

CHANCELLOR JORDAN AND PRESIDENT BRANNER

At the commencement of Leland Stanford Junior University on May 19 Dr. David Starr Jordan made a statement as follows:

I wish at this time to make a personal statement. In the interest of larger duties toward the university and toward the public, I have expressed to the board of trustees the wish to be relieved so far as may be from routine duties of the presidency.

In appreciation of this wish, and for the expressed purpose of allowing me "to represent more fully the university in its functions toward the public, and the relations of the university to educational agencies outside the university itself," the board of trustees at its meeting on May 23 will create the new office of chancellor of the university.

The position of president will be filled by Dr. John Casper Branner, my intimate friend for forty-three years, my academic colleague for twenty-nine years, and, as vice-president of the university for fifteen years, my closest administrative associate.

In accepting the chancellorship, and withdrawing from the immediate direction of administrative affairs, I shall abate no part of my interest in the university to which I have given the best years of my life, and to which I hope the best that remains will also be dedicated.

In placing the immediate control in the hands of one of the ablest of American scholars, one of the most successful of teachers and most loyal of men, I am sure that the board of trustees has made no mistake. So long as Dr. Branner shall direct its affairs the university will continue to develop the highest purposes of its founders, and of our colleagues, who, through twenty-two eventful years, have maintained and carried forward its standards and ideals.

Dr. J. M. Stillman then made the following statement:

With the consent of the president and at the request of members of the board of trustees, I am to speak a word of appreciation and welcome to President Jordan on assuming the new dignity of the chancellorship of the university.

The creation of this office has had two purposes: First—the division between the offices of chancellor and president of the burden of administrative duties and responsibilities hitherto vested solely in

the president, and which the development of the modern university has made increasingly laborious and onerous. Second—in high appreciation of the great service President Jordan has rendered and is rendering, not merely to this university, but to the world's work in the cause of education, science and civilization, it is intended that the institution of this new office shall, by thus relieving him of much of the routine of executive work, enable him to devote his attention in increasing measure to the greater problems within and without the university.

For twenty-two years President Jordan has been the inspiration of Stanford University. What it is is due mainly to his high ideals, his breadth of outlook and warmth of sympathy. These qualities and abilities the university needs in the future as in the past, and these the office of chancellor ensures us. Trustees and faculty, alumni and students, will continue to profit by his wisdom and his enthusiasms. But it is also recognized that the world at large has a claim upon his abilities which it should be the mission of Stanford to further and to encourage.

In the belief that the division of administrative functions between two such cooperative and sympathetic leaders as Chancellor Jordan and President Branner, will promote the efficiency, usefulness and influence of the university, and that under their joint guidance the aims and ideals of Stanford University will be carried forward to greater and grander development, I venture to assume that I express the sentiment of the whole university community in extending to Chancellor Jordan our congratulations upon his well-deserved and welcome respite from a large share of administrative detail, and upon his increased opportunities for the highest service not only to this his university, but to the wider world beyond its gates.

THE PENSION PLAN OF THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

For a long time the trustees of the American Museum of Natural History have had under consideration a plan for adequately providing for employees who were of mature age or who had been long in the service, and who through their efficiency and faithfulness were entitled to some recognition. A plan was finally worked out by a committee of trustees and a committee of employees and was adopted by the trustees at the annual meeting in Feb-

ruary. The plan went into effect on March 1, 1913.

The plan is similar to those in successful operation in many great manufacturing corporations in the United States. It is a contributory system, the subscribing employees contributing 3 per cent. of their salaries, and the trustees contributing an equal amount to the fund.

The plan already briefly noted in *SCIENCE* provides:

1. Pensions.—Six classes of pensions according to length of service and age, the pensions varying from 25 per cent. to 50 per cent. of the average salary of the last three years.

2. Health Insurance.—Gratuity to the employee in case he is totally disabled through illness, or his position is abolished.

3. Life Insurance.—A gratuity to a beneficiary, in the event of the death of the employee, and under certain conditions in the event of the death of a pensioner.

4. For the return of the employee's contribution with simple interest at 3 per cent. in case the employee leaves the service of the museum before he is eligible for a pension.

The plan also makes provision for exceptional cases; leave of absence without pay; absence from the service for a certain period; return to the service; reduction of present rate of contribution when feasible, and for the amendment or alteration of the plan as circumstances may warrant in the future.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

At the annual meeting of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences held on May 14 last, it was voted to award the Rumford Premium to Professor Joel Stebbins, of the University of Illinois, for his development of the selenium photometer and its application to astronomical problems.

THE gold medal of the Swiss Geographical Society will be presented to Admiral Peary at a banquet to be given at Geneva, on May 31.

DR. ALFRED H. BROOKS, of the U. S. Geological Survey, has been awarded the Conrad Maltebrun gold medal of the Paris Geographical Society.

IN appreciation of his services in reestablishing the American Rainbow trout in Germany, Dr. Hugh M. Smith, United States Commissioner of Fisheries, has been presented with a medal by the German Fishery Society.

DR. HENRY S. CARHART, emeritus professor of physics in the University of Michigan, and Professor F. R. Moulton, professor of astronomy in the University of Chicago, have been made honorary corresponding members of the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

PROFESSOR HERMANN VON VÖCHTING has been elected a foreign member of the Linnean Society, London.

DR. GISBERT KAPP, professor of electrical engineering in the University of Birmingham, has been appointed president of Section G (engineering) of the British Association for the meeting to be held in Birmingham in September next.

ANNOUNCEMENT is made at the University of Chicago of the joint award to Dr. George L. Kite and Mr. Esmond R. Long, graduate students in the department of pathology and bacteriology, of the Howard Taylor Ricketts prize of \$250 for original research in that department. The prize was established by the widow of Dr. Ricketts, who died in the City of Mexico from typhus fever contracted while studying the disease.

THE committee on medical research of the American Medical Association has awarded a grant of two hundred and fifty dollars to the department of bacteriology of the Hoagland Laboratory, Brooklyn, to defray the expenses of an investigation on the immunity reactions of edestin, a report of which is shortly to appear in the *Journal of Infectious Diseases*.

AMONG American astronomers who expect to attend the meeting of the International Solar Union to be held at Bonn, Germany, in August next, are Professors E. C. Pickering, Harvard College Observatory; Frank Schlesinger, Allegheny Observatory; J. A. Parkhurst, Yerkes Observatory; C. E. St. John,