

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE SOVIET ACADEMY OF MEDICINE¹

IN accordance with a decision of the Council of People's Commissars of the U. S. S. R., July 30, 1944, an Academy of Medicine will be formed in Soviet Russia by dividing into a number of independent research institutes the existing All-Union Institute of Experimental Medicine.

The academy will consist of twenty-five research institutes in all. It will include three departments: of medicobiologic sciences, of clinical medicine and of microbiology, epidemiology and hygiene. The department of medicobiologic sciences will be entirely made up of institutes formed from VIEM, the name by which the Maxim Gorky All-Union Institute of Experimental Medicine is known and which was organized by special decision of the Soviet Government October 15, 1932, to replace the old Institute of Experimental Medicine, the only large research institute in Russia until 1918.

Thus the Institute of Experimental Biology will be formed from Dr. A. G. Gurvich's department of general biology and the biophysical laboratory, the Institute of Morphology from the morphologic laboratories of VIEM and the Institute of General and Experimental Pathology from Dr. Alexei D. Speransky's department of general pathology and a number of pathologic laboratories. The Institute of Biologic and Medical Chemistry will consist of the department of medical chemistry under Dr. Parnas, together with a number of biochemical and organic chemistry laboratories and the Institute of Physiology of the numerous physiologic laboratories of VIEM. The Leningrad branch of VIEM will be reincorporated as the Institute of Experimental Medicine and thus continue the traditions of the old Institute of Experimental Medicine. Finally, the aforementioned department of medicobiologic sciences will also include the Institute of Evolutionary Physiology of the higher nervous activity (which was separated from VIEM in 1938) and the Institute of Pharmacology, Toxicology and Chemotherapy, part of which will be made up from the respective laboratories of the institute.

The academy's department of clinical medicine will include the Institute of Neurology, which will be made up of the VIEM clinic of nervous diseases and the Institute of Experimental and Clinical Surgery, which will be formed from a number of surgical clinics, among them the clinic directed by Dr. A. V. Vishnevsky. The academy's department of microbiology, epidemiology and hygiene will include the Institute of Virusology, to be formed from the present department headed by Dr. Anatol A. Smorodintsev.

¹ From the *Journal* of the American Medical Association.

A number of VIEM's microbiologic laboratories will go to make up the Institute of Bacteriology, Epidemiology and Infectious Diseases, which is to be organized under the same department.

According to an article by Dr. N. I. Propper-Grashchenkov in the *American Review of Soviet Medicine*, December, 1944, page 108, the Sukhumi branch of VIEM will remain the same broad biologic base for the institutes of the Academy of Medicine and will therefore be part of the academy.

DESTRUCTION OF THE BUREAU OF SCIENCE AT MANILA

FROM information recently received from Manila I regret to report the total destruction of the Bureau of Science building, housing as it did the central scientific library of the Philippine Government, as well as the exceedingly valuable and irreplaceable natural history collections. The herbarium contained many thousands of types and a very impressive series of isotypes from the older historical collections from India, China, Malaysia, tropical Africa and Australia. In the zoological field there were very extensive collections of insects, reptiles, birds, fishes and mammals; some of these collections were also rich in types. The library, one of the largest and most carefully selected accumulations of scientific books in Asia and Malaysia, was a remarkable assemblage of basic literature. These great collections of literature and natural history specimens of the Bureau of Science represent the results of consistent efforts of a large number of individuals over a period of more than four decades. The loss is an irreplaceable one.

In the same general area important buildings that are totally destroyed or very badly damaged include the School of Medicine, the School of Hygiene and Public Health, the entire plant of the University of the Philippines, the Philippine General Hospital, the Weather Bureau and the Philippine National Library. These buildings, for the most part of modern reinforced concrete construction, were especially designed for their specific purposes. My informant states that in short the Japanese obliterated everything of scientific value, the loss of the important libraries being particularly serious. It goes without saying that involved in this destruction was all the reserve stock of the *Philippine Journal of Science* and other publications of the Bureau of Science. While basic reference works may be replaced by photostat or microfilm reproductions it will be quite impossible to secure copies of many badly needed reference works because of their great scarcity.—E. D. MERRILL.