president of the society, in the chair. Delegates who attended were from *Australia,* Major J. L. Bazeley, Commonwealth Serum Laboratories; from *Canada,* Dr. G. D. W. Cameron, chief of the Laboratory of Hygiene, Department of Pensions and National Health, Ottawa; from *France,* M. le Dr. J. Trefouel, director of the Pasteur Institute, Paris; from the *United Kingdom,* Dr. C. R. Harington, National Institute of Medical Research; and Dr. J. W. Trevan, Wellcome Physiological Research Laboratories; and from the *United States,* Dr. R. D. Coghill, Northern Regional Research Laboratory of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Peoria, Ill.; Dr. R. P. Herwick, chief of the Drug Division of the Food and Drug Administration, and Dr. M. V. Veldee, chief of the Division of Biologics Control, U. S. Public Health Service. Other countries sending observers include India and South Africa.

AT the annual general meeting on October 17 of the British Standards Institution, The Right Honorable Lord Woolton was elected president and Sir Percy Ashley was elected vice-president. Sir William Larke succeeded Sir Percy Ashley as chairman of the General Council. Dr. E. F. Armstrong, F.R.S., chairman of the finance committee, reported that income and expenditures for the year had increased by twenty-eight per cent. and was now about £69,000. The sales of copies of British Standards had gone up thirty-nine per cent. The Government grant-in-aid was nearly double and was now £12,900. While there was an increase of some fifteen per cent. in the number of subscribing members he pointed out the need for greater support from local authorities and industry.

AT the request of the departments of the public health and mosquito abatement districts in California, the School of Public Health of the University of California will offer from December 5 through December 16, in cooperation with the College of Agriculture, an intensive, practical course on the control of mosquitoes and mosquito-transmitted diseases, covering instruction in administration and management, entomology and parasitology, mosquito-transmitted diseases and techniques of control.

THE post-war building plans of the Santa Barbara College of the University of California include the erection of a science building and of a library and administration building.

DISCUSSION

POST-WAR BIOLOGY REHABILITATION[1]

IN August, 1944, a group at the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole invited a representative of the Department of State to address the scientific community at Woods Hole. Mr. G. Howland Shaw, Assistant Secretary of State, sent, as his representative, Dr. Ralph E. Turner. As a result of stimulating sessions with him a memorandum was prepared expressing the interest of the biologists in participating with the State Department in efforts toward rehabilitation of the basic biological sciences during the post-war period.

Briefly stated, the memorandum recommends closer cooperation than hitherto among scientists throughout the world. The need for rehabilitation as a result of war devastation is presented as an opportunity for furthering such cooperation. Suggestions are offered (1) of increased support toward international scientific congresses taking into consideration the inestimable value of frequent personal contacts; (2) of the establishment of representatives of the basic sciences in governmental embassies to enhance close coordination of scientific investigations; (3) of prompt rehabilitation of scholars of the basic sciences with needed laboratory and library equipment; (4) of the establishment of short- and long-term exchange fellowships and professorships.

[1] Memorandum prepared at the Marine Biological Laboratory.

This memorandum was sent to the Department of State on August 31, 1944, and, as a record of its active interest, the following paragraphs are quoted from the letter of acknowledgment of Mr. Shaw:

> The proposals embodied in the memorandum, which has been referred to the Division of Cultural Cooperation for study, seem to me to be excellent starting points for formulating a general program of scientific exchanges. The reestablishment of relations with the scientists of the Axis countries is, indeed, a delicate matter that must be given careful consideration by both scientists and governments. Inasmuch as the Department has begun only recently to study the place of science in the general cultural relations program, it welcomes the cooperation of your group in this work. In fact, the Department is convinced now that a proper place can be given to science in this program only if full cooperation can be organized between the scientists, especially through their professional organizations, in the various fields and the Department. I assure you, therefore, that the Department will welcome further opportunities to consider with your group the international interests of biologists.

