

with attention to my Alpines and seedling Primulas, though I have promised to write an important article, when I feel up to it, "*On the Influence of the Environment on Morals.*" We are having the dullest, dampest and dreariest winter I remember, after the hottest summer! . . . The political and foreign situation is now most interesting with us, and I am glad to have lived to see such a hopeful dawn.

The last time I saw Dr. Wallace was immediately after the Darwin Celebration at Cambridge in 1909. I was the first to give him the details concerning it, and vividly remember how interested he was, and how heartily he laughed over some of the funny incidents, which may not as yet be told in print. One of Dr. Wallace's most prominent characteristics was his keen sense of humor, and his enjoyment of a good story. At the banquet at Cambridge those present united in sending him a telegram expressing their sense of his great part in the event they were celebrating, and their regret that he could not be present. This was not delivered until the next morning, and Dr. Wallace was concerned lest it should have been thought that he delayed in sending a reply. I was able to assure him that we knew at the time that it was too late for delivery that day.

As recently as February 3, 1913, Mrs. Wallace wrote:

Dr. Wallace is very well and busy, writing as hard as ever; he has just passed 90, and feels like 50.

Much later in the year (July 1) we heard from my brother that he was "splendidly well," and not many months after, the sad news appeared in the daily papers. In one of his letters he said that except for the infirmities natural to old age he felt quite as keen as he had ever done in his youth, and thought this a good sign for the persistence of personality after death. This keenness never waned to the end, and who shall say that this eager spirit has not still some place in the realm of being?

T. D. A. COCKERELL

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Nobel prizes in the sciences have been awarded to Professor H. K. Onnes, of the University of Leiden, in physics; to Professor Alfred Werner, of the University of Zurich, in chemistry, and to Professor Charles Richet, of the University of Paris, in medicine.

At the anniversary meeting of the Royal Society Sir William Crookes was elected president to succeed Sir Archibald Geikie. Other officers were elected and prizes were conferred as already announced in SCIENCE. At the annual dinner the principal toast, "The Royal Society," was proposed by Mr. Page, the American ambassador. The retiring president announced a gift of £5,000 for physical research from Sir James Caird.

DR. J. H. COMSTOCK, for thirty-nine years instructor and professor of entomology at Cornell University, will retire from the active duties of his chair at the close of the present academic year.

DR. HERMAN M. BIGGS has retired as chief medical officer of the Department of Health of the City of New York, having rendered distinguished service to the city in that office.

PROFESSOR CLEVELAND ABBE, the distinguished meteorologist of the U. S. Weather Bureau, celebrated his seventy-fifth birthday on December 4.

THE gold medal of the Apothecaries Society, London, has been awarded to Mr. J. E. Harting, in recognition of his services in preparing and editing the catalogue of the library in Apothecaries' Hall.

THE portrait of Professor Horace Lamb, F.R.S., was presented on November 27 by subscribers to the University of Manchester, where he has filled the chair of mathematics since 1885, and is now senior professor. The portrait of Professor Lamb was painted by his son, Mr. Henry Lamb. The presentation was made by Professor Tout and Professor Rutherford.

DR. CHARLES S. MINOT has been elected an honorary member of the Anatomical Society of Great Britain and Ireland.

At a special meeting of the Royal Spanish Society of Natural Science held in Madrid on November 28, Dr. W. J. Holland, the director of the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh, was elected an honorary member to fill the vacancy in the list of honorary members created by the death of Lord Avebury. At the same meeting Mr. Arthur S. Coggeshall, of Pittsburgh, was elected a corresponding member of the society.

PROFESSOR R. W. WOOD, of the Johns Hopkins University, who is spending the year abroad; is engaged in research work in the laboratories of the Sorbonne and the Ecole Normal Supérieur (Paris) in collaboration with Hemsalech, Dunoyer and Ribaud. His address is 14 Ave. Charles Floquet, Paris.

At the annual meeting of the Entomological Society of Washington, held on December 4, 1913, the following officers were elected: *President*, W. D. Hunter; *First Vice-president*, A. N. Caudell; *Second Vice-president*, E. R. Sasscer; *Editor*, W. D. Hunter; *Corresponding Secretary-Treasurer*, S. A. Rohwer (U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.); *Additional Members of the Executive Committee*, Dr. L. O. Howard and Messrs. E. A. Schwarz and August Busck. These officers will be installed at the first meeting in January.

