accomplished towards retarding the dreaded disease.

MINERAL RESOURCES A SERIOUS WORLD PROBLEM

That a commercial League of Nations may possibly be established to help settle the world's problems with regard to mineral resources is foreseen by Dr. Charles K. Leith, well known geologist from the University of Wisconsin, who is attending an international meeting of geologists in Madrid.

Dr. Leith points out that a mighty conflict is going on between two powerful forces; world demand for the needed supply of minerals, and, on the other hand, nationalistic forces which are working to use the mineral resources of a political state for national gain or protection.

Mineral resources are very unequally distributed among the countries of the world, Dr. Leith states, and in many cases the great centers of supply constitute essentially national monopolies. The dependence of modern civilization upon these unequally divided minerals is growing and the problem of mineral resources figures largely in the consciousness of nations.

"The satisfaction of world demand for mineralsmust, therefore, over-ride political boundaries," said Dr. Leith. "There seems to be no way to eliminate either set of forces. The problem is to effect a balance or adjustment between them.

"Internationalization of resources, in the sense of turning them over to some super-national control, is probably a political impossibility, even if it were desirable, which is doubtful. But there is an opportunity to standardize by international agreement the many international commercial arrangements which are now effecting a fair and workable compromise between world demand on the one hand and nationalistic policies on the other."

Dr. Leith advocates an international economic conference, with fact finding committees, and "ultimately, perhaps, what will amount to a commercial League of Nations". This, he said, would not put an end to national mineral monopolies, nor would it cause a nation rich in minerals to lose advantages of these possessions.

TRANSPLANTED PANCREAS CONTINUES TO FUNCTION

A successful operation of transplanting a portion of the pancreas into the mammary gland of a dog, has recently been performed by Drs. A. C. Ivy and J. I. Ferrell, of the Northwestern University School of Medicine.

The pancreatic gland produces potent fluids necessary to the body, including insulin which prevents diabetes. The scientists do not believe, however, that this method of transplanting a portion of the pancreas can be used practically for

the surgical cure of diabetes in man. It is merely another step, they say, to a better understanding of the physiology of the pancreas.

The investigators discovered that when the animal was fed, the transplant secreted normal pancreatic juice, which is the most important of the digestive juices. This observation proves that when one eats a meal a substance passes into the blood stream and stimulates the pancreas to secrete. This agent is called "secretin", and is a hormone that is formed by a glandular layer in the intestinal wall when food and gastric juice come in contact with it. The substances that excite the formation of this hormone are, in order of their effectiveness: gastric juice, and and digestive products of fat.

It was also found that the transplanted piece of pancreas functioned to such an extent in producing a sufficient amount of insulin that diabetes would not occur when the remainder of the pancreas was removed.

E. W. SCRIPPS

(This tribute to his life-long friend was written by Dr. Wm.E. Ritter, president of Science Service. Mr. Scripps died March 12, 1926 on board the yacht Ohio, off the coast of Liberia.)

Intense humanism, enormous avidity for knowledge, and faith in the truths of science characterized E.W.Scripps, in the opinion of Dr. William E. Ritter, his life-long friend, and president of Science Service, the institution for the popularization of science through newspapers founded by Mr. Scripps. Dr. Ritter in a statement said:

After the World War, Mr. Scripps was greatly impressed with the idea that since the world was more than ever committed to democracy, democracy must become more intelligent than it ever has been.

How, he reasoned, is it possible to conceive a public intelligent enough to live healthily, efficiently, sanely, and happily in the modern world without much acquaintance with the facts and principles of the physical and humanist sciences?

Furthermore, he continued to query, since the newspaper is the greatest single agency for informing the public of what goes on in the world from day to day, and for molding public opinion on many subjects, what is more natural, more important than that this agency should supplement whatever can be done by other agencies, as the schools and colleges, in disseminating scientific knowledge among the people generally?

Another potent belief held by Mr. Scripps was that the mental capacity and emotional soundness of the average man are sufficient to make him capable of understanding and appreciating the basic truth of science if presented in simple,familiar language.

The almost necessary consequence of these ideas in the mind of so dynamically and financially competent a man as Mr. Scripps was some foundation like Science Service, if only scientific men themselves would do their share in creating and operating it.

The trustees of Science Service, the newspapers served by it, and the record of the institution for its five years of life are sufficient testimony of the response of both American newspapers and American science.
