INTERNATIONAL DEPOT OF MICROSCOPIC PREPARATIONS OF CYTOLOGY CREATED BY THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

An Appeal to Cytologists

IN 1939, the International Union of Biological Sciences requested Professor P. Martens, Director of the J. B. Carnoy Institute, at Louvain, Belgium, to take up again, the project of an International Depot of Microscopic Preparations of Cytology, animal and vegetable. This plan had previously been submitted by the Union to the late Prof. V. Gregoire; but owing to his poor health condition, he was unable to realize the practical side of this plan. On the other hand, the International situation, and the state of war, have delayed until to-day the announcement of the creation of this organisation.

It would therefore be a matter of assembling together at an easily accessible centre—the laboratory of Cytology of the *Carnoy Institute*, at *Louvain* (Belgium) — preparations obtained from numerous research centers, and having already been used as basis to previously published contributions. Each worker, interested in a definite problem, could thus locate and compare with his own documentation, the original microscopic preparations of other authors pertaining to the subject. It is hardly necessary to underline the considerable interest that a Depot of this kind would acquire a good understanding amongst workers which it would promote. The depot will serve to vain contestations, settle differences of opinion which arise and often burden the scientific litearature

But this result can only be obtained with the greatest comprehension and collaboration of the greatest possible number of cytologists. I.U.B.S. invites all cytologists therefore, from now onwards to send their works to the Laboratory, and to enclose with them several preparations having already been used as basis of publications and to refer to such deposits in future. It is *desirable* that the spots considered by authors as particularly demonstrative or used as published illustration—should be specially noted on the preparations as clearly as possible. It is also requested that a reprint of the published work should be sent.

Every Biologist, known for his publications — and any other person, possessing an authorized recommendation—will be able to consult and study as *much as they like*, all preparations which have been entrusted to the Depot; the consultants will have at their disposal, the Laboratory, the equipment and necessary optical instruments. All work must be done within the Depot, except in cases, when a written permission is granted by the depositor.

The preparations will always remain the entire *property of the depositors*, who can, at any time, have them sent back to them, the cost of postage would then be paid by the administration of the Depot.

Prof. P. VAYSSIERE (Paris)
The Secretary-General of the I.U.B.S.
Prof. P. MARTENS (Leuvain)
The Administrator of the Depot.

HARWELL ATOMIC PILE

THE new atomic pile at Harwell (Berkshire) is expected to come into operation this summer when a much larger number of radio-active isotopes, with greater strength, will be produced than at present with the low-energy experimental pile, announces the Ministry of Supply.

It is estimated that this increase in production will be sufficient to meet the demands for radio-active isotopes of all research workers throughout Great Britain.

Processing, packing, and distribution of isotopes produced at Harwell will be carried out by the Radio-chemical Centre at Amersham. A statement will be issued in the near future on the services to be provided by this Centre, as regards distribution of both natural and artificial radio-active substances.

An initial supply of these isotopes was needed before the new pile came into operation, and as supplies from abroad were uncertain it was decided last July to try and supply these materials from the Gleep (Graphite Low Energy Experimental Pile) which was then nearing completion. The Gleep began to operate in August, and by the end of September the apparatus for handling the isotopes had been rushed through the workshops at Harwell.

As a result, production of radio-isotopes was started almost at the same time as the pile worked up to its rated power of 100 kilowatts. The first delivery of radio-iodine, urgently required for an operation at a Liverpool hospital, was made to the Medical Research Council on September 28, 1947.

The monthly production total of radio-isotope samples reached 120 in March of this year, of which one-third was used at Harwell. The remainder went to hospitals and research laboratories all over the country.