secondary and ignore the important and preventable causes of death hinder the reduction of deaths among the newborn, they assert.

They point to the need for further study of the factors responsible for premature births.

At present the principal and most helpful field of endeavor, these doctors declare, is to make certain that the infant is in skilled medical hands.

Science News Letter, August 14, 1937

CHEMISTRY

Cotton Industry Backward In Applying Chemistry

MOST laymen, and too many textile manufacturers also, think of cotton as a finished fiber that nature has produced, and to which man can do but little more than to spin and weave it into fabric. This lack of realization of what chemistry can do to cotton is a sizable factor in the rise of the synthetic rayon fibers. Rayon came out of the laboratory so that chemical treatment of these man-made fibers has been natural. Not so has been the processing of raw cotton into the newer finishes that attract the eye, lend utility and bring new profits.

Mercerizing cotton, for years, was about the only chemical treatment applied to cotton. But cotton treated with a solution of copper oxide in ammonia yields wool effects. A variation of this treatment gives a permanent lustrous finish approaching that of rayon.

Treating cotton with strong sulphuric acid will give either a linen or a parchment-like finish depending on controlled conditions. Even a measure of transparency can be obtained with sulphuric acid applied at low temperatures.

Dr. Walter M. Scott, textile expert of Gustavus J. Esselen, Inc., Boston consulting chemists also points out that the dyeing properties of cotton can be entirely changed and simultaneously special waterproofing effects produced by treating the cotton fibers so that they are partially converted to esters of cellulose. Ordinary cotton dyes do not "take" on such "immunized" cotton but dyes similar to those used for acetate rayon will.

With a few exceptions, Dr. Scott declares, the cotton industry as a whole is backward about using, to full advantage, the chemical knowledge that could aid it.

Science News Letter, August 14, 1937

DOCUMENTATION

American Delegation Goes to World Documentation Meet

AMERICAN science, scholarship and libraries will be represented when the World Congress of Documentation convenes in Paris August 16 to discuss how the written and pictorial records of the world can be more efficiently organized.

An official delegation has been appointed by the United States, headed by Watson Davis, director of Science Service and president of the newly-organized American Documentation Institute.

Other members of the delegation include:

Miss Claribel R. Barnett, Librarian, Department of Agriculture; Dr. William Warner Bishop, Librarian, University of Michigan; Rudolph Block (Bruno Lessing) New York City; Dr. Worthington C. Ford, Honorary European Representative of the Library of Congress, Paris; Herman H. Fussler, Microphotographic Laboratory, University of Chicago; Miss M. Alice Matthews, Librarian, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; Miss Margery Quigley, Librarian, Free Public Library, Montclair, N. J., Miss Sabra M. Vought, Librarian, United States Office of Education; Prof. Douglas Waples, Graduate Library School, University of Chicago.

One of the subjects that will be most widely discussed is the use of microfilms in making available the literature of the world that can not be distributed in any other way because of the cost of printing and other methods of duplication. Microfilms are small photographs of books, manuscripts, photographs, and other material, each page or sheet occupying less than a square inch on what appears to be ordinary motion picture film. The cost of microfilm is only about a cent a page.

Science News Letter, August 14, 1937

DOCUMENTATION

Scholars Form American Documentation Institute

THE AMERICAN Documentation Institute, organized this year on behalf of some 60 national scholarly, scientific and informational organizations and institutions, is a creation of the intellectual world fashioned to attempt the solution of some of the problems that surround publication, bibliography, library facilities and other phases of documentation in the fields of research, education and learning.

It will give special attention to such new tools in documentation as microphotographic duplication. It will encourage, cooperate with and in some cases operate Bibliofilm Services (services for copying on microfilm) in libraries and elsewhere in order that the world's great store of recorded knowledge may be most easily accessible to those who need to use the literature for research purposes. It will cooperate with existing journals and institutions in publishing through microfilm essential research material that is not required in large editions.

In fields less new the American Documentation Institute will be able to act as an operating agency that can cut across different intellectual fields. Projects under investigation include document preservation, cooperative publishing by offset lithography, etc.

By establishing relations with similar organizations in other countries and through participation in international efforts in documentation, the American Documentation Institute will be able to facilitate world interchange of literature and information.

The documentation activities of Science Service, the institution for the popularization of science, developed during the past two years became a nucleus for the American Documentation Institute. Such a national organization was foreseen as an outcome of Science Service's documentation activities when they were begun in July, 1935, implemented with grants from the Chemical Foundation and conducted with the cooperation of

Science Service, Inc. is collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve, and extend access to *The Science News-Letter.* www.jstor.org