

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.

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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 opportunity 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 school-boy a remarkable talent for writing and drawing, which he put into use as editor of a school-boy 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.

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A CONFERENCE OF ANATOMISTS.

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

the leading anatomists of the United States to participate in a conference in the interests of anatomy in America. Two sessions of this conference were to be held in the library of the Wistar Institute, on April 11 and 12, beginning each day at 10:30 A.M. The object of this conference is to discuss the possibility, advisability and means of organizing central institutes for the promotion of research in the different subdivisions of anatomy such as physical anthropology, comparative anatomy, topographical anatomy, embryology, histology and neurology, and to establish relationship with similar institutes abroad. The conference was proposed by Dr. M. J. Greenman, director of the Wistar Institute, and the following anatomists are expected to be present: Dr. Lewellys F. Barker, professor of anatomy, Chicago University; Dr. Edwin G. Conklin, professor of zoology, University of Pennsylvania; Dr. Henry H. Donaldson, professor of neurology, University of Chicago; Mr. Simon H. Gage, professor of embryology, Cornell University; Dr. G. Carl Huber, professor of embryology, University of Michigan; Dr. Geo. S. Huntington, professor of anatomy, Columbia University; Dr. Franklin P. Mall, professor of anatomy, Johns Hopkins University; Dr. J. P. McMurrich, professor of anatomy, University of Michigan; Dr. Chas. S. Minot, professor of embryology, Harvard University; Dr. George A. Piersol, professor of anatomy, University of Pennsylvania.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

THE National Academy of Sciences will hold its annual stated session at Washington, beginning Tuesday, April 18.

THE American Philosophical Society is this week holding its general meeting at Philadelphia.

DR. R. S. WOODWARD, president of the Carnegie Institution, was given a dinner by his colleagues at Columbia University, at Delmonico's, on April 4. Speeches were made by President Butler, Mr. Andrew Carnegie, Dr. John S. Billings, Professor E. B. Wilson and President Woodward.

DR. H. A. LORENTZ, professor of physics in the University of Leyden, and Professor V.

F. Bjerknes, professor of mathematical physics in the University of Stockholm, will give courses of lectures at Columbia University next year.

PROFESSOR HENRY S. CARHART, who holds the chair of physics at the University of Michigan, and Professor W. B. Scott, who holds the chair of geology at Princeton, have been invited to join the official party to attend the South African meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science this summer.

PROFESSOR R. W. WOOD, of the department of physics of the Johns Hopkins University, and Dr. H. S. Jennings, of the zoological department of the University of Pennsylvania, have been elected honorary fellows of the Royal Microscopical Society of Great Britain.

PROFESSOR HUGO DE VRIES, professor of botany at Amsterdam, has been made a foreign member of the Belgian Academy of Sciences.

PROFESSOR E. VON DRYGALSKI has been elected a foreign member of the Geographical Society of Vienna.

THE Fothergillian prize of the Medical Society of London for 1905 has been awarded, by the council of the society, to Sir Frederick Treves in recognition of the value of his work in connection with abdominal surgery.

PROFESSOR WILLIAM H. PICKERING, of the Harvard College Observatory, will observe the total eclipse of the sun on August 30, in Algeria.

PROFESSOR ALBERT M. REESE, of Syracuse University, will go to Florida at the end of May under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institution to collect eggs of the alligator with which to work out its embryology; subsequently he will spend some time at the biological laboratory of the Carnegie Institution on the Dry Tortugas.

DR. MARCUS S. FARR, curator in the Department of Paleontology, Princeton University, will again this year conduct an expedition to Wyoming and Montana.

At the meeting of the Physicochemical Club of Boston and Cambridge, at Harvard Union, on March 27, Professor A. A. Noyes spoke on the conductivity of certain acids, bases and