

## MANY SCIENTISTS IN COLD SPRING HARBOR SUMMER SYMPOSIUM

The Biological Laboratory  
Host To 130 In Resuming  
Program of Conferences on  
Organisms Research.

From July 2 to 12, Cold Spring Harbor was host to 130 American and European scientists, when the Biological Laboratory held its summer Symposium for the first time since 1942. In a series of continuous and closely planned meetings, during these eleven days, 25 papers were presented by 27 invited scientists from this country and abroad, and general discussions on each topic were held by the whole group. The subject, "Heredity and Variation in Microorganisms", was an especially timely one, in which rapid progress is being made and many new scientific possibilities opened up. Biologists, biochemists, and bacteriologists from many research laboratories eagerly discussed the recent results of their work in this field as it relates to bacteria, viruses, fungi, and other material being studied experimentally.

This was the eleventh in the series of Cold Spring Harbor Symposia on Quantitative Biology, which have become widely known throughout the scientific world since they were started in 1933. For three years, wartime conditions made it impossible to hold the meetings. Therefore this first Symposium since the war was of special importance, in bringing together workers who have had little opportunity during the last four years to hold unlimited discussion of their research, and who have until recently been completely cut off from the progress of research in other countries.

The group considered the mechanisms that operate in the transmission of heredity in the smallest known living organisms—namely, bacteriophages, bacteria, fungi and protozoa. Since it is a well-established fact that the fundamental laws of nature apply in general to all forms of life, it is sometimes easier to solve a biological problem by using simple organisms, and later to test the validity of the solution on more advanced organisms. The discussion included also the behavior of tumor cells and leukemia cells, which in many respects exhibit the same individuality as unicellular organisms.

Some distinguished foreign scientists who came to this country to

take part in the program were: Dr. N. W. Pirie, Harpenden, England; Dr. M. J. D. White, University College, London; Dr. G. Pontecorvo, Glasgow University, Scotland; Dr. Andre Lwoff, Pasteur Institute, Paris; Drs. Raymond Latarjet and Jaques Monod, of the same Institute; Dr. Boris Ephrussi, University of Paris; Dr. F. Kauffmann, State Serum Institute, Denmark; and Dr. T. Johnson, Winnipeg, Canada.

Local research workers presenting papers included Dr. M. Demerec, director of the Biological Laboratory and of the Carnegie Institution Department of Genetics; Dr. E. C. MacDowell, staff member of the Carnegie Institution; and Dr. S. E. Luria, bacteriologist, of the Carnegie Institution and Indiana University. On leave of absence from Indiana for the past year, Dr. Luria has been working at the Carnegie laboratories in charge of a special project investigating the development of resistance in bacteria to the action of penicillin, bacteriophages, and various drugs and antibiotics. Dr. Raymond Latarjet, of the Pasteur Institute, Paris, who has also been working at the Carnegie research center for the past eight months, is in the United States as a fellow of the French Government under a program started shortly after the end of the war to establish international "teamwork" in science. Dr. Latarjet presented a paper in collaboration with Dr. Demerec.

The other European scientists on the program were brought to this country by the Biological Laboratory especially for the purpose of taking part in the Symposium. Although this year it was possible for only a limited number of foreigners to be present at the meeting, it is felt that this represents a good beginning in the extremely important task of re-establishing contact and cooperation among researchers in similar fields who have been cut off from communication by six years of war.

American scientists attending the Symposium came from all parts of the country, including the states of Alabama, California, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Missouri, Tennessee, Texas and Wisconsin. There was also a large attendance from the hospitals, universities, research institutes, and commercial laboratories of New York City and vicinity. Lecture-room space and living accommodations limited the number of participants, and it was not possible to accept the registrations of all who wished to attend. Of the foreign scientists taking part, four each were from Canada, England, and France, two were from Chile, and one each were from Denmark and Sweden.