The memorandum was presented to several sections of the American Association for the Advancement of Science at its meeting in Cleveland, September 11–16, 1944. It was approved in principle and has been transmitted to the executive committee of the association for final action.

A memorandum similar in scope has been recently and independently prepared by Joseph Needham at Cambridge University and was sent to our National Research Council for consideration. It is entitled "Memorandum on an International Science Cooperation Service."

In the last published Report of the National Academy of Sciences for 1942–1943, the extent to which international matters have been considered, aside from those already referred to here, is the following: In a conference held on August 7, 1942, between one of the secretaries of the Royal Society of London and the chairman of the Division of Foreign Relations, it was agreed that "after the war opportune cooperative understandings with learned societies of previously hostile nations might be a better way of restoring mutual friendship and respect than an attempt now, on our part alone, to fix a definite policy for collaboration."

The purpose of Needham's memorandum and that prepared at Woods Hole go further in seizing the opportunity, presented by the immediate need of postwar restoration, to institute more intimate than hitherto long-range cooperation among workers in the basic sciences of all freedom-loving countries throughout the world.

The preparation of such a project should not wait for the termination of the war. At least two steps should be taken: (1) Contacts should be made to coordinate the activities of foreign and domestic relief committees which are engaged in plans for the rehabilitation of educational facilities in the war-stricken countries. Much of this effort is immediate, as emergency measures. In such efforts notable assistance is already being made by the Rockefeller Foundation to foreign scientists and to scientific institutions abroad. The Royal Society of London is also engaged in similar activities. (2) By means of Needham's and the Woods Hole memoranda or a combination or revision of both, there should be secured, at once, the collaboration of interested individuals and institutions both in the Americas and in other freedom-loving countries which have been least affected by the material damages of the war.

Ideas emanate from the least expected places. The broader the source and the wider the range of proposed ideas the more likely will be the chances of preparing a permanently working plan.

A comity of nations depends upon mutual respect for the differences which exist among them. There also exist threads of similarities, a chief one of which is the universal appreciation of science and the scientific method. This provides one of the surest approaches to international understanding and good will.

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THE CONFLICT BETWEEN SCIENCE AND BIOLOGICAL INDUSTRY

BEGINNING a little more than fifteen years ago a number of public contact committees were set up in scientific organizations interested in biological problems. One function of these committees was to influence the legislative and executive branches of government. Very recently several of them have been abandoned or have become inactive. There is now a strong movement toward the building up of a central council representing various societies which would deal mainly with national problems. While a union can do an inestimable service in gathering information in Washington and in making contacts with officials and legislators, there is danger of reducing many voices to a single one.

It is now generally understood in the national capital that a scientific society should not exert pressure on governmental agencies or legislative bodies. Some of the objection is pure conservatism, in part due to the lack of any need in many fields of science. There is also a fear that there will be misrepresentation of research results. It may perhaps be granted that scientific societies and their members are not well equipped to contact Congress or government agencies directly. Usually there are not enough members not in government employ while residing in or near Washington, to make proper contacts. Such men as are available are otherwise employed and have been overburdened with calls by scientific organizations. The public pressure of scientific societies is of necessity conservative. One national society with especial needs for preserving study and check areas with their natural biological content has attempted to influence Congress or the National Administration only ten times, another only three or four times, in twenty years. The need for action is limited and will not ordinarily burden a scientific agency. This is especially true if the legislative plans and agency programs are made available to the society by a central body with contacts in the national capital.

At the present time there is one reason for scientific society reclusion which overshadows all others. It is a veiled call to desist from pressing the application of scientific criteria and principles because of conflicts between them and practices of biological industry. Such conflicts have been concentrated in recent years, due to wide application of the results of research to submarginal lands, which resulted from the recent drought and depression and to problems arising from the present war. They have been in evidence at many points involving questions ranging from nutritive value of oleomargarine[1] to the value of a grassland

[1] "Wartime Farm and Food Policy," Pamphlet No. 5. "Putting Dairying on a Wartime Footing," first edition, March, 1943; second edition, 1944. Iowa State College Press, Ames, Iowa.