

GENERAL SCIENCE

New A.A.A.S. President

Dr. A. J. Carlson, well-known Swedish-born professor of physiology at the University of Chicago, elected head of leading science association.

➤ THE VICTORY address of organized science in America may be delivered two Christmas seasons hence by a rugged, Swedish-born immigrant who has become one of the best-known of American researchers and teachers in physiology, Prof. Anton J. Carlson of the University of Chicago.

Prof. Carlson has just been elected president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, it is announced at executive headquarters of the Association. Normally, he would preside over a great midwinter joint meeting of the Association and a score or more of affiliated scientific societies, during the holiday week at the close of this year. A year later he would present a major address as retiring president.

The Association is holding no midwinter meetings for the duration; and even if Germany collapses during 1944 it is improbable that the load on the country's transportation system could be eased sufficiently by the end of the year to justify the holding of large conventions. But by the close of 1945, when his retiring presidential address will be due, it is just possible that the thousands of top American scientists may again be able to get together, celebrate the victory which their efforts have helped to bring, and discuss plans and hopes for the future.

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Science Future Bright

By PROF. ANTON J. CARLSON,
President, A.A.A.S.

➤ DESPITE man's global violence today, at no time in human history have the prospects of science, in the sense of increasing understanding and potential service to man, been brighter than they are for tomorrow. But if we expect man to adjust rationally and speedily to the new phase of our environment created by science, we must begin to give, through education, health, freedom and justice, as much attention to man as we

are now giving to chemistry, physics and the gadgets of engineering. For such a possible Victory Meeting, Prof. Carlson can supply a fitting keynote speech. He has an unbroken record of utter and outspoken hostility to the interference with research and suppression of teaching in the Nazi-Fascist lands. Uncompromising search for all the facts, and complete freedom to report and interpret them, constitute the first article of his scientific creed.

Prof. Carlson was born on a farm in Sweden, near Göteborg, in 1875. At sixteen, he emigrated to America, and for a time earned his living as a carpenter in Chicago. He attended Augustana College in Illinois, graduating there in 1898. In 1902 he received his Ph.D. from Stanford University.

Practically the whole of his research and teaching career has centered at the University of Chicago, where for 40 years his "What is the evidence?" has been a standing challenge to succeeding generations of students. Of recent years, he has disagreed from time to time with the educational policies of President Robert M. Hutchins, and has come to be informally recognized as leader of the faculty group representing the "loyal opposition." The very vigor of clashing opinions, however, has in itself been evidence of full enjoyment (and employment) of freedom of speech at the University of Chicago.

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are now giving to chemistry, physics and the gadgets of engineering.

Provided the coming peace is worthy of that name and does not engender greater injustice, violence and misery than are inherent in war itself, science can render even greater service in the regeneration of civilization than it is now giving to the war effort. But this calls for even greater persistence, perspicacity and patience on the part of all workers in science than has been displayed by us in the past.

We must raze the ivory tower, en-

deavor to render all our new knowledge understood by all the people, and show by our actions that the men of science at least are largely guided by verified facts and reasons.

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PSYCHIATRY

Guidance Clinic Set Up To Control Alcoholism

➤ A NEW STEP toward control and prevention of habitual drunkenness, both now and after the war, is being taken, it appears from an announcement by Yale University.

The announcement is of the opening next month of a diagnostic and guidance clinic for inebriates, first of the kind in this country. The clinic and a similar one to be opened soon in Hartford, Conn., are sponsored jointly by the Yale Laboratory of Applied Physiology and the Connecticut Prison Association.

Dr. Howard W. Haggard of Yale will be in general charge with Dr. Ralph Banay, psychiatric consultant of the New York State Parole Board and former chief psychiatrist of Sing Sing prison, serving as medical director.

The clinics will not be sobering-up stations for drunks, it was emphasized. Nor will treatment for inebriety be given at the clinics.

Instead, a staff of psychiatrists, psychologists and social workers will study each patient, determine his type and the kind of treatment he requires, and



NEW PRESIDENT—A bust of Dr. A. J. Carlson, professor of physiology at the University of Chicago, who has just been made president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

arrange to use the existing resources of the community for his treatment and rehabilitation. Representatives of Alcoholics Anonymous and the Salvation Army and a legal consultant will be on call for assistance.

Serious as the problem of alcoholism is today, it is feared that after the war

it will become much worse. It is hoped, therefore, that the clinics may serve as experimental models for similar ones to be set up in other states. Opening of the clinics in this state at the present time is assisted by a large contribution to the Connecticut Prison Association from an anonymous Hartford donor.

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a bog near Austin can be accepted.

Dr. J. E. Potzger of Butler University and Prof. B. C. Tharp of the University of Texas tell how they have found, in muck hauled up from around the 20-foot level in Patschke bog, a short distance east of the city, large numbers of Canadian spruce and fir pollen grains. (*Science*, Dec. 31, 1943) These trees now grow at lower altitudes only in the northern states. Even bog deposits of their pollen have not been previously reported from nearer than Bacon's swamp, Ind., about 800 miles to the north.

In the Patschke bog also were found

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War Use of Scientists

Separate selective service for specialized personnel urged upon Congress by head of government's war research as aid to applying science to war.

► SCIENTIFIC men should have their own selective service system, in order to place them in war service exactly where needed, Dr. Vannevar Bush, director of the Office of Scientific Research and Development, recommends in a letter to Senator H. M. Kilgore (Dem., W. Va.). (*Science*, Dec. 31, 1943)

"The prosecution of modern war requires the treatment of scientific men as a special group to be specially allocated for work in the fighting services and in civilian research, and this cannot be done adequately under the present procedures of the Selective Service System," Dr. Bush says. "There is no question here of shielding a special class against the rigors of war. It is rather the question of the intelligent use of a great nation's asset. The young men who make up this group should be under orders to serve where needed and, if the public interest indicates that they should remain in the laboratory rather than serve in the field, they should be retained in the laboratory. Likewise, when they are needed in the field they should be transferred there under orders to share the combat hazards with the members of the Armed Services in performing their duties."

In his comment inspired by one of the provisions of the Kilgore bill (S. 702), Dr. Bush makes it clear that progress has been made in placing scientists where they serve most effectively, but that he believes Congress should act to give legislative authority for special procedures for the scientists.

The so-called war mobilization of science by creation of an over-all administration would interfere with the effective prosecution of the war, Dr. Bush contends, while the proposed requisitioning power covering scientific facilities is

not needed in his opinion. The bill's patent and inventions changes should not be made during wartime, Dr. Bush says, because they would be a source of confusion and dissatisfaction.

Necessary wartime controls over scientific research should not be perpetuated in peace because, Dr. Bush declared, "science flourishes to the greatest degree when it is most free."

The patent policy of the Office of Scientific Research and Development, the government's war research agency headed by Dr. Bush, which provides for government shop rights on inventions developed under contracts with research laboratories, which receive the commercial rights, will not work in time of peace, he believes, because the laboratories would not desire to work on a non-profit basis then, and it would be undesirable to limit unduly the competition in our industrial system.

Dr. Bush urged that the Congress take advantage of the expert advice that scientific men would be just as willing to give our law-makers as they would our government bureaus.

Because many universities and non-profit research institutions will be unable to finance research after the war from private sources, Dr. Bush suggests that it may be necessary for them to look to federal and state governments for financial support.

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PALEOBOTANY

Texas Climate Once Like That of Great Lakes Area

► TEXAS once had a climate resembling that of the Great Lakes region, if the testimony of pollen grains found deep in

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