

Scientific Meetings

Protein Symposium

The 17th annual Biology Colloquium at Oregon State College was held 6-7 Apr. on the campus. For the first time the colloquium was extended to 2 days. The subject was proteins in a broad sense. More than 100 persons of the total 250 attending came from out-of-town institutions. In spite of the handicaps of limited time for soliciting speakers and the heavy spring meeting schedules of scientists all over the country, it turned out to be the first protein symposium of this size held in the Pacific West for a long time. Altogether eight speakers gave ten talks. Spirited discussions from the floor and among the speakers made the conference more stimulating.

Henry Borsook (California Institute of Technology) discussed the role of proteins in biology and his recent work in the biosynthesis of proteins. His work in protein synthesis has been well-recognized and has moved this problem further toward solution.

Heinz Fraenkel-Conrat (University of California, Berkeley) gave speeches on protein reactions and on the reconstitution of viruses. His findings on "hybrid" reconstitution of viruses from the protein of one strain and the nucleic acid from another indicated that the nucleic acid component might determine the heredity of viruses. Although he avoided many newsmen on this subject, he did believe that nonliving and living matter may be on a continuum without a distinct break.

Along the same line, Rollin D. Hotchkiss (Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research) reported his latest work on transforming factors and bacterial genetics. The factors are deoxyribonucleic acids. Even though the nucleic acids that were isolated in his laboratory in the shape of thread fibers may be different from those *in situ*, they possess transforming activity. The factors are remarkably stable and can be kept in the cold for many months.

Otto K. Behrens presented the work done in the research laboratories of Eli Lilly and Company on the chemistry and biology of glucagon. Glucagon differs in physicochemical, as well as biological, properties from insulin. It contains 29 amino acids, and their complete sequence has also been reported.

Choh Hao Li (University of California, Berkeley) discussed ACTH and related pituitary hormones. The interrelationship of growth hormone and ACTH has opened a new avenue in the study of mutual controls in metabolism. Growth hormone is a larger protein molecule than ACTH. The amino acid sequence for α -corticotropin, one of the active forms of ACTH, has been worked out. Its synthesis is being attempted.

Three papers were presented on the physicochemical aspect of proteins. Walter Dandliker reported on the appearance and activity coefficients of protein solutions. Limitations of the classical Svedberg equation were discussed. Application of light-scattering technique with three component systems has now been worked out.

Partition chromatography of proteins and peptides was discussed by Frederick Carpenter (University of California, Berkeley). In spite of the wide use of chromatography for small molecules, its application to proteins has been limited and perhaps will continue to be limited, owing to the nature of proteins. However, certain proteins can be successfully separated and continue to possess regular behavior in regard to pH .

Edmond H. Fischer (University of Washington Medical School, Seattle; formerly from Geneva) presented a talk on the structure of enzyme loci. According to him, as well as Borsook, histidine molecules, owing to pK values, may play an important role in many enzyme systems, such as fumarase.

All papers presented and the discussions will be published by the College Press in September.

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Meeting Notes

■ Some 1500 people are expected to attend the 39th annual conference and exhibition of the Chemical Institute of Canada, which is to be held at the Sheraton-Mt. Royal Hotel in Montreal, 28-30 May. One of the highlights of this conference will be the presentation of the institute's medal to Leo Marion of the Canadian National Research Council in

recognition of his contributions to chemistry. He will speak on "The biogenesis of alkaloids." Louis F. Fieser, professor of chemistry at Harvard University, will deliver the Leroy Egerton Westman memorial lecture on 29 May, when he will speak on the oxidation process developed by the late Samuel C. Hooker.

"The significance of the half-chair conformation in carbohydrate chemistry" is the subject of the Merck lecture to be delivered by R. U. Lemieux, professor of chemistry at the University of Ottawa, on 28 May. Forty manufacturers and distributors will take part in the exhibition of the latest developments in laboratory and chemical process equipment, scientific instruments, chemicals, and technical literature.

■ A symposium on bacterial enzymes, sponsored by the department of dairy industry and the laboratory of bacteriology was held on 12 Apr. at Cornell University. Highlights of the symposium were two lectures presented by scientists from France. Anna Maria Torriani of the Pasteur Institute, Paris, discussed the induced biosynthesis of bacterial enzymes, including penicillinase, and Luigi Gorini of the Sorbonne, Paris, spoke on bacterial proteinase and specific conditions necessary for activity.

