

I have sought to call attention to the difficulties that I have experienced and to directions in which progress could be made at once, and to provision which should be made for the advancement of the study of the British flora with as little delay as possible. There is, I feel assured, the means of making far more rapid and satisfactory progress towards the goal than has yet been accomplished. Many persons are interested in the subject, and would gladly give their aid if they knew in what way to employ it to the best purpose. As a nation we are apt to trust to individual rather than to combined efforts, and to waste much time and labor in consequence, with discouragement of many who would gladly share the labor in a scheme in which definite parts of the work could be undertaken by them.

I believe that a well-organized botanical survey of the British Islands would give results of great scientific value, and that there is need for it. I believe, also, that means exist to permit of its being carried through. There is no ground to expect that it will be undertaken on the same terms as the Geological Survey. A biological survey must be accomplished by voluntary effort, with possibly some help towards meeting necessary expenses of equipment from funds which are available for assistance in scientific research. Is such a survey not an object fully in accord with the objects for which the British Association exists? In the belief that it is so, I ask you to consider whether such a survey should not be undertaken; and, if you approve the proposal, I further ask that a committee be appointed to report on what steps should be taken towards organizing such a survey, and preparing materials for a national flora of the British Islands.

JAMES W. H. TRAIL

#### THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

THE readers of SCIENCE will be interested to know that another gold medal award for chemical research has been established. This medal is to be known as the Willard Gibbs Medal and is founded under the control of the Chicago Section of our society through the generosity of Mr. W. A. Converse, of that city. The rules governing its award as transmitted to me by A. L. Nehls, secretary, are as follows:

I. A gold medal shall be awarded annually for the best paper or address presented before the Chicago Section of the American Chemical Society, provided it be of sufficient merit. This medal shall be known as the Willard Gibbs medal, founded by Wm. A. Converse. The award may be made to any one, provided he be a member of the American Chemical Society at the time the paper or address was delivered, and provided it is eligible under the following conditions:

(a) The medal shall be awarded at the November meeting of the Chicago Section for a paper or address delivered before the section between September 1 of the previous year and July 1 of the year of the award. The first medal shall be awarded in November, 1911.

(b) The paper or address shall be complete in itself, shall be presented by the author, and shall not have been read or published previously. To be considered for the award a type-written copy of the paper or address shall be submitted to the jury, through the chairman of the section.

(c) It is desired that the paper or address, if suitable, be published in one of the publications of the American Chemical Society.

II. The jury to determine the award of the medal shall consist of the chairman of the Chicago Section at the time the award is made, who shall, *ex officio*, be chairman of the jury, and four other members of the section duly elected by it.

III. The executive committee of the Chicago Section shall have the power to decide any question not specifically covered by these rules.

IV. The Chicago Section shall have the power to change or amend these rules under

the same conditions and in the same manner as the by-laws of the section.

CHARLES L. PARSONS,  
*Secretary*

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

A BRONZE statue of Lord Kelvin by Mr. Bruce-Joy is to be erected at Belfast.

SIR WILLIAM CHRISTIE, astronomer royal since 1881, is about to retire and will be succeeded by Professor F. W. Dyson, astronomer royal for Scotland.

DR. OSCAR BOLZA, until recently professor of mathematics in the University of Chicago and still honorary professor there, has been appointed honorary professor at Freiburg, where he will hereafter reside.

It is proposed to present a portrait to the College of Physicians of Dr. James Tyson, who has recently retired from the chair of medicine at the University of Pennsylvania.

GEHEIMRATH F. E. SCHULZE, professor of zoology in the University of Berlin, has celebrated his seventieth birthday. A fine portrait of this eminent man of science has been issued, which will be a source of gratification to his many friends and admirers in America.

DR. FRANZ MERTENS, professor of mathematics at Vienna, and well known for his contributions to the theory of numbers, has celebrated his seventieth birthday.

DR. JOHANN JUSTUS REIN, professor of geography at Bonn, has retired from active service.

DR. J. W. SPENCER has spent the summer in Norway studying certain erosion features.

AN International Congress of Tuberculosis is to be held in Rome next September under the presidency of Professor Guido Baccelli.

DR. HENRY FAIRFIELD OSBORN, president of the American Museum of Natural History, will make the address at the opening of Columbia University, his subject being "Huxley on Education."

THE original laboratory of Liebig in Giesen is to be purchased and preserved as a memorial to the eminent chemist. An anonymous donor has guaranteed 60,000 Marks for this purpose.

A MONUMENT in memory of Dr. Niels Finzen, to whom we owe the light treatment of lupus and other diseases, was recently unveiled at Copenhagen.

*Nature* states that a granite obelisk erected in the parish churchyard of Forfar to the memory of George Don, the Scottish botanist, was unveiled last week by Mr. G. Claridge Druce, who gave an address on Don's achievements as a botanist.

WILLIAM HARMON NILES, Meredith professor of geology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, to which chair he was appointed in 1871, known for his valuable contributions to geology, died on September 13, at the age of seventy-two years.

MR. JOHN LANGTON, formerly Hunterian professor of pathology and surgery at the Royal College of Surgeons, London, died at the age of seventy years.

MR. C. A. BRERETON, a well-known British engineer, has died at the age of fifty-nine years.

DR. F. P. GULLIVER, secretary of Section E—Geology and Geography—American Association for the Advancement of Science, writes that it was impossible to arrange for a summer meeting of Section E at an earlier date than September 15. Between 40 and 50 geologists and geographers had previously expressed their desire to attend such a meeting, but September 15 proved to be too late for many of them, so that it has been decided to give up the meeting for this year. It is hoped, however, that the plans made for this summer meeting at Nantucket and Marthas Vineyard may be carried out at some future time.

THE American Electrochemical Society will hold its next semi-annual meeting in Chicago on October 13, 14, 15.

A REUTER message from Paris states that a private conference of the official delegates of the various governments at the Pure Food Congress has arranged to make certain methods of analysis international, with the consequence that when any food is in future submitted to an analytical test it will have to conform to that international standard.