
International News

Dr. Ross G. Harrison, Sterling professor of biology, emeritus, Yale University, and chairman of the National Research Council, has been elected foreign associate of the Académie de Médecine, Paris.

Dr. Bernard E. Read returned in March to Shanghai to take up his duties as the newly appointed director of the Henry Lester Institute of Medical Research, 1318 Avenue Road, Shanghai. In spite of the war, the library of this Institute is intact but now lacking the American journals published since December 1941. The Institute would appreciate gifts of these journals or of any other medical publications made during the war years.

Dr. E. A. Kreiken, one of the Netherlands astronomers on Java, has written recently to Dr. Bart J. Bok giving further details about the suffering of Indonesia. A recent issue of *Science* (1945, 102, 642) announced that Dr. Aernout de Sitter, director of the Bosscha Observatory at Lembang, and Dr. Chr. W. Martin had died in Japanese prison camps, and that Mr. J. Utterdijk was lost in the sinking of a transport. This is confirmed by Dr. Kreiken, who adds that Dr. G. V. Simonow and Mr. Witlox, both of the Bosscha Observatory, have also died in captivity. The only two survivors of the seven Dutch astronomers on Java are the former director of the Bosscha Observatory, Dr. J. G. E. G. Voûte, and Dr. Kreiken.

Dr. Kreiken states that the Bosscha Observatory lies beyond the narrow, so-called "protected" zone around Bandoeng. It has been impossible for him to obtain information about its condition, but he is not hopeful. Dr. Kreiken's own library was totally destroyed when his house in Soerabaja was burned.

Dr. H. L. Booij, Laboratory of Medical Chemistry, Leyden (Willem Warneerlaan 9, Sassenheim, Nederland), is greatly interested in all papers concerning applications of physical chemistry in biology and medicine. He has available some reprints of his papers for exchange.

Dr. Ferdinand Schoofs, professor of pharmacy at the School of Pharmacy, University of Liège, Belgium, who spent some time at Yale in 1927, writes to Clifford S. Leonard, of the University of Vermont, as follows:

The University of Liège remained open all the time of the war, but our laboratories were working in very bad conditions: want of coal, of gas, of light (black-out), of chemicals, and even of distilled water. The

students had to bring with them every day a liter of distilled water bought at a high price in the town.

During the bombardment by the allied forces (accepted with the hope of approaching liberation) and later on during the period of robots (V-1 and V-2) thrown by the Germans, we passed several dangerous hours in the shelters. During the months of December 1944 and January-February 1945 I was living and sleeping in the cellar of my home; I received there several students for their examinations. But this dangerous period is now over and we try to forget it; but what we shall never forget are the cruelties of the Teutons.

We are thankful to the allied forces and especially to the Americans, our liberators. Indeed the Americans delivered Liège in September 1944. On this occasion I met here several American professors, for instance Col. Gates of Ann Arbor. I received several times at my home a young and sympathetic assistant professor, Capt. Gordon of Columbia University; he kindly accepted my request that he lecture to my students concerning research on the estimation of alcohol in the blood.

I have been very busy the last years, but now I attain the age limit (70 years); from the beginning of 1946 I am emeritus, legally obliged to rest, but feeling myself still healthy, I shall try to keep on working as long as possible, but no more doing any compulsory work. . . .

Dr. Pitirim A. Sorokin, professor of sociology at Harvard University, has been elected a foreign member of the Royal Academy of Science of Belgium in the class of the political and moral sciences. The honor was granted at a recent meeting. Dr. Sorokin is a native of Russia, where he was a member of the faculty of the University of St. Petersburg, and has been at Harvard since 1930.

Prof. Dr. M. Minnaert, director of the Observatory, Utrecht, Holland, in a letter dated 26 November 1945 to Dr. A. H. Rosenthal, of the Scophony Corporation of America, tells of his being in a hostage camp near s'Hertogenbosch from 1942 to 1944 and of the difficulties encountered in obtaining food during the winter of 1944-45. In March 1945, the Germans invaded the observatory, removing everything from the workshop and emptying nearly all of the buildings. They did not take away instruments or books, nor did they have time to destroy the machines. At present there are three times as many students as normally, but there is a lack of books and instruments; these cannot be purchased abroad because Holland cannot make available any foreign exchange for this purpose. Just before the start of the war the *Photometrical atlas of the solar spectrum* was published. Further, Dr. Houtgast, working on the Fraunhofer lines, has shown that the

displacement is noncoherent. Mr. H. C. Van de Hulst studied the light-scattering on small globules of some wave lengths extension, while Dr. Minnaert has executed the detail photometry of the moon according to the reciprocity law.