■ The Air Pollution Control Association will hold its annual meeting in Buffalo, N.Y., 20-24 May, at the Hotel Statler. Arnold Arch, air pollution control director for the city of Niagara Falls, N.Y., and John Quinlan, smoke abatement commissioner for the city of Buffalo, are cochairmen of the meeting. Some 700-800 industrialists, educators, administrators, scientists, and municipal authorities are expected to attend, for this is the only international organization whose activities are devoted solely to air pollution control.

■ The 1956 Conference on Religion in the Age of Science will take place 28 July-4 Aug. on Star Island, Isles of Shoals, off Portsmouth, N.H. This conference, at which scientists talk with clergymen and theologians, will be devoted to this question: "In the light of the description of the universe and life which the scientists are now giving us, what content can we ascribe to the words *good* and *evil*?" Participants, limited to 200, will seek to relate the value codes contained in the biological drives to the value codes of religions and other cultural traditions and to find a frame of interpretation common to both.

The conference members may be roughly classified in three nearly equal divisions: professional workers in religion, professional workers in science, and others. Scholarships for the week's

expenses are available to younger theologians and scientists. Persons of any religious background are welcome. For a folder on the conference, write to the registrar, Mrs. Rosalind Holt, Box 156, Pennington, N.J.

■ A conference on validation of research on pharmacotherapy in mental illness will be held at the Statler Hotel in Washington, D.C., 21-22 Sept. The meeting, which is under the leadership of R. W. Gerard, will be sponsored jointly by the National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council, the National Institute of Mental Health, and the American Psychiatric Association.

The conference will be based on the presentations of several working groups. Their reports on the methodological, theoretical, and administrative problems involved in evaluating tranquilizing and other drugs, both at preclinical and clinical levels, will be reviewed in committee sessions before the open meeting. Those interested in attending the main conference should write *before 1 July* to the executive secretary, Dr. Jonathan O. Cole, National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington 25, D.C.

■ Scientists from all parts of the world met at the University of Maryland 23-25 Apr. for the first international conference on Quantum Interaction of the Free Electron. The program, which was held in honor of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Joseph John Thomson, was under the joint sponsorship of the National Science Foundation, the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics, the Office of Naval Research, the Air Research and Development Command, the National Bureau of Standards, and the University of Maryland. Representatives of Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, the Netherlands, India, Italy, Japan, Norway, and the Soviet Union attended the meeting.

On the first evening there was a commemorative banquet. George P. Thomson, British scientist, Nobel prize winner, and son of the man the conference was honoring, gave an address on the history of the electron.

Society Elections

■ Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, board members: Jules Freund, Public Health Research Institute of the City of New York, chairman; Alan C. Burton of the University of Western Ontario Medical School, pres., American Physiological Society; Herbert E. Carter of the University of Illinois, pres., American Society of Biological Chemists; Harry Beckman of Marquette

University School of Medicine, pres., American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics; Frank W. Hartman of Henry Ford Hospital, pres., American Society for Experimental Pathology; Robert R. Williams of the Research Corporation, acting pres., American Institute of Nutrition; Merrill W. Chase of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, pres., American Association of Immunologists.

■ American Institute of Nutrition: pres., Harry J. Deuel; v. pres., Robert R. Williams; treas., John B. Brown; sec., R. W. Engel.

■ Scientific Apparatus Makers Association: pres., Henry F. Dever, Minneapolis Honeywell Regulator Company, Philadelphia; pres. pro tempore, R. E. Welch, W. M. Welch Manufacturing Company, Chicago; treas., T. M. Mints, E. H. Sargent and Company, Chicago.

Forthcoming Events

June

1. Metal Metabolism and Microbiological Deterioration Conf., Washington, D.C. (C. J. Wessel, National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington 25.)

1-2. American Psychopathological Assoc., 46th annual, New York, N.Y. (J. Zubin, New York State Psychiatric Inst., 722 W. 168 St., New York, N.Y.)

3-6. American Soc. of Refrigerating Engineers, Cincinnati, Ohio. (R. C. Cross, ASRE, 234 Fifth Ave., New York 1.)

3-7. Special Libraries Assoc., annual, Pittsburgh, Pa. (Miss M. E. Lucius, 31 E. 10 St., New York 3.)

4-7. Forest Products Research Soc., Asheville, N.C. (F. J. Rovsek, FPSRS, P.O. Box 2010, University Station, Madison 5, Wis.)

4-8. American Soc. of Civil Engineers, national conf., Knoxville, Tenn. (W. H. Wisely, ASCE, 33 W. 39 St., New York 18.)

