

journal articles on every chemical subject and supply this information when called for, and if desired, send the books containing the references by express.

It is even proposed to make arrangements to have articles copied if necessary, and even to have translations made. In other words, it is hoped that with proper endowment and proper support the Perkin Library will become of the utmost value to the chemical profession. All that is necessary is the interest and cooperation of the chemical profession and some assistance from others.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

ON the occasion of the dedication of the new engineering building of the University of Pennsylvania on October 19, honorary degrees of doctor of science were conferred as follows: Alexander MacKenzie, colonel of the United States Engineers; Samuel Sheldon, professor of physics and electrical engineering in the Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute; Mansfield Merriman, professor of civil engineering in Lehigh University; Frederick P. Stearns, chief engineer of the Boston Metropolitan Water Board; Edgar Marburg, professor of civil engineering in the University of Pennsylvania; Charles Whiteside Rae, engineer in chief of the United States Navy; Henry Wilson Spangler, professor of mechanical and electrical engineering in the University of Pennsylvania; M. M. H. Vetillart, representative of the government of France at the dedication; Frederick Winslow Taylor, consulting mechanical engineer, of Philadelphia; Samuel Matthews Vaucrain; John Fritz, mechanical engineer, Bethlehem, Pa., and Ramon Icarola, representative of the Mexican government.

SIR DAVID GILL, astronomer royal in South Africa, is about to retire from the active duties of the position.

THE third course of lectures on the Herter foundation at the Johns Hopkins University was delivered by Sir Almroth E. Wright, M.D., F.R.S., late professor of pathology in the Army Medical School, Netley, and pathologist to the St. Mary's Hospital, London. The sub-

ject of the lectures was 'The therapeutic inoculation of bacterial vaccines and its application in connection with bacterial disease.'

DR. W. OSLER delivered the Harveian oration at the College of Physicians, London, on the eighteenth inst.

THE seventh annual Huxley memorial lecture of the Anthropological Institute will be given on November 1, when Professor W. M. Flinders Petrie, F.R.S., will deliver an address on 'Migrations.'

THE National Health Society will hold a public meeting at University College, London, on October 29, to discuss the subject of the purity of the meat and milk supply. The chair will be taken by Sir Frederick Treves, and among the speakers announced are Sir William Broadbent and Sir James Crichton-Browne.

THE Bradshaw lecture before the Royal College of Surgeons of England will be delivered by Mr. Edmund Owen, December 12, the subject being 'Cancer: its treatment by modern methods.'

MR. F. W. LEVANDER has been nominated for president of the British Astronomical Association. The election will take place at the annual meeting on October 31.

DR. ROBERT E. COKER has resigned the Adam T. Bruce fellowship in biology in Johns Hopkins University, having been appointed by the Peruvian government to take charge of the work in connection with the marine fisheries in Peru.

MR. LOUIS J. DE MILHAU, A.B. (Harvard, '06), and Mr. John W. Hastings, A.B. (Harvard, '05), A.M. (Harvard, '06), have been appointed members of the Peabody Museum staff as ethnologists of the South American Expedition.

DR. G. C. SIMPSON, lecturer in meteorology at the University of Manchester, has been appointed assistant to the director of observatories under the Indian government.

J. B. MOWRY has been appointed commissioner of forestry in Rhode Island.

MR. J. J. DEARBORN, of the Harvard Forestry School, has been appointed assistant to

Professor F. W. Rane, state forester of Massachusetts.

DR. G. H. WHIPPLE has been appointed assistant pathologist at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, to succeed Dr. C. H. Bunting, who has resigned to accept the position of professor of pathology at the University of Virginia.

DR. HENRY M. HURD, professor of psychiatry in the Johns Hopkins Medical School, has been given a year's leave of absence and will spend it in Europe, leaving about November 15.

A REUTER message from Wellington, New Zealand, reports that a monument to Captain Cook was unveiled on October 8 in the presence of a large gathering of both races at Poverty Bay, on the east coast of the North Island, at the spot where the explorer landed.

THE German Dermatological Society has decided to subscribe 5,000 Marks to the Fritz Schaudinn fund, and to give the first volume of the society's publications the title 'In Memoriam Fritz Schaudinn.'

THE Museo Goeldi at Para, in Brazil, desires an American naturalist, a young man of solid character, who can adapt himself to new surroundings, as taxidermist and general preparator in the museum. Application may be made to Dr. Goeldi, 399 Caixa Postal, in Para, or to Dr. John C. Branner, at Stanford University, Cal.

SIR GEORGE DARWIN has invited the International Geodetic Congress to meet at Cambridge in 1909.

SINCE October 1, 1906, no publications are sold by the Nautical Almanac Office or by the Bureau of Equipment. All orders for copies of the *American Ephemeris, Nautical Almanac* or astronomical papers should now that date be addressed to the superintendent of documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

WE learn from the *Journal of the American Medical Association* that the mother of the late professor of chemistry at Basle, George W. A. Kahlbaum, has presented \$9,500 to the National Society for the Study of the History of Medicine and Science, which was re-

cently founded by her deceased son. She has also given the Berlin branch of the same society \$5,000.

