

members of the teaching profession, it can not accomplish its announced primary purpose unless its activities are such as, in the opinion of the majority of university teachers, actually tend to advance and dignify their profession. And it can not long retain the beneficial influence which it may properly exercise over the policies of institutions, unless their faculties and governing boards continue to believe that the foundation will fulfill the promises implied in its rules.

Certain recent acts of the foundation appear to us to be not only inequitable in themselves but also to be likely to destroy the confidence of university teachers and university boards in the stability of the foundation's policy, in the trustworthiness of its announcements, and in the general tendency of its work to render the profession more attractive to young men of independent spirit and high ability. While we do not feel called upon to express any opinion concerning the intrinsic desirability of a general and unqualified system of length-of-service pensions, we consider the abrupt abolition of such a system, without notice, after individuals and institutions have for four years been basing their acts upon the foundation's announcement that it would grant such pensions, to be unfair to those directly affected and provocative of indignation in nearly all teachers not directly affected. We, therefore, respectfully request that your board, as early as may be convenient, reconsider its action upon this matter. We believe, also, that further legislation is desirable, with a view to reassuring the academic public against the anticipation of other sudden and radical changes of the foundation's policy, and with a view to promoting a better and more sympathetic understanding between the management of the foundation and the general body of teachers.

While we do not desire to suggest the details of the legislation to be adopted, we are of the opinion that some such measures as the following would make for the advancement of the teaching profession, and therefore for the realization of the purposes of the foundation:

1. The adoption by your board of such supplementary legislation as shall effectually safeguard the interests of those who have, during the past four years, been influenced in the conduct of their affairs by expectations aroused by the old service-pension rule.

2. The adoption of a new rule, whereby no essential changes may be made in any of the fundamental rules of the foundation without several

years' notice, duly promulgated to all of the institutions upon the accepted list.

3. The inclusion in the membership of the board of trustees of representatives of the teaching branch of the profession.

All of which is submitted to your favorable consideration.

C. STUART GAGER,  
W. I. DAUMFORD,  
H. B. SHAW,  
*Committee*

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

PROFESSOR SVANTE ARRHENIUS, of Stockholm, has been appointed Silliman lecturer at Yale University.

DR. GEORGE E. HALE, director of the Mount Wilson Solar Observatory, has been elected an honorary member of the Royal Institution, London.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY will confer honorary degrees this term on Sir Oliver Lodge, F.R.S., principal of the University of Birmingham, and Professor W. H. Perkin, F.R.S., professor of organic chemistry in the Victoria University of Manchester.

At the meeting of the Royal Society on May 5 the following candidates for fellowship were elected into the society: Mr. J. Barcroft, Professor G. C. Bourne, Professor A. P. Coleman, Dr. F. A. Dixey, Dr. L. N. G. Filon, Mr. A. Fowler, Dr. A. E. Garrod, Mr. G. H. Hardy, Dr. J. A. Harker, Professor J. T. Hewitt, Professor B. Hopkinson, Dr. A. Lapworth, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir W. B. Leishman, Mr. H. G. Plimmer and Mr. F. Soddy.

At a meeting of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, held on May 11, it was voted to award the Rumford premium to Charles Gordon Curtis "for his improvements in the utilization of heat as work in the steam-turbine."

DR. F. L. CHASE has been appointed acting director of the Yale Observatory.

PROFESSOR FREDERIC P. GORHAM, of the biological department of Brown University, has been appointed by the commissioners of shell fisheries of the state of Rhode Island to make a study of the distribution of the sewage in

Narragansett Bay in relation to the oyster beds.

MR. P. H. COWELL, F.R.S., chief assistant in the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, has been appointed superintendent of the Nautical Almanac, in succession to Dr. A. M. W. Downing, who has retired.

PROFESSOR FITZGERALD has resigned the chair of engineering in Belfast University.

DR. HARVEY W. WILEY, chief of the Bureau of Chemistry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, has been elected president of the American Therapeutical Society for the coming year. The next meeting of the society will be held in Boston in May, 1911, under the auspices of the Harvard Medical School.

THE Pennsylvania Chapter of the Society of the Sigma Xi has elected Professor I. J. Schwatt president, and Professor Wm. Easby, vice-president for the year 1910-11.

MR. J. B. TYRRELL has been elected president of the Canadian Institute.

MR. ALBAN STEWART, of the botanical staff of the New Hampshire College, has spent more than a year on the Galapagos Islands, making botanical notes and collections, which he has since worked up for publication at the Gray Herbarium of Harvard University, under the direction of Dr. B. L. Robinson.

DR. LOUIS A. BAUER gave an address, under the auspices of the Joseph Leidy Scientific Society, "On the Cruise of the *Carnegie*," on May 10 before the students of Swarthmore College.

MR. DOUGLAS MAWSON, professor of geology at the University of Sydney, is passing through the United States on his way to Australia.