4-9. International Mechanical Engineering Cong., 6th, Paris, France. (British Engineers Assoc., 32 Victoria St., London, S.W.1, England.)

4-9. International Seed Testing Convention, Paris, France. (C. Stahl, International Seed Testing Assoc., Thorvaldsensvej 57, Copenhagen V, Denmark.)

4-12. Cold Spring Harbor Symposium on Quantitative Biology, 21st, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y. (M. Demerec, Biological Lab., Cold Spring Harbor.)

6-9. European Federation for Chemical Engineering, 9th, Frankfurt/Main, Germany. (Dechema-Haus, Rheingau-Allee 25, Frankfurt A.M.)

7-9. Endocrine Soc., annual, Chicago, Ill. (H. H. Turner, 1200 N. Walker St., Oklahoma City, Okla.)

9-10. Soc. for Investigative Dermatology, annual, Chicago, Ill. (H. Beerman, 255 S. 17 St., Philadelphia 3, Pa.)

10-14. Institute of Food Technologists, annual, St. Louis, Mo. (C. S. Lawrence,

IFT, 176 W. Adams St., Chicago 3, Ill.)

10-15. American Crystallographic Assoc., French Lick, Ind. (S. Siegel, Chemistry Div., Argonne National Lab., Box 299, Lemont, Ill.)

11-15. American Medical Assoc., annual, Chicago, Ill. (G. F. Lull, AMA, 535 N. Dearborn St., Chicago 10.)

11-15. Symposium on Molecular Structure and Spectroscopy, annual, Columbus, Ohio. (H. H. Nielsen, Dept. of Physics, Ohio State Univ., Columbus.)

11-16. Pacific Div., AAAS, Seattle, Wash. (R. C. Miller, California Acad. of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco 18.)

11-23. European Organization for Nuclear Research, Symposium on High Energy Physics, Geneva, Switzerland. (H. Coblans, CERN, Case Postale 25, Genève 15-Aéroport.)

12. National Assoc. of Science Writers, annual, Chicago, Ill. (M. L. Silverman, NASW, 4 Bassett Lane, Atherton, Calif.)

12-14. American Meteorological Soc., Seattle, Wash. (K. C. Spengler, AMS, 3 Joy St., Boston 8, Mass.)

12-15. Max Planck Soc. for Advancement of Sciences, Stuttgart, Germany. (Max Planck Soc., Raiserswerther Str. 164, Düsseldorf 22a, Germany.)

12-16. World Conference on Earthquake Engineering, Berkeley, Calif. (R. W. Clough, Div. of Civil Engineering, Univ. of California, Berkeley 4.)

13-14. Conference for Veterinarians, 25th annual, Columbus, Ohio. (J. W. Helwig, College of Veterinary Medicine, Ohio State Univ., Columbus 10.)

13-16. Colloquium of College Physicists, annual, Iowa City, Iowa. (G. W. Stewart, Dept. of Physics, State Univ. of Iowa, Iowa City.)

13-16. Driftless Area Field Trip, La Crosse, Wis. (R. F. Thorne, State Univ. of Iowa, Iowa City.)

16-17. Council of American Bioanalysts, Dallas, Tex. (M. F. Dooley, 308 S. Bishop, Dallas, Tex.)

17-20. American Soc. of Agricultural Engineers, 49th annual, Roanoke, Va. (F. B. Lanham, ASAE, St. Joseph, Mich.)

17-22. American Soc. of Medical Technologists, annual, Quebec, Canada. (Miss R. Matthaei, Suite 25, Hermann Professional Bldg., Houston 25, Tex.)

17-22. American Soc. for Testing Materials, annual, Atlantic City, N.J. (R. J. Painter, ASTM, Philadelphia 3, Pa.)

17-23. American Library Assoc., annual, Miami Beach, Fla. (D. H. Clift, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago 11, Ill.)

17-23. International Cong. on Acoustics, 2nd, in conjunction with Acoustical Soc. of America, Cambridge, Mass. (E. H. Kone, American Inst. of Physics, 57 E. 55 St., New York 22.)

17-23. World Confederation for Physical Therapy, 2nd international cong., New York, N.Y. (Miss M. Elson, American Physical Therapy Assoc., 1790 Broadway, New York 19.)

17-23. World Power Conf. (invitation), 5th plenary, Vienna, Austria. (S. E. Reimel, Engineers Joint Council, 29 W. 39 St., New York 18.)

(See issue of 20 April for comprehensive list)