The Chemical Engineer states that the committee on the purity of reagents of the American Chemical Society, J. H. Long, chairman, has decided that it is inadvisable at this time to publish a book on the testing of reagents, as the amount of new data collected is so small that such a work would be only a duplicate of the well-known work of Dr. Krauch. It was also decided to limit the work of this committee, in the immediate future, to the commoner acids and alkalies, and to send out circulars to prominent manufacturers, in this country and Europe, inquiring as to the methods in use by them for testing for impurities found in the reagent grades of these acids and alkalies. Dr. H. N. Stokes, of the Bureau of Standards, has been chosen secretary of the committee. This bureau now has two chemists working upon methods of testing for reagents. So far their attention has been chiefly devoted to perfecting an accurate colorimetric method for determining traces of iron in reagents.

Two years ago, after two years' continuous effort, the New York Zoological Park secured a fine specimen of the almost extinct California condor. The bird has been kept in fine health until a few days ago. Last Saturday, however, it showed signs of illness, and on Tuesday it died, evidently in great pain. Previous to the autopsy its death was a mystery; but Dr. Blair's examination soon revealed the cause. This fine bird, worth at least \$300, and the only specimen obtained in four years, was killed by a large rubber band, presumably administered by some visitor. The rubber band had lodged in the pyloric orifice of the stomach, completely closing it, and arresting the entire process of digestion. It is such exasperating occurrences as this and the murder of a valuable bear with four peach-stones that compel the Zoological Society to forbid the feeding of animals by visitors. Hereafter the vigilance of the keepers and police will be redoubled, and visitors must refrain from offering any object to any of the wild crea-

tures in the Zoological Park, whether mammal, bird or reptile.

The *British Medical Journal* states that during the weeks ended August 18, 25, and September 1 and 8 the number of deaths from plague in India amounted to 1,451, 2,113, 2,522 and 3,134, respectively. The principal figures are: Bombay Presidency, 879, 1,288, 1,388 and 1,850; Bengal, 70, 97, 115 and 83; United Provinces, 109, 164, 49 and 163; Central Provinces, 99, 109, 190 and 362; Madras Presidency, 8, 100, 9 and 10; Burmah, 182, 132, 112 and 92; Central India, 0, 197, 303 and 362. Baluchistan and the Frontier Provinces remain free from the plague. The worst area in the Bombay Presidency was Poona City, with 439 seizures and 399 deaths. Bubonic plague in monkeys and cats is reported from two districts in the United Provinces. In the jungles a number of wild animals are reported to have died of the disease.

WE learn from the *Experiment Station Record* that in order to make better provisions for research work in forestry, and to secure a permanent staff of forest experts for scientific research, as well as for training candidates for the government and state forestry service, the Imperial Forestry School at Dehra Dun, India, has been enlarged and hereafter will be known as the Imperial Forestry Research Institute and College. The college staff will include officers of the imperial service, holding the following positions: (1) Sylviculturist, who will make sylviculture his special study. (2) Superintendent of forest working plans, who will collect and collate statistics of the results of forestry management throughout India. (3) Forest zoologist, who will investigate the damages caused by insects and other pests. (4) Forest botanist, who will study the botany of forest plants, distribution of species, diseases of forest trees, etc. (5) Forest chemist, who will investigate the chemical properties of soils and forest produce. (6) Forest economist, who will study economic methods of commercial timber production and marketing. These officers, while engaged primarily in research work, will each deliver a course of lectures on his special subject in the college, and take part in the training of the

students. The work of instruction, however, will for the most part be carried on by four assistant instructors.

It is stated in *Nature* that the opening session of the International Congress on Methods of Testing was held in the Palais des Académies, Brussels, on September 3, under the presidency of Mr. F. Berger (Vienna). Five hundred members were present from eighteen different countries. Addresses of welcome were delivered by Count de Smet de Naeyer, the Belgian prime minister, and by Mr. H. Raemackers, secretary of the Department of Railways. An address was then given by Professor F. Schüle (Zurich) in memory of the deceased president, Ludwig von Tetmejer. A report on the work of the executive council since the last congress was presented by Mr. Berger, and interesting papers on the iron and steel industry of Belgium and on the Belgian cement industry were read by Baron E. de Laveleye and Mr. E. Camerman. The mornings of September 4, 5 and 6 were devoted to the work of the sections and the afternoons to excursions. Excursions to the works of the Cockerill Company at Seraing and to Ostend were arranged for September 7, 8 and 9. The congress is held under the patronage of the King of the Belgians, who on September 2 received the members of council.

ACCORDING to the *Electrical World*, the Vienna Imperial Academy of Sciences has announced the result of its examination of uranium earth from the Joachimsthal state mines in Bohemia, conducted in the academy's laboratories in Vienna. About 50 tons of earth were subjected to tests and experiments, yielding radium products worth at the present market price more than \$200,000. Dr. Hartinger conducted the investigation. The products thus obtained will not be sold, but will remain the property of the academy and will be used for further scientific research. The Austrian ministry of agriculture has decided to build its own laboratories at Joachimsthal for the production of radium salts. It is also proposed to exploit the healing properties of radium by establishing a health resort and using the springs in the mines for curative purposes, both in baths and for drinking.