It will be remembered that Mr. Henry Wilde, F.R.S., D.C.L., D.Sc., who had already founded at Oxford the Wilde readership in mental philosophy, the John Locke scholarship, and the Wilde lectureship in natural and comparative religion, established recently an annual lecture on astronomy and terrestrial magnetism, to be called the Halley lecture, "in honor and memory of Edmund Halley, some time Savilian professor of geometry in

the university and astronomer royal, in connection with his important contributions to cometary astronomy and to our knowledge of the magnetism of the earth." Dr. Wilde delivered the first lecture on May 10, the title chosen by him being "On Celestial Ejectamenta."

It is announced that the erection of a laboratory for research in chemistry at Harvard University to be dedicated to the memory of Dr. Wolcott Gibbs is now assured. The small residue required has been underwritten by a friend. The site of the laboratory will probably be near the University Museum.

DR. NOAH KNOWLES DAVIS, professor emeritus of philosophy in the University of Virginia, has died at the age of eighty years.

SIR WILLIAM HUGGINS, eminent for his contributions to astrophysics, past president of the Royal Society and of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, died on May 12, at the age of eighty-six years.

By action of the trustees of the Missouri Botanical Garden, five research fellowships in the Henry Shaw School of Botany have been established, each carrying an allowance of \$500 per year. In memory of the late president of the board of trustees of the garden, who had held that office from the organization of the board until his death this spring, these are to be known as the Rufus J. Lackland Research Fellowships.

REUTER'S agent at Georgetown, British Guiana, says that Sir Francis Lovell, dean of the London School of Tropical Medicine, has concluded his tour in the West Indies. His appeal for subsidies for the school from the various governments has been successful, useful sums being promised from all the British possessions. Barbadoes has promised £50 a year; the Windward Isles £50; the Leeward Isles £100; Jamaica £100, and Trinidad £100, and there is every likelihood that British Guiana will undertake to give a contribution.

In a report of the committee appointed by Provost Harrison, of the University of Pennsylvania, to consider plans for the future

operation of the Phipps Institute, it was recommended that its future policy embrace three fields of activity, and be reported by three correspondent departments—the laboratory, clinical and sociological departments. Work of the laboratory will be devoted principally to the discovery or formulation of some specific remedy for the treatment of tuberculosis. The program outlined for the clinical and sociological departments is divided into four parts: (1) The clinical and social work in allotted districts; (2) social research; (3) general educational work; (4) the stimulating of the public to action.

CONGRESSMAN MANN has introduced two health bills in the House of Representatives. One is a bill to enlarge the Public Health and Marine Hospital Service, changing the name to "The Public Health Service," while continuing it under the Department of the Treasury. The bill creates a division of water supply, to investigate the pollution of streams, and confers authority to investigate tuberculosis, typhoid fever and other diseases. The other is a bill embodying the original suggestions of the Committee of One Hundred before Senator Owen's plan for a department was presented. This makes, at least, six important public health bills now before congress, the other four being the Owen bill (S 6049) in the senate, the same bill in the house introduced independently by Congressmen Creager and Hanna, and a modification of the Owen bill introduced by Congressman Simmons.

At the decennial convention for the Revision of the Pharmacopœia, held in Washington, D. C., on May 10, Dr. H. W. Wiley was elected president and Dr. Joseph P. Remington was made chairman of the revision committee of fifty which will be divided into fifteen sections to which are assigned specific subjects. The next meeting of the committee will be in 1920, but the work of revision is already under way and will be pushed as rapidly as possible. The delegates to this convention are accredited representatives of incorporated medical and pharmaceutical as-

sociations and colleges and of such other scientific societies and federal officials as are specifically named in the constitution, for example, the American Chemical Society and the surgeon-generals of the Army, the Navy and the U. S. Marine-Hospital Service. By amendment to the constitution at the last meeting the following additions were made to the list of officials and organizations authorized to appoint delegates: the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists, the Association of State and National Food and Dairy Departments, the Wholesale Druggists Association and the National Dental Association.

THE School of American Archeology will continue during the year 1910 the work of exploration and excavation of ancient ruins with collateral ethnological and historical work in New Mexico, Utah, Arizona and Central America. The season for work in the southwestern part of the United States is from June 1 to November 1; in Central America it is from December 1 to May 1. Properly qualified persons will be admitted to the field expeditions of the school or to undertake research work under its direction in Santa Fé or elsewhere, on satisfying the staff of their ability for original investigation. Those who desire to undertake such work should write the director, Mr. Edgar L. Hewett, stating his or her wishes, giving such information as to qualification as would naturally be needed and stating when and for what length of time they desire to take up the work.

DURING the week of May 30–June 4 a party of students from the college of agriculture of the University of Wisconsin, under the direction of several members of the faculty, will inspect some of the fine farms, creameries and farm product manufactories of the southeastern part of the state. This form of instruction has been applied to students of animal husbandry in previous years, but has never before been given to students of agriculture in general.