

Acting President Henry Landes, of the University of Washington, and three papers of a general scientific interest will be given by three members of the constituent societies.

The railroads have granted the usual convention rates for the convention covering the states of California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho and British Columbia.

The proposal for the transfer of the Pacific Association to the American Association for the Advancement of Science as its "Pacific Division" made at the Berkeley meeting in 1913 resulted in the appointment of committees to consider the plan. During the year the two committees have been at work; the general policies and plans of merging have been agreed upon, and at present a smaller committee is drafting a constitution. It is hoped that the transfer can be made at the Seattle meeting.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. W. W. KEEN, of Philadelphia, has been elected president of the Fifth International Congress of Surgeons to be held in Paris in 1917.

THE Bruce Medal of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific has been awarded to Dr. O. Backlund, of Poulkova.

THE septennial award under the Acton Endowment has this year been made by the Royal Institution to Professor C. S. Sherrington, Waynflete professor of physiology in the University of Oxford, for his work on "The Integrative Action of the Nervous System."

AFTER twenty-one years of connection with the Yerkes Observatory, Sherburne Wesley Burnham, professor of practical astronomy, will retire from active service on July 1.

THE seventieth birthday, on March 25, of Professor Adolf Engler, the director of the Royal Botanic Garden and Museum at Dahlem, near Berlin, was celebrated in the presence of many eminent German and foreign botanists, by several functions. According to the account in *Nature*, on the day itself, Professor Pax, rector of the University of Breslau, with Professors Diels and Gilg, as its editors, presented to Professor Engler a copy of the

Fest-Band of Engler's "Botanische Jahrbücher." The volume forms a supplement to the fiftieth volume of this publication, and consists of more than forty illustrated contributions, largely from his pupils. Professor Haberlandt presented Professor Engler, on behalf of hundreds of subscribers, with his life-size marble bust, the work of the sculptor, A. Manthe. On March 26 there was a banquet at which the official world was represented; and on March 27 the monthly meeting of the Deutsche Botanische Gesellschaft was converted into an "Engler" meeting, and Professor von Wettstein gave, by special invitation, a lecture on the phylogenetic evolution of the Angiosperm flower.

DR. JULIUS KOLLMANN, professor of anatomy at Basle, has celebrated his eightieth birthday.

DR. G. T. BEILBY, Professor A. Keith, F.R.S. and Mr. J. Swinburne, F.R.S., have been elected members of the Athenæum Club for eminence in science.

S. ALFRED MITCHELL, Ph.D., director of the McCormick Observatory at the University of Virginia, has been appointed Ernest Kempton Adams Research Fellow of Columbia University for 1914-15. Professor Mitchell is carrying on work in the measurement of stellar parallaxes by the photographic method.

PASSED ASSISTANT SURGEON MARSHALL GUTHRIE, U. S. Public Health Service, has been appointed chief quarantine officer for the Panama Canal Zone.

SIR HOWARD GRUBB, F.R.S., has been appointed scientific adviser to the Commissioners of Irish Lights, in succession to the late Sir Robert Ball, who held the position for the past twenty years.

SURGEON JOSEPH H. WHITE, of the U. S. Public Health Service, now stationed in New Orleans, has been given a leave of absence for one year to take up for the Rockefeller Commission, the work of the eradication of hookworm disease in Central and South America.

THE Jacksonian Prize of the Royal College of Surgeons for 1913 was awarded to Mr. J.

Howell Evans, F.R.C.S., for his essay on malformations of the small intestine. The subject for the year 1915 will be "Congenital Dislocations of the Joints."

PROFESSOR NORMAN WILDE, head of the department of philosophy and psychology at the University of Minnesota, has been granted a year's leave of absence. Professor David Swenson will act as chairman of the department during Professor Wilde's absence.

DR. LEO M. BAEKELAND has been appointed first lecturer upon the Charles Frederick Chandler foundation of Columbia University. Dr. Baekeland's lecture will be given at the University on May 29 in connection with the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the School of Mines.

PROFESSOR BERGSON began his Gifford Lectures on "Human Personality" in Edinburgh on April 21.

A LECTURE on "Kilauea in Action" was given to the Sigma Xi Society of Case School of Applied Science, Cleveland, Ohio, on April 6, by Dr. A. L. Day, director of the Geophysical Laboratory at Washington, D. C.

PROFESSOR FRANCIS E. LLOYD, of McGill University, delivered a lecture on the subject "The Artificial Ripening of Fruit," on April 4, before the Royal Canadian Institute of Toronto; and, on April 14, before the Clinical Society of the Western Hospital of Montreal on "Colloids and the Ultramicroscope."

DR. SHOSUKE SATO, president of the College of Agriculture of the Northeast Imperial University of Japan, is giving his series of lectures on "Fifty Years of Progress in Japan" at the University of Illinois during the two weeks from April 14 to 24. Dr. Sato, it will be remembered, is the second lecturer from Japan in the exchange of lecturers between the United States and Japan.

ON March 27, Mr. N. S. Amstutz, research engineer, Valparaiso, Indiana, lectured to the Civil Engineering Society of Valparaiso University on photo-telegraphy.

