

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

PROFESSOR E. B. WILSON, of Columbia University, was elected president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science at the Cleveland meeting. A report of the meeting and a list of the other officers elected will be found above. National scientific societies meeting at Cleveland elected presidents as follows: The American Physical Society, Professor B. O. Peirce, of Harvard University; the American Botanical Society, Professor D. H. Campbell, of Stanford University; the American Psychological Association, Professor C. H. Warren, of Princeton University; the Society of the Sigma Xi, Professor J. McKeen Cattell, of Columbia University; the American Society of Naturalists, Professor Ross G. Harrison, of Yale University.

At the annual election of the American Philosophical Society held on January 3, 1913, the following were elected:

President: William W. Keen.

Vice-presidents: William B. Scott, Albert A. Michelson, Edward C. Pickering.

Secretaries: I. Minis Hays, Arthur W. Goodspeed, Amos P. Brown, Harry F. Keller.

Curators: Charles L. Doolittle, William P. Wilson, Leslie W. Miller.

Treasurer: Henry La Barre Jayne.

Councillors: Charlemagne Tower, William Morris Davis, George Ellery Hale, R. A. F. Penrose, Jr., Samuel W. Pennypacker.

THE eighty-first annual meeting of the British Medical Association will be held in Brighton beginning July 22. Dr. W. A. Hollis, consulting physician, Sussex County Hospital, is the president-elect. The address in medicine will be delivered by Professor G. R. Murray, physician to the Royal Infirmary, Manchester. The address in surgery will be delivered by Sir Berkeley Moynihan, professor of clinical surgery in the University of Leeds. The popular lecture will be delivered by Mr. E. J. Spitta.

THE John Fritz medal, awarded annually by the four great engineering societies, has been awarded this year to Mr. Robert Woolston Hunt for his contributions to the development of the Bessemer steel process.

THE Academy of Medicine, Paris, has elected Professor Delezenne an honorary member of the section on anatomy and physiology to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Professor Marc Sée.

DR. W. E. BYERLY, Perkins professor of mathematics at Harvard University, will become professor emeritus at the close of the academic year.

DR. CARL PAAL, director of the laboratory for applied chemistry at Leipzig, and Dr. Fritz Förscher, director of the laboratory for inorganic chemistry in Dresden Technical School, have been elected members of the Leipzig Academy of Science.

PROFESSOR ANDREW BOSS, in charge of the department of farm management of the department of agriculture of the University of Minnesota, has declined an offer to become director of the new government demonstration farms and trial gardens at Mandan, N. D.

PROFESSOR CHARLES PALACHE, of Harvard University, using a fund placed at his disposal by A. F. Holden, '88, has spent six weeks in Maine and New Hampshire collecting minerals for the Mineralogical Museum and the teaching collections.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR FREDERICK STARR, of the department of sociology and anthropology in the University of Chicago, has returned from a six months' expedition to Liberia, the purpose of which was to investigate the social and economic conditions of that region. He was accompanied by Mr. Campbell Marvin, a graduate student of the university.

DR. THOMAS L. WATSON, professor of geology in the University of Virginia, addressed the graduate students in geology at Northwestern University, last month, on the "Occurrence and Geology of Rutile, with Special Reference to the Virginia Deposits."

DR. LEWIS SWIFT, formerly director of the Warner Astronomical Observatory at Rochester, and of the Mount Lowe Observatory on Echo Mountain, California, known for his discoveries of comets and nebulae, died at Binghampton, N. Y., on January 5, aged ninety-three years.

MR. HENRY D. MOSENTHAL, a British chemist, known for his work on explosives, died on December 18, aged sixty-two years.

DR. RUDOLF SCHIMMACK, docent for mathematics at Göttingen, has died at the age of thirty-two years.

THE publishing house of Julius Springer, Berlin, announces the publication beginning with the new year of a new weekly journal "Die Naturwissenschaften," which, according to the announcement, "für den deutschen Wissenschaftsbetrieb ungefähr das leisten soll, was die 'Nature' für den englischen und die 'Science' für den amerikanischen leisten." The numbers will contain about 24 pages; the subscription price will be 24 Marks. The *Naturwissenschaftliche Rundschau*, edited by Professor W. Sklarek and published by Friedrich Vieweg und Sohn, which for twenty-seven years has maintained high scientific standards, will be merged in the new journal.

THE number of visitors to the Zoological Gardens, London, for the past year exceeded 1,000,000, the highest on record, and in accordance with the intention of the Zoological Society the millionth person to pass the turnstiles was presented with a free pass to the gardens for 1913.

A MEETING of the executive committee having charge of the arrangements for the British Association meeting in Birmingham next year was held, as we learn from the *London Times*, on December 5. Mr. Howard Heaton, on behalf of the honorary secretaries, presented an outline of the program, which included an average of five engagements each day for eight days, beginning on September 10. In addition to the usual business meetings and scientific discussions, there will be an inaugural address by the President (Sir William White) on Wednesday, a garden party and reception by the Lord Mayor on Thursday, a garden party given by Messrs. Cadbury at Bournville on Friday, excursions to places of interest in neighboring counties on Saturday, special services in the churches on Sunday, an entertainment by the local committee on Monday, and a garden party on Tuesday. For the benefit of the general public

there will be two evening discussions and six popular lectures by eminent scientists during the week. The suggested program was adopted and referred to a sub-committee to be carried out. Sir George Kenrick presented the report of the finance sub-committee, which stated that the amount required to cover the local expenses of the meeting would probably be not less than £6,000. About half that sum had already been promised in response to private appeals by members of the finance sub-committee, and a public appeal would be issued at the beginning of the new year.

