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SEPTEMBER 1955

## ATOMIC DANGERS

THE INITIATIVE in convening a scientific conference in France for the 1-2 July 1955 to discuss the dangers of atomic energy was taken by thirteen University professors and lecturers: Mesdames I. Joliot-Curie and S. Laborde; Messieurs E. Bauer, P. Biquard, G. Champy, P. Chevallier, R. Garrigue, R. Heim, A. Lacassagne, Y. Le Grand, Ph. l'Héritier, E. Paitte and Ch. Sadron.

The discussions of the conference were attended by an audience varying between 80 and 100 people. It had been advertised beforehand by circular to the Heads of Faculties, the Directors of large scientific establishments and the Science Editions of the main newspapers. All those who attended did so in their individual capacities, though certain government services (armaments, passive defence etc.) sent observers.

Foreign scientists who attended included Professor A. Haddow, (Great Britain) and Professor E. Rabinovitch (U.S.A.), the assistant of Professor Capron (Belgium), who came in that capacity, and a physicist from the Max Plank Gesellschaft Institut.

It was pointed out by Professor A. Lacassagne, at the opening of the conference, that the conference had two aims: an exchange of information among specialists, and the drafting of objective statements for the purpose of enlightening public opinion.

It was clear from the ensuing discussion that the methods of detecting radiation and the determination of what constitutes a dangerous dose of radiation are unsatisfactory, especially in the field of medical application of artificial radioactive elements.

A Resolution was adopted and will be forwarded to the appropriate public authorities, calling on these to conduct the research called for and to take the decisions necessary in this connection.

The conference also adopted a resolution calling for the establishment of international regulations governing the disposal of waste from atomic factories in the sea.

Genetic effects in general were dealt with by Professors Turpin and l'Héritier, and by Dr. Lejeune.

As regards the industrial applications of atomic energy, it was recommended that a programme of research should be carried out to arrive at data which would make it possible to avoid genetic dangers.

Professor Alexander Haddow, of London, expressed unusually clearly the problems which confront humanity, and considered the question of the special duty of scientists in the present situation. He described how British scientists are approaching the study of atomic dangers.

Professor E. Rabinovitch, of Illinois, U.S.A., recalled the efforts made by American scientists to prevent the use of atomic bombs against Japan, reiterated the dangers of radio-active "fall-out," and touched on the problems of atomic control and of the role of international scientific bodies.

Dr. P. Biquard, after recalling the solemn warning given by Pierre Curie in 1905, mentioned conferences of a similar character which had been held in other countries, and referred to the activity of the World Federation of Scientific Workers and of its President, Professor Joliot-Curie, with U.N.O. and with public opinion in general.

Besides the two Resolutions mentioned earlier, the conference adopted a third, calling on the conveners of the conference to approach scientific organisations in other countries with a view to the promotion of an international conference of scientists on atomic dangers.

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FRENCH CONFERENCE ON ATOMIC HAZARDS

A Scientific Conference was called in Paris in the "Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle" on July 1st and 2nd, 1955.

The subjects discussed are covered by the main reports, to be published in a few weeks, which are listed below:

Introduction .....	P. Biquard
Exposé introductif .....	A. Lacassagne
Les dangers liés à l'équipement atomique ..	F. Netter
Les effets radioactifs immédiats et différés des explosions atomiques .....	R. Chastel
Les cendres radioactives projetées au Japon lors de l'explosion du ler Mars 1954 .....	Mme Laberrigue
Propagation à grande distance et caractéristiques des particules radioactives issues des explosions atomiques .....	H. Garrigue
Influences éventuelles des explosions atomiques sur l'évolution du temps .....	J. Roulleau
Mesure de la radioactivité de l'air et de la pluie .....	E. Vasay Mlle O. Tanaevsky
Les nuages radioactifs .....	J. Orcel
Quelques remarques liées aux données de la géochimie .....	J. Orcel
Comparaison de l'explosion thermo-nucléaire à différents phénomènes naturels .....	R. Chastel
Exposé général sur les effets biologiques des radiations ionisants .....	A. Lacassagne
Problèmes médicaux posés par les effets immédiats des explosions atomiques .....	P. Vigier
Les lésions oculaires consécutives aux explosions ou aux recherches d'énergie nucléaire	M.A. Dollfus
Radiations atomiques et vie aquatique .....	M. Fontaine
Dangers biologiques des poussières radioactives émettrices de $\beta$ - rayons .....	Lefort
Le problème de l'action biologique des faibles doses de radiations ionisants .....	M. Marcovitch
L'énergie ionisante et l'avenir du patrimoine héréditaire humain .....	R. Turpin J. Lejeune
La sécurité dans les installations atomiques .....	P. Savel
Les aérosols radioactifs .....	J. Labeyrie
La protection thérapeutique des radiolésions	H. Marcovitch

Interventions des délégués étrangers:

A. Haddow
E. Rabinovitch.
Intervention P. Biquard.

Résolutions et vœux.

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Sandwich Course

IN COMMON with other major industrial countries, Great Britain finds itself increasingly short of professionally qualified engineers. In the House of Commons debate of July 1955, it was estimated that the present demand exceeds the supply by one third.

Traditionally, Great Britain has produced its qualified engineers by two routes. The university route is well known and differs only in detail from that adopted in other countries. The other main source was from student apprentices in industry. For many years the Technical Colleges have provided evening courses that enabled such students to climb arduously to the level of Professional status. Only a small fraction of those starting on these courses ever reached their final goal by this method.

Since the War there has been a great extension of part-time day classes on the basis of week release from industry

湯川秀樹史料(中間子論関係)

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