

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. E. RAY LANKESTER will retire from the directorship of the Natural History Museum, London, in October. It is understood that the inadequate pension originally proposed by the trustees has been about doubled. The trustees have decided not to appoint a new director, though it is possible that this plan may be changed.

LORD KELVIN will open the new science buildings of Queen's College, Belfast, on September 20.

PROFESSOR J. P. IDINGS, of the University of Chicago, Dr. John M. Clarke, director of the Science Division of the New York Education Department, and Professor R. S. Tarr, of Cornell University, will represent the American Association for the Advancement of Science at the celebration of the centenary of the Geological Society of London to be held this month.

AMONG the honorary degrees conferred on the occasion of the celebration of the three hundredth anniversary of the University of Giessen, was that of doctor of philosophy on Dr. Ernest W. Rutherford, professor of physics at Manchester, and doctor of medicine on Dr. A. A. W. Hubrecht, professor of zoology at Utrecht. Dr. Hubrecht is at present in this country as delegate to the International Zoological Congress.

AN honorary doctorate of medicine has been conferred by the medical faculty of Heidelberg on Baron J. v. Uexküll for his researches on the processes of stimulation in nerves and muscles.

THE John Scott legacy medal and premium of the Franklin Institute of Philadelphia has been awarded to Professor J. A. Ewing, F.R.S., and Mr. L. H. Walter for their method of detecting electrical oscillations.

DR. C. DE BRUYN, professor of botany and zoology at Ghent, is president of the Flemish Congress of Naturalists, which meets this month at Malines.

PRESIDENT WILLIAM DEWITT HYDE, of Bowdoin College, will, owing to the state of his health, probably be unable to return to

this country to resume his duties during the present year.

News has been received from the expedition under Mr. Vilhjalmur Stefansson, which in the schooner *Dutchess of Bedford* has been exploring north of the Mackenzie River, that all the members of the expedition are safe.

THE daily papers state that Professor Carl C. Lorentzen, of New York University, has arrived at Copenhagen with the object of furthering a scheme for an exchange of professors between Danish and American universities similar to that in vogue between Germany and the United States. Count Raben, the foreign minister, expressed sympathy with the idea and said he would present the proposal at the next session of Parliament.

UNDER the auspices of the New York Academy of Sciences Dr. D. Le Soüef, director of the Zoological Gardens, Melbourne, Australia, gave an illustrated lecture on "The Wild Animal Life of Australia" at the American Museum of Natural History, on Monday evening, September 9.

PROFESSOR GAYLORD P. CLARK, A.M., M.D., dean of the College of Medicine, Syracuse University, died very suddenly at his residence on September 1. He had but recently returned from several months absence in Europe, and was actively organizing the work of his college for the coming opening. His death is a serious loss to the college and to the university, as well as to the community, and will be greatly regretted by a large circle of his collaborators in physiology.

THE deaths are also announced of Dr. E. Petersen, docent in chemistry at the University of Copenhagen, at the age of fifty-one years, and of Giuseppe Grattarola, professor of mineralogy in the Institute for Higher Studies at Florence.

THE U. S. Civil Service Commission announces an examination on October 23-24, 1907, to fill a vacancy in the position of anatomist (male), at \$1,600 per annum, in the Army Medical Museum, office of the Surgeon General, and other similar vacancies as they may occur there.

THE Royal Botanic Society has received a legacy of about \$1,000 from the estate of Mr. Edward Baker, of The Cedars, Clapham-common, for thirty-six years a fellow of the society.

DR. A. GRAHAM BELL has erected at his place at Baddeck, N. S., a tower, eighty feet in height, built of the tetrahedral cells which he invented to secure great strength and lightness in the construction of kites. The engineer was Mr. F. W. Baldwin, of Toronto. It is said that the tower weighs less than five tons and will carry a weight of 50,000 pounds.

AN electrical exhibition has been held in Montreal, commencing on September 2, and from September 11 to 13 the Canadian Electrical Association meets in that city.

THE employees of the Pennsylvania Railroad, numbering 198,000, are to be given a course of practical instruction in first aid to the injured. For this purpose a series of lectures will be delivered at various points along the lines under the direction of the company's medical examiner.

Nature states that two sums, each of 250*l.*, have been received by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers from the Metropolitan Water Board and the chairman of the Court of Arbitration (under the Metropolitan Water Act, 1902), which the donors desire to be used for some engineering purpose connected with the institution. The council have invested the amount—500*l.*—in a trustee security, the income from which they have decided, after consultation with Sir Edward Fry, shall be offered biennially for a paper submitted in accordance with prescribed conditions. It has been further decided that the prize shall be known as the "Water Arbitration Prize," and shall be offered for a paper on an engineering subject to be announced by the council one year before the time for sending in the papers. The prize, which will have a value of approximately 30*l.*, will take any form which the council may from time to time decide.