The 112th annual meeting of AAAS has come to a close. The meeting was held under great difficulties in the overcrowded city of St. Louis, but some 2,300 people were finally registered, and attendance at at least one of the evening lectures approximated 3,500.

The official business of the Association was finished at a meeting of the Council called for 4:00 P.M. on Friday, 29 March. Dr. J. B. Conant was in the chair, and approximately 35 Council members were present. Several reports were received from the Executive Committee, and the usual last-minute resolutions were introduced. It was announced that the next meeting is to be held in December at Boston.

The affair contained one item of more than general interest, because at the request of Dr. Arthur Compton, Dr. Conant outlined the new plan for international control of atomic energy which had been announced to the press the night before by the State Department through Secretary Byrnes. The report proposes a new method of energy control through the production of nonexplosive or denatured materials which would be the output of atomic energy plants in the various countries. At one stage in the process of manufacture, according to President Conant, the materials would be dangerously explosive, but it was felt that these materials could not be surreptitiously stored or diverted to the manufacture of high explosives without knowledge of the controlling authority. The basis of the new plan seems to hinge on the adequacy of the denatured materials which are to be the output of the plants. The denatured materials are practically irreversible into dangerous elements because complicated manufacturing plants and an enormous personnel would be required to accomplish this end.

The entire issue of *Science* for 26 April will be devoted to summarizing the scientific papers and reporting the business accomplished at the St. Louis meeting.

The International Council of Scientific Unions will meet in general assembly in London on 22-24 July 1946. Meanwhile its Executive Committee has held a meeting in London attended by representatives of most of the International Unions adhering to the Council. In welcoming the Committee at its opening session Dr. A. V. Hill, foreign secretary of the Royal Society, pointed out that science in its own interest must remain an international concern and that the

future of civilization itself depends upon the close cooperation of scientific men throughout the world.

The heavy toll of recent years on those prominent in the field of international science was revealed by the list of members of the Committee who had died since its last meeting: Il Marchese Marconi and Baron Joji Sakurai, vice-presidents; Sir Arthur Eddington, president of the International Astronomical Union; Prof. Nicola Parravano, president of the International Union of Chemistry; Sir Albert Seward, president of the International Union of Biology; Dr. Philippson, general secretary of the International Union of Physics; and General Bourgeois, former vice-president, representing the International Union of Geography.

The President of the Council, Prof. C. Fabry, who has since died, had been compelled to resign on account of ill health, and Dr. H. R. Kruyt was elected vice-president in his place.

The Entomological Society of British Columbia held its Forty-fifth Annual Meeting at Lytton, B. C., on 23 February. The following officers were elected for 1946: A. W. Finlay, New Westminster, honorary president; G. R. Hopping, Vernon, president; M. H. Hatch, University of Washington, Seattle, vice-president (Coast); J. D. Gregson, Kamloops, vice-president (Interior); H. B. Leech, Vernon, secretary-treasurer; W. G. Mathers, Vernon, auditor; and H. Anderson, Vernon; G. P. Holland, Kamloops; J. R. J. L. Jones, Cobble Hill; J. Marshall, Summerland; and G. T. Mockridge, Cloverdale, advisory board.

Oxford University has accepted a collection of books on ethnology from the library of the late Dr. R. R. Marett, and also a grant of 1,200 pounds from the British Empire Cancer Campaign for chemical researches in the Dyson Perrins Laboratory relating to carcinogenic hydrocarbons, oestrogenic agents, and a differential growth inhibitor, 500 pounds of the grant to be earmarked for the provision of a special apparatus, and the remainder for the provision of fees and laboratory expenses for two research assistants.

Gen. Georges Perrier, 74, died at his home in Paris in February 1946. For many years Gen. Perrier was General Secretary of the Association of Geodesy of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics. This work is now being carried on at the former address, 19 Rue Auber, Paris 9^e, by P. Tardi, "Secrétaire Adjoint." Gen. Perrier was a member of the French Academy of Sciences. In the early years of the present century he was the leader of geodetic expeditions in South America, North Africa, Albania, and Syria.