his B.Sc. in 1944 and his doctorate in 1947. During the Second World War he worked on the chemistry of penicillin, research which led him to the development of methods for the stepwise degradation and synthesis of peptides. After the War, he continued his research at the Imperial College, London, under the direction of Sir Ian Heilbron and Dr. A. H. Cook, and in 1949 he was awarded a Rockefeller Foundation fellowship to work under Prof. K. Linderstrøm-Lang at the Carlsberg Laboratories, Copenhagen. From 1951 until his death he was an invaluable member of the Hormone Research Laboratory at the University of California, Berkeley. During this period, he developed a new solvent system for the two-dimensional chromatography of amino-acids on buffered papers, which has been widely adopted. His recent discovery of a new method for the quantitative microanalysis of amino-acids in proteins and peptides represents an outstanding advance in the field, and had already gained him world-wide recognition. Just before his death, he was engaged in research involving the structure and possible synthesis of adrenocorticotrophic hormone.

His former teacher, Sir Ian Heilbron, in a letter of sympathy to Levy's mother, wrote, "His most recent work was quite outstandingly brilliant, and Science, the world over, is the poorer by his passing". But the loss of this young biochemist is measured in terms not only of science, but also of humanity. His quick enthusiasm, his zest for life, and his warm generosity established him firmly in the affections of all who knew him, and he is sincerely mourned by all his colleagues and friends. C. H. Li

NEWS and VIEWS

Jôkichi Takamine (1854–1922)

Jôkichi Takamine, the discoverer of the active principle in chemically pure form of the suprarenal glands, was born in Takaoka, Japan, a century ago on November 3, 1854. He was educated at Osaka, Kyoto and Tokyo and, after graduating in technology at the Imperial University of Japan in 1879, went with a government scholarship to the University of Glasgow, studying the chemistry of brewing at Anderson's College. On his return to Japan he was appointed chief of the Chemistry Division in the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, but resigned two years later to devote himself to industry. He developed the first superphosphate works in Japan, the Tokyo Artificial Fertilizer Company, and discovered the starch-digesting enzyme takadiastase. The remainder of his career was spent mainly in the United States where, in addition to his scientific activities, he wielded considerable political influence, being recognized as the unofficial representative of Japan. Joining Parke, Davis and Co., of Detroit and New York, in 1898, he began his search for the active principle of the suprarenal glands, a task which had been unsuccessfully attempted by some of the world's leading physiological chemists, and in 1901 he succeeded in obtaining adrenalin (as he called it) in stable and pure crystalline form. Takamine played a prominent part in developing Japanese industry and technical education and in establishing the Imperial Research Institute. A firm believer in the role of medicine as a civilizing force in Asiatic countries, he strove to promote better understanding between the country of his birth and that of his adoption. Recipient of many honours and a cultured, public-spirited and charming personality, Takamine died in New York City on July 22, 1922, at the age of sixty-eight.

Conference of Czechoslovak Archæologists

The "Ninth Working Conference of Czechoslovak Archæologists", organized in Prague during September 25–30 by the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, included visitors from Britain, East and West Germany, Hungary, Poland and the U.S.S.R., as well as Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia, and the themes were treated from a general Central European point of view. (Before 1945, Czech archæology had tended to be rather excessively Bohemian, partly of course because Moravia and Slovakia were far less well explored.) The central theme was the chronology of early Slav settlement, as determined largely by pottery. Poulik from Moravia opened with an able restatement of the traditional thesis of Pič, adjusted to accommodate the enormously augmented data, according to which early Slav pottery, and therefore its makers, is to be derived from the Lusatian urnfields of the Late Bronze Age. But this thesis was stringently criticized in a lively debate. The visitors were also able to see several early Slav oppida, excavated with superb technical skill so as to disclose the remarkable wooden constructions in their ramparts and the plans of wooden houses enclosed therein, as well as the encampment of mammoth hunters at Pavlov, near Dolni Věstonice, later in date than the classic Gravettian site, but, like it, yielding clear hut plans, a rich industry in flint, bone, antler and ivory (not distinctively Magdalenian in character) and interesting art objects. They also visited the new archæological institute established at Nitra by the Slovak Academy of Sciences; the institute is well equipped, and already stocked with a wealth of relics derived from scientific excavations in this rich metalliferous region that had previously been represented in the archæological record only by stray finds.

Rumford Bicentenary: Celebrations in Boston

The Rumford bicentennial issue of the *Proceedings of the American Academy of Sciences and Arts* (**82**, No. 7, 249; December 1953) is the complete record of the scientific and biographical papers presented at the symposium which marked the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Thompson, Count Rumford, and which was held at the Academy in Boston during March 26–28, 1953 (see *Nature*, **170**, 954 (1952); **171**, 538, 540 and 947 (1953)). In the introductory article by Harlow Shapley, chairman of the Rumford Bicentennial Committee, the celebrations are described and the illustrated bill of fare of the birthday banquet, which was compiled by Prof. Sanborn C. Brown, is reproduced. Prof. Brown also directed the preparation of the various models of the inventions and contrivances of Count Rumford which were on exhibit and delivered the Rumford Bicentennial Lecture, the text of which is included in the bicentennial issue and which also appears in

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