THE Melbourne meeting of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science, as stated in *Nature*, will be held on January 7-14. The president-elect is Professor T. W. E. David, C.M.G., F.R.S., and the retiring president Professor Orme Masson, F.R.S. The meeting will be held at the university, which is surrounded by large grounds, and can provide ample accommodation. Professor Baldwin Spencer, F.R.S., who is spending the year as chief protector of aborigines in the Northern Territory, will deliver a lecture on some of the results he has obtained. A joint discussion of several sections will be held on the genus *Eucalyptus* and its products. A forest league is being formed in the various states, under the auspices of the association, which it is hoped will rouse public opinion to the necessity of preserving forests, especially round the head waters of the rivers. A large number of committees will present reports, and a full program of papers is expected. The following are the presidents of sections: Astronomy, Mathematics and Physics, Professor H. Carslaw; Chemistry, Professor C. Fawsitt; Subsection Pharmacy, Mr. E. F. Church; Geology and Mineralogy, Mr. W. Howchin; Biology, Professor H. B. Kirk; Geography and History, Hon. Thos. M'Kenzie; Ethnology and Anthropology, Dr. W. Ramsay-Smith; Social and Statistical Science, Mr. R. M. Johnston; Agriculture, Mr. F. B. Guthrie; Subsection Veterinary Science, Professor Douglas Stewart; Engineering and Architecture, Col. W. L. Vernon; Sanitary Science and Hygiene, Dr. T. H. A. Valentine; Mental Science and

Education, Sir J. Winthrop Hackett. The general secretary for the meeting is Dr. T. S. Hall.

PROFESSOR WALTER N. LACY, of the Anglo-Chinese College at Foochow, China, writes to Professor J. C. Branner, of Stanford University, the following in regard to the work of ants and termites in China. The paper referred to is published in the *Bulletin* of the Geological Society of America, Vol. 21, 449-496.

I have read with much pleasure your paper on the geologic work of ants in tropical America, for which I have to thank you. One or two items from this part of the world, regarding the termites or white ants may be of interest to you, although Foochow is in lat. 26° 53' N.—not quite within the tropics.

On pages 478 and 479 you refer to the common ants being enemies of the white ants, and the two not thriving together. A friend of mine in the northwest part of this province has tried successfully placing black ants' nests under the house which was occasionally attacked by the white ants, and found that they were completely rid of the latter, without being in any way inconvenienced by the common ants.

On page 491 you say: "I am not aware that they (the white ants) ever attack living trees." It is not at all uncommon in these parts to find their mason-work passage-ways built up the trunks of growing trees. A few years ago an olive tree near our house was blown over in a typhoon, and it was discovered that the entire tree had been riddled by the white ants; although the tree trunk was from 18 to 24 inches in diameter, little had been left but the outer shell and bark of the tree and the leaves on the branches. For the white ants to do away with trees in this way is not rare, but, as you suggest, their work is not done in a night, but through a considerable period of time, without doubt.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

GRINNELL COLLEGE received on December 24 a Christmas gift of \$50,000. The money was made immediately available, to be used for any purpose, the donor stipulating but one condition, namely, that his name should never be made public.

MRS. JOHN HALL has given £500 to Sheffield University in memory of her husband. The income will provide each year a gold medal to be awarded to the student who does best in the subject of pathology at the examination for the degree.

THE university court of Edinburgh University has given a grant to Professor Whittaker for the equipment of a mathematical laboratory for the practical training of mathematicians and for a research institution. This will, it is said, be the first laboratory of its kind in a British university.

THE general council of the University of Edinburgh has taken action to bring before members of parliament and others interested in higher education the serious danger with which the universities of Scotland are threatened by the recent interference of the treasury with their freedom of internal administration.

CERTAIN citizens of Oberlin recently asked that the part of the endowment funds of Oberlin College invested in stocks and bonds should be listed for taxation. The decision of the auditor of Lorain County has now been rendered in favor of the college, to the effect that according to the laws of the state of Ohio the college endowment funds can not be taxed.

At Harvard University, Dr. Harvey Cushing has been appointed professor of surgery, and Dr. George Gray Sears, clinical professor of medicine. Professor Ralph B. Perry has been promoted to a professorship of philosophy.

W. S. HUNTER, Ph.D. (Chicago), has been appointed instructor in psychology in the University of Texas. F. A. C. Perrin, Ph.D. (Chicago), has been appointed instructor in psychology in the University of Pittsburgh.

MR. CHARLES FULLER BAKER, known for work in various fields of natural science, has entered the faculty of the College of Agriculture of the University of the Philippines as professor of agronomy. In the same college, Mr. A. G. Glodt, formerly of the engineer corps of the French army and a member of the Marchand relief expedition across Africa, is