MR. N. CUNLIFFE, B.A., Trinity College, has been appointed assistant to the superintendent of the Museum of Zoology of Cambridge University.

DR. SEBASTIAN ALBRECHT has been appointed astronomer at the Dudley Observatory, Albany.

E. J. McCaustland, professor of municipal and highway engineering at the University of Washington, Seattle, has been appointed by the county commissioners as consulting engineer for King County. In conjunction with the state highway commissioner Mr. McCaustland will act as adviser to the county engineer in the expenditure of three million dollars for permanent highways.

At the regular fall meeting of the Chicago chapter of the Sigma Xi held on December first, the society was addressed by Professor

Jacques Loeb, of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, who spoke on "Recent Experiments in Artificial Parthenogenesis."

DURING the week of December 1-6. Professor Lafayette B. Mendel, of the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University, gave addresses on "Viewpoints in the Study of Growth" and "Food Fads" before chapters of the Sigma Xi society at the University of Kansas, University of Missouri and Washington University in St. Louis.

PROFESSOR DOUGLAS W. JOHNSON delivered the following series of illustrated lectures on "The Interpretation of American Scenery" before the Institute of Arts and Sciences of Columbia University on Saturday evenings during the month of November: The Scenery of American Rivers; Shoreline Scenery of the Atlantic Coast; The Sculpture of Mountains by Glaciers, and the Scenery of the Grand Cañon District.

ON the evening of November 14, Professor W. W. Atwood, of Harvard University, presented an illustrated lecture to the Geographic Society of Chicago on "The Ascent of Uncompagne and a Trip through the San Juan Mountains of Colorado."

PROFESSOR ARTHUR H. BLANCHARD, of Columbia University, on December 6, delivered an illustrated lecture on "Modern Developments in Highway Engineering," before the Drexel Institute of Philadelphia.

DR. WOLFGANG OSTWALD, Privatdozent at the University of Leipzig, editor of the *Kolloid-Zeitschrift* and the *Kolloidchemische Beihefte*, and known for his many scientific contributions to biology and chemistry, has been invited by the Cincinnati branch of the American Chemical Society and the Cincinnati Research Society to give a series of five lectures on colloid-chemistry in the University of Cincinnati during the week of January 5 to 10. The lectures embrace a discussion of the general properties of colloids with scientific and technical applications. In the week of January 12 to 17 these lectures will be repeated at the University of Illinois; January 19 to 24

at Columbia, January 26 to 31 at Johns Hopkins; February 2 to 7 at the University of Chicago.

THE Huxley lecture at Birmingham University for this year is to be delivered by Sir Arthur Evans, F.R.S., who has chosen as his subject "The Ages of Minos."

THE Swiney lectures on geology in connection with the British Museum (Natural History) are being given this year by Dr. T. J. Jehu, his subject being "The Natural History of Minerals and Ores."

PROFESSOR ALFRED G. COMPTON, former head of the physics department at the College of the City of New York, who retired in December, 1911, after serving on the faculty of the college for fifty-eight years, died on December 12, aged seventy-eight years.

DR. JAMES MACALISTER, for twenty-two years president of the Drexel Institute at Philadelphia, and previously superintendent of public schools, died on December 11, at the age of seventy-three years.

PROFESSOR DR. ANTON FRIČ, one of the most distinguished of the paleontologists of Europe, died in Prague on the fifteenth of November, in the eighty-first year of his age. Professor Frič's greatest contributions were to the Permian fauna of Bohemia, especially the Amphibia and fishes, and also the insects. He has also left a permanent record in his direction of the beautiful natural history museum at Prague which is in many respects the most perfect of its kind in Europe. He was a man of very great energy and a voluminous writer. His published works include many large volumes which will become classics in paleontological literature.

PROFESSOR IGINO COCCHI, of Florence, known for his work in stratigraphical geology, the first president of the committee directing the Geological Survey of Italy, has died at the age of seventy-five years.

THE foundation-stone was laid on November 23 at Frankfurt-on-Maine of the new zoological institute of the Senckenberg Natural History Museum which the Senckenberg Society

will ultimately place at the disposal of the future University of Frankfurt.

THE thirty-first German Congress of Internal Medicine will be held at Wiesbaden, April 20-23, under the presidency of Professor von Romberg, of Munich. The chief subject proposed for discussion is the nature and treatment of insomnia. The reporters are Drs. Gaupp, of Tübingen; Goldscheider, of Berlin, and Faust, of Würzburg.

