

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### THE FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY IN GERMANY

DIRECTOR CARLILE P. WINSLOW and eight staff members of the U. S. Forest Products Laboratory are in Germany investigating industrial and technical secrets of its forest products industries.

Director Winslow and D. G. Coleman of the laboratory staff are representing a forest products subcommittee of the Technical Industrial Intelligence Committee organized by the Foreign Economic Administration, War and Navy Departments, Office of Strategic Services, War Production Board and Department of Agriculture. George W. Trayer, chief of the Division of Forest Products, Forest Service, Washington, D. C., is chairman of the subcommittee. The headquarters of the investigators is London.

Other Forest Products Laboratory staff men carrying on research in Germany are R. M. Seborg, J. N. McGovern, H. O. Fleischer and J. F. Saeman, chemists; Joseph A. Liska, engineer; and Fred F. Wangaard, technologist. Working with the laboratory investigators are G. K. Dickerman, technical director of the Consolidated Water Power and Paper Co., Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.; Fred W. Gottschalk, director of research of the American Lumber and Treating Co., Chicago; E. G. Locke, chemical engineer of the Pacific Northwest Forest Experiment Station, Forest Service, Portland, Ore.; and J. H. Tigelaar, director of research, Haskolite Manufacturing Corp., Grand Rapids, Mich. C. V. Sweet, of the laboratory staff, who participated with Director Winslow in the early part of the investigation, is now returning to this country.

The investigators, who have been in Germany since June, are investigating cellulose products, wood sugar, ethyl alcohol, feeding yeast and other products of wood that have supplied her war machine during the past five years, and new methods of lignin utilization, wood treatment, timber construction, and seasoning and preservation of wood.

It has long been known—in fact, Nazis such as Reichsmarshal Herman Goering openly boasted—that Germany depended heavily upon her forests for many of the war materials.

Although reports are not yet available, early statements indicate that information of greater value than at first expected is being obtained. For example, the Germans are said to have produced a nitrocellulose for explosive from low-grade sulfate wood pulps that has superior stability qualities. New and improved techniques in the production of ethyl alcohol and other products of wood sugars have also been reported. About two hundred Nazi-controlled plants,

research institutions and leaders of German science are the objectives of the investigators.

While the primary purpose of the investigations was to obtain information of value during the war, it is expected that much of it will be useful to American industry during peacetime. As rapidly as reports can be prepared the technical findings will be distributed to United States agencies and industries which can apply them to production in this country.

The forest products subcommittee is one of a number of committees that are investigating various industrial developments in Germany.

### GIFT OF THE CHARLES A. BROWNE COLLECTION TO THE EDGAR FAHS SMITH LIBRARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

DR. CHARLES A. BROWNE, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., has presented a collection of rare books, manuscripts, portrait prints and other chemical memorabilia to the Edgar Fahs Smith Memorial Library of the University of Pennsylvania. The gift is in memory of his parents, Charles Albert Browne, Sr., and Susan McCallum Browne.

The material, which is the result of years of search by a discriminating collector, relates essentially to the historical development of the science of chemistry from alchemy to modern science. Approximately five hundred items are included. The volumes range in date from 1542 to the present. Many are extremely rare and are lacking in the Library of Congress and other libraries in the United States. Included is an outstanding collection of the works of Frederick Accum (1769–1838); also rare Paracelsus and Robert Boyle items, and the works of numerous foreign and early American chemists. Among the letters are those of John Dalton, Robert Hare, Count Rumford, Michael Faraday, Wolcott Gibbs, Benjamin Silliman and others. Many valuable engravings are included.

The Edgar Fahs Smith Memorial Collection, outstanding in the field of the history of chemistry, is greatly enriched by Dr. Browne's gift. The value of such a collection to teachers and research workers is self-evident. The generous endowment provided for the E. F. Smith Collection by Mrs. Margie A. Smith ensures its maintenance and growth. Its services are available to scholars everywhere and include reference data, photostat and microfilm material.

Dr. Browne writes: "I hope my donation will help promote the cultural and humanistic values of chemistry which were the ideals Dr. Smith always emphasized. It is my hope that the Smith Memorial Collec-