensure as to make it unlawful for any one not having the M.D. degree, no matter how well qualified, to direct such laboratories.
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> Between the practicing physician and the chemist who directs and operates a clinical laboratory there exist the most cordial professional relationships, but, notwithstanding the esteem in which the qualified chemist is held by the practicing physician and in spite of a joint resolution adopted in 1924 by the American Chemical Society, the American Medical Association, and the American Association of Pathologists and Bacteriologists with respect to the rights of chemists, certain organizations of physicians affiliated with the American Medical Association have seen fit to support the contentions of the small group which is attempting to monopolize the directorships of clinical laboratories.

The brief describes the scope of the science of chemistry, recalls medicine's indebtedness to chemistry, defines a clinical laboratory as a specialized chemical laboratory, and declares that "the right to pursue a profession is a property right which is protected by the Constitution of the United States."

The Board of Medical Education and Licensure, it is explained, has taken the position that the 1935 amendments to the Medical Practice Act of 1911 so enlarged the Act that "the operation of a clinical laboratory now constitutes the practice of medicine."

The society, on the other hand, contends that clinical laboratories are not engaged in the practice of medicine, but rather are laboratories for the practical application of chemistry and the other fundamental sciences "wherein are made such factual investigations for the physician as he may desire in the study of his patients." Laboratory investigation, it is asserted, is not diagnosis of diseases because the physician must integrate laboratory findings with all other relevant clinical data in reaching a diagnosis.

THE ELI LILLY PRIZE IN BIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY

ATTENTION is again directed to the Eli Lilly and Company Prize in Biological Chemistry, an annual award whose purpose is to stimulate an interest in fundamental research in biological chemistry on the part of young men and women in the United States. It was established by Eli Lilly and Company in 1934 for a five-year period and is administered by the American Chemical Society. The award is the sum of $1,000 together with a bronze medal and $150, or as much thereof as is needed, to defray the traveling expenses of the recipient to the spring meeting of the American Chemical Society where he formally receives the honor and gives an address describing the work on which the award is given.

To be eligible for the award, a nominee shall not be over thirty-five years of age on April 30 of the year of the award and shall have accomplished outstanding research in biological chemistry, working in a college or university. For the purpose of this award biological chemistry does not include immunology, clinical investigations, pharmacology or experimental therapeutics, and outstanding research is understood to be that which is of unusual merit for an individual on the threshold of his career. The research is not to be judged in comparison with the work of more mature and experienced chemists, and special consideration is given to the independence of thought and the originality and resourcefulness shown.

The award is made by an award committee of seven, consisting this year of Charles A. Kraus, president-elect of the American Chemical Society, as chairman, and the following non-industrial biological chemists appointed by the president-elect: Wm. Mansfield Clark, Glenn E. Cullen, R. Adams Dutcher, H. B. Lewis, P. A. Shaffer and D. D. Van Slyke. Nominations of the award must be made as follows:

Nominations for this award should be sent to the secretary of the society by any member of the society except the members of the Award Committee. No member may send in more than one nomination. Nominations shall be accompanied by a brief biographical sketch of the nominee, including date of birth, and by reprints of his publications, with specific reference to the research on which the nomination is based. At the time of the nomination the nominee must be actively engaged in the line of research for which the award is to be made. The sketch, information and reprints should be in the form of seven copies for distribution by the chairman of the members of the Award Committee.

All nominations to be considered must be received by the secretary of the society on or before January 5, 1939.

In order to insure that no outstanding young chemist shall be overlooked, a Nominating Committee of four, appointed by the president of the society, is charged with the duty of finding worthy nominees for the award, by themselves searching the literature and suggesting his nomination to individuals familiar with his work; also, by writing to others who are in a position to judge the qualifications of individuals and to make worthy nominations.

The members of the present Nominating Committee are H. A. Mattill, University of Iowa; Lawrence Bass, Mellon Institute, Pittsburgh; V. du Vigneaud, Cornell University Medical College, New York City, and Ben H. Nicolet, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Riverdale, Maryland. The members of this committee wish to receive and exchange suggestions with regard to suitable candidates.

The nominations themselves, together with the substantiating documents, should be sent directly to the Secretary of the American Chemical Society, Dr. Charles L. Parsons, Mills Building, Washington, D. C.

If in the opinion of the Award Committee there is no outstanding nominee from a United States college or university, the award may be passed and the fund used for a later award.

The chemist selected will receive the prize at the Baltimore meeting of the society next spring.

The nominating committee requests that information regarding this prize be disseminated as widely as possible and especially that it be brought to the attention of those who are located in college and university centers of biochemical research.

APPOINTMENTS AT THE MEDICAL COLLEGE OF VIRGINIA

THE session opening the second century of the Medical College of Virginia began on September 19. Faculty promotions for the session 1938–1939 include:

Dr. Stuart Michaux, professor of gynecology; Dr. R. H. Courtney, professor of ophthalmology; Dr. R. Finley Gayle, professor of neuropsychiatry; Dr. Thomas W. Murrell, professor of dermatology and syphilology; Dr. Lee E. Sutton, Jr., professor of pediatrics; Dr. William D. Suggs, assistant professor of gynecology. Dr. Wyndham B. Blanton, who resigned last session as professor of history of medicine, has been made associate professor of medicine. Dr. Joseph F. Geisinger has been appointed professor of clinical urology.

In recognition of many years of service to the in-