THE committee charged with the local arrangements for the recent visit to Birmingham of the British Association has held its final meeting. It was reported that the number of persons taking tickets for the meeting was 2,635, compared with 2,504 at the Dundee meeting last year and 2,453 at the Birmingham meeting in 1886. The extent to which the artisan classes availed themselves of the popular science lectures made them a notable feature of the meeting. The Finance Committee recommended that an unexpended balance of £2,313 be returned to the contributors proportionately.

A PRIZE of one hundred dollars is offered for the best paper on "The Availability of Pearson's Formulæ for Psychophysics." The rules for the solution of this problem have been formulated in general terms by William Brown. It is now required (1) to make their formulation specific, and (2) to show how they work out in actual practise. Papers in competition for this prize will be received not later than December 31, 1914, by Professor E. B. Titchener, Cornell Heights, Ithaca, N. Y. Such papers are to be marked only with a motto, and are to be accompanied by a sealed envelope, marked with the same motto, and containing the name and address of the writer. The prize will be awarded by a committee consisting of Professors William Brown, E. B. Titchener and F. M. Urban. The committee will make known the name of the successful competitor on July 1, 1915.

PARTICULARS of the Pierre J. and Edouard Van Beneden prize of 2,800 francs are quoted in *Nature*. The prize is to be awarded every three years to the Belgian or foreign author

or authors of the best original work of embryology or cytology written or published during the three years preceding the date on which competing theses must be received. For the first competition this date is December 31, 1915. The manuscript works may be signed or anonymous, and the French, German, or English language may be employed. Authors should send their contributions to the permanent secretary of the academy, Palais des Académies, Brussels, inscribed "Concours pour le Prix Pierre-J. et Edouard Van Beneden."

PRESIDENT WILSON, in his annual address to members of Congress, referred to the United States Bureau of Mines in the following manner: "Our Bureau of Mines ought to be equipped and empowered to render even more effectual service than it renders now in improving the conditions of mine labor and making the mines more economically productive as well as more safe. This is an all-important part of the work of conservation; and the conservation of human life and energy lies even nearer to our interest than the preservation from waste of our material resources."

THE British home secretary has appointed a committee to inquire what action has been taken under the Wild Birds Protection Acts for the protection of wild birds and to consider whether any amendments of the law or improvements in its administration are required. The members of the committee are: The Hon. E. S. Montagu, M.P., under-secretary of state for India (chairman); Lord Lucas, parliamentary secretary to the board of agriculture; Mr. Frank Elliott, of the home office; Mr. E. G. B. Meade-Waldo, Mr. W. R. Ogilvie Grant and Mr. Hugh S. Gladstone. The secretary to the committee is Mr. H. R. Scott, of the home office.

THE annual inspection trip of the department of electrical engineering of the University of Illinois took place November 23-26. The trip was under the charge of Professors E. B. Paine, Morgan Brooks, E. H. Waldo and J. M. Bryant. The party was divided into two sections. One section visited the

Keokuk water power plant, while the other visited the industries around Joliet, Illinois. The sections met in Chicago, where the trip was concluded. Features of the trip were the inspection of the parts of the Commonwealth Edison system in Chicago, the Hawthorne works of the Western Electric Company and the Illinois Steel Works.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

ANNOUNCEMENT is made at Yale University that the new biological laboratories are to be called the "Osborn Memorial Laboratories." The funds, amounting to half a million dollars, were provided for in the will of the late Mrs. Miriam A. Osborn. The laboratories accommodate the departments of zoology, comparative anatomy and botany.

REGULATIONS for admission to the military academy at West Point have been modified so that without lowering the entrance requirements prospective cadets may be matriculated by substituting equivalents for some of the units of study hitherto insisted upon. Hereafter a candidate for admission may be excused from mental examination upon presentation of certificate that he is a regularly enrolled student in good standing in a university, college or technological school, the entrance requirements of which include proficiency in mathematics and English as outlined by the college entrance examination board, or a certificate that he has graduated from a preparatory school meeting the requirements of that board, or a certificate that he has passed fourteen units of the entrance examinations required by the board requiring mathematics, English and history.

RECOMMENDATION has been made to the Argentine Congress to send to America for two years' study at government expense two professors from each faculty of each national university.

MRS. ELLA FLAGG YOUNG has resigned as superintendent of Schools of the City of Chicago because certain members of the board voted against her re-election. It is now said