

facilities, scientists could maintain all the contact necessary for active cooperation.

The holders of this viewpoint looked at the scene too much against the background of conditions in Western Europe and America, areas where all the sciences are relatively advanced, and industrialization is highly developed. But seen from Roumania, Peru, Java or China the picture of world science looks very different. A Roumanian organic chemist may need a few grains of a substance only being produced in India, or Canada, but if he only knows his own language he will not be able to get it so easily. A Venezuelan economic entomologist may have a problem very similar to that of a Chinese economic entomologist, but the chances of their getting into touch are very few.

What then can UNESCO do to facilitate contact and exchanges amongst international scientists? One answer is Field Science Cooperation Offices for, beyond goodwill and economic means, accurate first-hand information to avoid wastage of time and effort is indispensable. These offices are most needed in regions remote from the main centres of science and technology. It clearly would be absurd for international funds to be spent in communicating between people in the United Kingdom and the United States who are well able to communicate with one another. UNESCO plans to get the first three working during the present year—one in the Far East, another in the Middle East, and the third in Latin America. For Latin-America, an eminent tropical botanist Dr. E. J. H. CORNER, and a Greek specialist in tropical diseases, have already been appointed and they will arrive in Brazil early in May. By making contact with scientists of every country within the region, and studying their needs, the UNESCO regional offices should be able to render both individual and general help.

*United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural
Organization*

International Institute of the Hylean Amazon

In a densely forested equatorial region which has been described by journalists as the "green hell" of the Amazon Basin, UNESCO plans to set up a scientific research institution which will be known as the International Institute of the Hylean Amazon. The name "Hylea" was first applied to the Amazon Valley region by the early 19th Century German scientific explorer HUMBOLDT. It is the Greek word for great forest and does not understate an area which stretches from the Andes to the Atlantic, from the Guianas, French, Dutch and British in the north, ranges over parts of Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru and even reaches as far as Bolivia in the south. This vast region contains the largest drainage basin in the world and possesses untapped natural resources which are virtually unexplored from the scientific point of view. This situation is shortly to be remedied.

In the middle of May UNESCO'S first team of scientific workers headed by Dr. J. H. CORNER, UNESCO'S Principal Field Science Officer for Latin America, arrived in Brazil. This eminent tropical botanist, who was for many years sub-Director of the Botanic Gardens at Singapore, is looking forward with great enthusiasm to doing the ground-work which will be necessary before the Institute can be set up. Dr. CORNER is accompanied by Dr. BASIL MALAMOS, a Greek expert on tropical diseases, and Professor PAULO DE BERREDO

CARNEIRO, Brazilian delegate and member of UNESCO'S Executive Board, who first proposed the Hylean Amazon scheme, will act in an advisory capacity.

The work of these three scientists, who are going out to investigate where the headquarters of the Institution should be situated and what the personnel needs within the next years, will be in connection with the fields of research to be started. It will constitute the first international cooperative scientific effort to be carried out in this region. Until now there have been only isolated expeditions, originating mainly from the U.S.A., Great Britain, France and Germany. This meant that the results obtained were on the whole not coordinated, but with an institution located in the region itself, the knowledge gained from exploration will be kept in a common pool from which it can be passed on to scientists and governments interested in the natural history and economic of Hylea.

It is obvious that to explore the four and a quarter million square miles of forest land and rivers constitutes a task which no country could have undertaken alone. It requires large numbers of scientists specializing in different fields, and considerable material support to facilitate their researches. Further, this work justifies widespread international participation, for it is of concern not only to the countries which border the Amazon Valley but to the whole world that one third of the total area of South America is inhabited by less than four hundred thousand people, all members of primitive Indian tribes whose living conditions have not changed for the last 400 years, and who form thirty-seven distinct groups, each with its own language. The UNESCO Institute will study therefore not only the botanical, zoological, chemical, geological, meteorological, anthropological and medical facets of the area, but its potential habitability in terms of non-indigenous peoples.

This information will be invaluable, not only for the Hylean countries but for all those wet tropical regions about which, in comparison to the temperate zones, the world knows so little.

INTERNATIONAL

Meetings and Congresses in July 1947

Chemical Society, London, centenary meeting, 15th to 17th, London, England.

The 6th International Congress of Experimental Cytology, 10th–17th, Stockholm, Sweden.

International Congress of Pure and Applied Chemistry, 11th annual, 17th–24th, London, England.

International Physiological Congress, 17th annual, 21th–25th, Oxford, England.

Corrigendum

Errata-corrige alla nota di V. ERSPAMER e A. PAOLINI «Istamina condizionatore positivo di alcuni drastici». *Exper.* 2, 455 (1946).

Tutti i valori riguardanti l'antiistaminico (dimetina) si intendono riferiti non a 100 g di ratto, come è stato erroneamente scritto, ma a 1000 g.