

casein. On improvement to a casein equivalent of 41 gm. no more cases of pellagra occurred.

Chick and Hume (1920) succeeded in producing in three monkeys symptoms very like those of human pellagra. The diet was very carefully selected, and was deficient only in respect that it contained no animal protein. One monkey refused the food after a short time; he lost weight and showed signs of incipient pellagra. The second monkey also lost weight, but the loss was lessened by adding tryptophan, though the addition of other amino-acids lacking in maize had no appreciable effect. This monkey

had signs of pellagra, and was cured by giving a normal diet. The third monkey had its loss of weight arrested by including tryptophan and hexone bases. This monkey showed some of the characteristic symptoms of pellagra, such as the symmetrical bilateral rash.

It appears thus that pellagra is caused by a continuous shortage in the supply of certain amino-acids in the food. A diet containing animal protein in small quantities will supply the needful amino-acids, but a large supply of vegetable protein may not be equally efficient.

### The Cawthron Institute, Nelson, N.Z.

THE building and grounds in which the staff of the Cawthron Institute of Scientific Research has commenced its work were formally opened on Saturday evening, April 2, by his Excellency Lord Jellicoe, Governor-General of the Dominion of New Zealand. The building is a fourteen-roomed house, formerly the residence of the late Mr. John Sharp, and has been fitted up with chemical and biological laboratories, a library, a museum, and offices. The grounds provide room for a considerable amount of investigational work, but an experimental orchard and a site for an arboretum have been secured elsewhere. After being shown over the building by the trustees and staff, Lord and Lady Jellicoe adjourned to the School of Music, where a very enthusiastic gathering of citizens awaited them.

In opening the proceedings the chairman of the Trust, the Lord Bishop of Nelson, gave a short résumé of the events which led to the founding of the institute under the will of the late Mr. Thomas Cawthron, and explained the nature of the difficulties which had been met in attempting to carry into effect the provisions of the will. He also stated that the trustees had been fortunate in securing the unique entomological library of Dr. David Sharp, the editor of the *Zoological Record*.

Lord Jellicoe, in declaring the institute open, emphasised the importance of the co-operation of the workers in pure science with those engaged in industry. He had seen sufficient of the Cawthron Institute and its staff to convince him that the work carried out in the institute would be of very great value indeed.

An account of the work of the staff was then given by the director, Prof. T. H. Easterfield, who stated

that the staff had been working steadily for about eight months. In the chemical laboratory Mr. Rigg, the soil chemist, had obtained sufficient data for the preparation of a preliminary soil-map of the Waimea district, and this was already being eagerly examined by the farmers and fruit-growers of the district. A careful comparison of the chemical constituents of New Zealand mineral oils from various sources had been made by Mr. McClelland. Dr. R. J. Tillyard, the chief biologist, had paid much attention to the question of the control of plant diseases both by inoculation and by the use of natural enemies of insect pests. He had been successful in establishing *Aphelinus mali*, one of the enemies of the woolly aphis. Several entomological papers by Dr. Tillyard and Mr. Alfred Philpott, the assistant entomologist, were already in the press. The relation of hawthorn hedges to the spread of fire-blight and other plant diseases had also been the subject of close inquiry. Dr. Kathleen Curtis, mycologist to the institute, was working out the life-history of several fungoid diseases under New Zealand conditions, and the work was being followed with great interest by the fruit- and tomato-growers. The rapidity with which the building had been converted into a convenient research institute was very largely due to the energy and effectiveness of the curator, Mr. W. C. Davies, whose arrangement of the museum was admirable.

The director announced that during the week following the official opening the institute would be thrown open for four afternoons and one evening, and that the staff would explain the various activities to the public. More than a thousand visitors took advantage of the opportunity to visit the institute.

### Institute of Historical Research in London.

THE opening of the new Institute of Historical Research of the University of London in Malet Street, close to the British Museum, on July 8 is a notable event on which warm congratulations may be tendered to the University and to Prof. Pollard. London University has always led the van in the recognition of research, and the new institute is to be devoted to the extension of knowledge. The inauguration of the building has been happily made the occasion of an Anglo-American Conference of Professors of History. London University, a pioneer in so many directions, created in 1920 the first post in England for the history of medicine. We have already referred to the systematic courses in the history of science that are being developed at University College, and it was in harmony with this London tradition that a sectional meeting of the congress was

held on Wednesday, July 13, to discuss "Anglo-American Co-operation in the Publication of Documents and Results of Research on Medieval Science and Thought." The meeting was well attended, and the chair was taken by Mr. A. G. Little, who spoke of the immense amount of important medieval material by English writers still waiting to be edited. He emphasised the need of scholars keeping in touch with one another's work.

Dr. Singer spoke of the educational value of the history of science and of the advantages accruing both to professor and student when to specialised research in a purely scientific field is added a general training as a qualification for a degree. Mr. Charles Johnson, of the Public Record Office, suggested that the editing of a text formed an excellent training for historical research, and suggested that such work, carried