The secretary reported that thirty-one applications for grants had been received, the total amount asked for being nearly $9,000. After a thorough discussion and extended deliberation, the board found itself obliged to refuse a number of applications of high merit to which it would have been very glad to extend aid, had the resources of the fund permitted. It was voted to make the following new grants:

No. 117, $100 to Professor E. Salkowski and Dr. C. Neuberg, Berlin, Germany, for an experimental study of glycuronic acid. (Application 966.)

No. 118, $200 to Professor Th. Boveri, Würzburg, Germany, for an experimental study of the early development of sea urchin eggs. (Application 981.)

No. 119, $100 to Professor J. P. McMurrich, Ann Arbor, Mich., for the study of Actinians from the Malayan Archipelago. (Application 984.)

No. 120, $50 to Professor E. H. Archibald, Syracuse, N. Y., for researches on the electrical conductivity of solutions of organic bodies in the liquefied halogen hydrides. (Application 987.)

No. 121, $200 to Professor A. Debierne, Paris, France, for the isolation and study of Actinium. (Application 988.)

No. 122, $200 to Dr. Fr. Nušl and J. J. Frič, Prague, Austria, for perfecting an instrument for the determination of latitude and time without the use of levels. (Application 991.)

No. 123, $200 to Professor E. C. Jeffrey, Cambridge, Mass., for the study of cupressineous conifers. (Application 998.)

No. 124, $150 to Professor P. Bachmetjew, Sofia, Bulgaria, for the study of the anabiotic condition in warm-blooded animals. (Application 999.)

CHARLES S. MINOT,
Secretary.

MEDALS AND AWARDS OF THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

THE London *Times* states that with the approval of the king, the council of the Royal Geographical Society has decided to award the two royal medals for this year to Sir Martin Conway (Founder's Medal) and Captain C. H. D. Ryder, R.E. (Patron's Medal).

During a long series of years Sir Martin Conway has devoted himself to the exploration of various mountain regions of the world—the Alps, the Himalayas and the Andes; and, further, has done useful work among the islands of Spitsbergen. In a series of papers and maps contributed to the society, as well as in separate publications, he has made, as a result of these explorations, large and valuable contributions to geographical knowledge.

Captain Ryder's claim to a Royal Medal rests mainly on the important and extensive work which he accomplished while acting as principal survey officer on the recent Tibet Mission. Not only did he execute a large amount of survey work and mapping while on the main expedition, but as survey officer in the expedition into Western Tibet he surveyed and mapped the Upper Brahmaputra to its source, as well as the Sutlej and the Gartok tributary of the Indus. He also surveyed the whole of the line of mountains lying north of the Himalayas, and proved that there is no peak that can approach Mount Everest in altitude. Before these experiences Captain Ryder, in 1899–1900, carried out a careful survey of the province of Yunnan, the results of which, comprising a map radically altering those previously compiled, he contributed to the society.

This year an award is again made of the Victoria Research Medal, which was instituted on the death of Queen Victoria, and is bestowed as occasion may arise in recognition of distinguished service to the cause of geographical research, as distinguished from exploration. The new recipient—the third to receive the medal—will be Mr. J. G. Bartholomew. During many years Mr. Bartholomew has done much to raise the standard of cartography in Great Britain. He has edited and issued large atlases of England and Scotland; he has planned and issued the first volume of a great physical atlas which will take the first place among works of its kind; he has for years been collecting material for a com-

plete atlas of the British Empire. All this has been achieved at his own expense, and has entailed the expenditure of thousands of pounds, which he can never hope to recover.

Of the society's minor awards, the Murchison Grant goes to Mr. William Wallace, C.M.G., Deputy High Commissioner of the Northern Nigeria Protectorate. During the many years he has served as an official in Northern Nigeria, Mr. Wallace has rendered great service to exploration and geography, both directly and indirectly. Colonel F. R. Maunsell, R.A., is awarded the Gill Memorial for his explorations during many years' residence in Asia Minor, and in particular for the large map which he has compiled, largely from his own materials, and placed at the disposal of the society. The recipient of the Cuthbert Peek Grant is Mr. Francis J. Lewis, who has made valuable contributions to the knowledge of botanical distribution by his researches into the geographical distribution of vegetation in the North of England. Finally, Captain Philip Maud, R.E., is designated to receive the Back Grant for valuable survey work in 1903 along the southern border of Abyssinia.

PROFESSOR WILHELM OSTWALD AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

Harvard University has invited Professor Wilhelm Ostwald, of the University of Leipzig, to serve as lecturer in the first half of the coming academic year, under the arrangement for an exchange of professors which has recently been agreed upon by Harvard University and the German Government. Professor Ostwald is regarded as one of the founders of the modern science of physical chemistry; and he has achieved a position of the highest rank in the scientific world, not only as an investigator and thinker, but also as a reformer, organizer and teacher in the field of natural science. With J. H. van't Hoff, Ostwald founded in 1887 the *Zeitschrift für physikalische Chemie,* and in 1901 the *Annalen der Naturphilosophie.* In 1904 he gave the Faraday lecture before the Royal Society. He has been a prolific and indefatigable investigator and writer, and a list of his publications would occupy several closely printed pages. Although he achieved eminence first in the field of physical chemistry, Professor Ostwald has during the last four or five years diverted, or perhaps rather extended, his studies to the broad field of the philosophy of science, a subject to which one of his best-known works, as well as the *Annalen* above mentioned, is devoted.

Professor Ostwald has not yet definitely announced the subjects of the courses which he will give during his residence at Harvard. It is hoped, however, that he will give one course counting for a degree on the history of science, a course which would be of interest to students in all branches of science as well as to students of philosophy. It is also hoped that he will announce one or two courses in his special field of physical chemistry, thus affording a rare opportunty to graduate students in chemistry who may be in residence next year.

Friedrich Wilhelm Ostwald was born in the city of Riga in Russia September 2, 1853. He attended the Kronsknabenschule and the Realgymnasium of Riga, showing as a schoolboy a remarkable talent for writing and drawing, which he put into use as editor of a schoolboy magazine. In 1872, against the wish of his father, who thought to make an engineer of him, he entered the University of Dorpat in Russia to pursue the study of chemistry. In 1875 he became an assistant in physics to von Oettingen. He took the master's examination at Dorpat in 1877 and the doctorate in 1878. In 1879 he began his teaching career as a privatdocent, and in the same year exchanged his assistantship in physics for one in chemistry under Carl Schmidt. In 1881 he was called to a professorship of chemistry at the Polytechnikum in his native city, and held this place until 1887, when he accepted an appointment as professor of physical chemistry at Leipzig—the position which he still holds. Professor Ostwald was one of the delegates to the International Congress of Arts and Science at St. Louis last year.

A CONFERENCE OF ANATOMISTS.

Invitations have been issued by the Wistar Institute of Anatomy, Philadelphia, to ten of