Nature says: As illustrating further the want of sympathy with scientific research shown by the Indian administrative authori-

ties, to which Professor Ronald Ross, F.R.S., directed attention in an exhaustive article contributed to our issue of June 13, an Indian correspondent writes concerning the rules of the India Office regulating the supply of apparatus to government colleges. According to these rules, our correspondent states, any piece of apparatus of European manufacture—costing more than 3*l.* 7*s.*—can only be obtained by requisitioning through the secretary of state. Requisitions are prepared once a year, and, as a rule, eighteen months elapse between writing a demand and the arrival of the apparatus. It is nearly impossible to foresee everything that may be required during the prosecution of a research, and it happens sometimes that a man of science must wait three years for necessary material. The reasonable contention is made that professors in India should be permitted to spend their laboratory funds themselves and to deal with manufacturers direct. It is surely not taking too much for granted to suppose that men in responsible positions, who presumably have been selected for their posts with great care, may be trusted to administer their funds honestly and to the best advantage of the institutions with which they are connected. The system of having to requisition scientific instruments and materials a year or more in advance is not confined to India, and it is both discouraging to scientific work and wasteful in practise.

MR. FRANCIS FREMANTLE, late plague medical officer in the Punjab writes as follows in the *London Times*: "For nine years," says Lord Curzon, "the Government of India has conducted an unrelenting campaign against the plague . . . by every method, in fine, that science or experience could suggest." As one of the officers employed in that campaign I venture to say that "science" will repudiate the statement. We know the difficulties were immense and that the Indian government did all that occurred to them to do. But, like all governments, they failed to realize that the scientific method of preventing disease is founded on exact knowledge, obtainable only by research. No one knew how plague was

spread. Did they from the first set apart a representative body of experts to give up their whole time to the investigation of this sole problem? The answer is No. It is only now that this has been done, on far too limited a scale, that, as shown me by Captain Lisbon, I.M.S., in 1904, the rat-flea is being proved to play a chief part in spreading the disease. If this is corroborated by further research, a fresh campaign may be devised with considerable hope of success. The moral for all departments of government is the constant cry of "science"—more research.

WE learn from *The British Medical Journal* that the eighth session of the Australasian Medical Congress will be held in Melbourne from October 19 to October 24, 1908. The president is Professor H. B. Allen, M.D.; the treasurer, Mr. G. A. Syme, M.B., F.R.C.S., and the general secretary, Dr. H. C. Maudsley, F.R.C.P. The vice-presidents include many leading members of the profession in South Australia, New South Wales, Western Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand, and there is a secretary in each of the states of the Australian commonwealth, and in the north and south islands of New Zealand. The council of the University of Melbourne has granted the use of its buildings, and the government of Victoria has undertaken to print the transactions of the congress. Addresses will be given at the plenary sessions of the congress by the presidents of the Sections of Medicine (Dr. G. E. Rennie, of Sydney), Surgery (Dr. B. Poulton, of Adelaide), Pathology and Bacteriology (Dr. F. Tidswell, of Sydney) and Public Health (Dr. J. C. Mason, of Wellington, New Zealand). Special meetings will be devoted to the discussion of (a) the relations of the medical profession to hospitals, and (b) syphilis. There will be eleven sections, the total being completed by the sections of obstetrics and gynecology; anatomy and physiology, with experimental pharmacology; diseases of the eye, ear and throat; neurology and psychiatry; diseases of children; naval and military medicine and surgery; diseases of the skin, radiotherapy and radiography.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

A FURTHER £2,000 has been given by Sir Donald Currie towards the equipment fund of Queen's College, Belfast, bringing up his contributions to the sum of £22,000.

LORD SELBORNE laid the foundation stone of Transvaal University College at Johannesburg on August 29.

FOREIGN journals state that the Governor General of Algeria has brought a proposal for the founding of an Algerian university before the financial delegates, who have adopted it. It will be remembered the late M. Moissan and Professor Bouchard, having inspected the secondary schools in Algiers, reported favorably on the founding of a university. They proposed the establishment of an institute of natural science, experimental botany, zoology and hygiene, and pointed out the political and social effects of the foundation of a university which would form a powerful link between the various races which form the population of Algeria.

THE barns of the new agricultural college at St. Anne de Bellevue, near Montreal, were struck by lightning on September 5 and destroyed. The loss is said to be \$50,000.

IN the medical school of the University of Colorado, Dr. Edward F. Deane has been appointed professor of anatomy; Dr. John Andrew, Jr., demonstrator in anatomy, and Dr. Ross C. Whitman, professor of pathology.

AT the University of Chicago, Reuben M. Strong has been appointed instructor in zoology; Victor E. Shelford, associate in zoology, and Frank H. Pike, associate in physiology.

ARTHUR L. TATUM, of the Ohio State University, has been appointed instructor in chemistry in the University of Colorado.

HARRY J. KESNER, B.A., B.S. (Colorado), has been appointed instructor in bridge engineering at the University of Minnesota.

REGINALD E. HORE, A.B. (Toronto, '05), formerly demonstrator of mineralogy and petrography in the University of Toronto and member of the staff of the Bureau of Mines of Ontario, has been appointed instructor in petrography in the University of Michigan.