

BRITISH SCIENTISTS TO MEET IN TORONTO

Preparations are going rapidly forward for the August meeting in Toronto of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, which will be one of the most notable gatherings of English-speaking scientists ever convened on the American continent. More than 400 British scientists and many scientists from the United States and other countries will attend.

Among these will be many whose lives and works are world famous. The retiring president, Sir Ernest Rutherford, who did much of the pioneer work on radio-activity, will turn over his office to Major General Sir David Bruce, chairman of the governing body of the Lister Institute, famous for his work on Malta fever and sleeping sickness. Lord Rayleigh will deliver an address on "The scattering of Light".

"If the World Went Dry" is the somewhat startling title of a paper to be delivered by Sir Napier Shaw. The title is presumably to be interpreted in a strictly literal sense, since Sir Napier is a distinguished meteorologist and president of the International Meteorological Committee. Another topic of popular interest will be "The Sense of Humour in Children" which will be discussed by Dr. C. W. Kimmins, chief inspector of the Education Department of the London County Council

Popular lectures for children will be a feature of the meeting, three of them being on the program. A series of evening lectures of popular appeal will also be given by some of the distinguished scientists. The regular program will consist of a large number of technical papers to be delivered before the appropriate sections of the Association. Some of these papers are expected to disclose new advances in science of the utmost importance.

The inaugural general meeting will take place in the convocation hall of the University of Toronto on Wednesday, August 6, at which Major General Sir David Bruce will deliver his presidential address on "Advances Made in the Knowledge of Disease, with Especial Reference to Methods Developed During the War". The convention will continue through August 13.

MEDICAL ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT CRITICIZES MODERN CODDLING OF WEAK

A strong plea for more individualism in medicine, and a general criticism of the coddling of the weak by modern civilization were features of the inaugural address of Dr. William A. Pusey of Chicago, newly elected president of the American Medical Association.

Dr. Pusey attacked the Sheppard-Towner Maternity act and commended President Coolidge for his "wise statesmanship in taking a definite stand against federal support of a wide range of socialized activities". He characterized the Sheppard-Towner act as "an expedient to meet temporary difficulties" and warned his hearers to "treat it with prudent foresight if America does not want the medical socialism of the middle classes in Europe". Stating the avowed purpose of the act was to save lives of mothers and children, Dr. Pusey declared that in view of the imminent overpopulation of the earth, limitation of population rather than increase is the logical social ideal, He said:

"In our country, future population must make its support out of territory that is now occupied. Starting with a population of 5,000,000 people in 1800, the United States has in a hundred and twenty years passed 100,000,000. Within the span of children now living, our population will reach 175,000,000. If no effort is made at birth control. Nature will take charge of the situation by eliminating those least able to resist. When this condition of saturation arrives, the human plans of socialistic altruism of today will be wrecked in the struggle by society for mere existence."

After declaring that the knowledge and practice of eugenics was one of the greatest of modern needs, and that eugenics meant not merely the breeding away from disease but the breeding to a strong and healthy stock, Dr. Pusey, advocated more of the old-fashioned relationship between the doctor and his patient. Research had its place, but the cure of sick and injured people would always be the average doctor's principal task.

"Sickness and injury will inevitably remain part of the lot of man," he continued. "Carry our discoveries to the utmost limit, man is still a machine that will get out of order, will be injured and will ultimately wear out. As long as that is true, there will be need for the personal physician to take care of the individual patient. For this service, thousands of physicians will be needed where hundreds can be usefully employed in research and preventive medicines. These are the men on the firing line; the battle for the relief of suffering depends on them. And the efforts of society, as of this Association, should be dedicated to the welfare, and development in training and character, of these men, engaged in the workaday duties of caring for the sick, wherever they are scattered over the face of the earth. To foster the competence of these men is the greatest social responsibility of medicine."

AVIETTES

Forbidden under the terms of the treaty of Versailles to make real airplanes, the Germans are continuing to experiment with gliders and aviettes. The latter are gliders fitted with auxiliary motors of only a few horsepower. One of the most recent of these has been designed by Herr Martens who was one of the winning contestants at the glider competitions last summer. It has a small auxiliary motor of two horsepower. Herr Martens recently went up in it, and succeeded in maintaining a constant altitude in a windless atmosphere for quite a long time. This success has inspired further investigation of the possibilities of these light motor aircraft.

A large electric fan company uses the official records and reports of the U. S. Weather Bureau to regulate its production and sales campaigns.

Chemists at the University of Washington are experimenting with oleo-resin, a fluid found in pockets in the Douglas fir, in an effort to produce a substitute for commercial turpentine now obtained from our rapidly disappearing yellow pine.