AT intervals of two weeks during the months of February and March, Dr. W. P. Kelley, of

the Hawaii Experiment Station, delivered a series of four lectures on soils and soil fertility before the agricultural students of the College of Hawaii at Honolulu.

A BRONZE medallion of the late Dr. John S. Musser, the work of Dr. R. Tait McKenzie, was unveiled in the University of Pennsylvania Hospital on April 15. Dr. George E. de Schweinitz made the presentation address.

THE students and members of the faculty of New York University and Bellevue Medical College held a memorial service in honor of Dr. Egbert Le Fevre on April 5. Addresses were made by Drs. George Alexander, Elmer Ellsworth Brown, Abram A. Smith, George D. Stewart, Edward D. Fisher and Professor John A. Mandel. Resolutions were passed in recognition of the high esteem in which Dr. Le Fevre was held.

PLANS are being made to erect in Lincoln Park, Chicago, a monument in memory of Dr. Nicholas Senn, the distinguished physician.

A PORTRAIT of James Gates Percival, Yale, '15, the poet and geologist, has been presented to Yale University by Harvard University.

ALFRED NOBLE, chief engineer of the Pennsylvania Tunnel and Terminal Railroad Company and a former President of the American Society of Civil Engineers, has died at the age of seventy years.

DR. S. M. JÖRGENSEN, director of the Carlsbad laboratory for chemistry and plant physiology has died in Copenhagen, at the age of seventy-six years.

DR. JACQUES HUBER, director of the Musen Goeldi, Pará, Brazil, died on February 18, in his fifty-sixth year.

THE death is announced, at the age of eighty-one years, of Mr. G. Sharman, for more than forty years paleontologist to the Geological Survey of Great Britain.

THE Honorable Francis Albert Rollo Russell, known for his contributions to meteorology, died on March 30, aged sixty-five years.

Nature says: "By the death of Mrs. Huxley on March 5, in her eighty-ninth year, an-

other link with the scientific society of the latter half of the nineteenth century has been snapped. All who had the happiness of knowing Huxley intimately are aware of the reliance which he at all times reposed on the advice and judgment of his lifelong helpmate. Not only in all domestic concerns, but in questions of literary criticism and even of scientific procedure, he never took a step without consulting her, and her wide knowledge and keen literary instincts made her aid invaluable to him." Mrs. Huxley wrote poems and stories, and prepared a selection from Huxley's writings, "Aphorisms and Reflections from the Writings of T. H. Huxley."

THE U. S. Civil Service Commission announces an examination for associate physicist, qualified in engineering, to fill a vacancy in the Bureau of Standards at Pittsburgh, Pa., at a salary ranging from \$2,200 to \$2,700 a year, and a vacancy in the Bureau of Standards, at Washington, D. C., at a salary ranging from \$2,200 to \$3,000 a year.

THE money subscribed in connection with the jubilee celebration of Dr. A. Auwers has been handed over to the Berlin Academy for the foundation of a Bradley Prize, to be awarded once every five years.

WE learn from *The Scottish Geographical Magazine* that the first number of the *Zeitschrift für Vulkanologie*, edited by Herr Immanuel Friedlaender of Naples, and devoted to problems connected with volcanoes or volcanic action, and to appear at irregular intervals, has been issued. In his preface Mr. Friedlaender explains that he has been endeavoring for some years to found an international volcanic institute at Naples, but has met with many difficulties, financial and other. He has therefore established a private institute on a modest scale, and in connection with it is issuing the new journal, which is to contain both original contributions and summaries and abstracts, etc. The first number contains several original papers, the four languages of English, German, Italian and French being all represented. There are a number of fine illustrations, both of Vesuvius and of other volcanoes.

THE interest that has recently been manifested in radium has created a public demand for information both practical and theoretical in regard to the mineral deposits from which it is derived. A short report by Edson S. Bastin on the "Geology of the Pitchblende Ores of Colorado," recently issued by the U. S. Geological Survey, deals mainly with the geology, mineralogy and origin of these deposits, their practical utilization having been treated somewhat fully in other publications. The quantity of uranium ores mined in the United States is exceedingly small, and the great bulk of it, from Utah and southwestern Colorado, does not carry pitchblende but contains the brilliant yellow uranium mineral carnotite. The small pitchblende production of this country is all from the one locality described in this report, in the heart of Gilpin County. It occurs as a constituent of mineral veins which were first worked for their gold and silver content and which still yield important amounts of these precious metals. It is notable that the only other localities in the world where pitchblende has been found in important quantities in mineral veins are the Erzgebirge (in Bohemia and Saxony) and the Cornwall district (in England). Its mode of occurrence in these countries is also described by Mr. Bastin.

ARRANGEMENTS have been made between the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse University and the Palisades Inter-state Park Commission whereby the college will prepare and carry out a plan of management for the 14,000 acres of forest land controlled by the commission and lying along the Hudson River. The work of getting the forest land into shape will be started about the middle of August by four advanced students under the direction of Professor Frank F. Moon, of the College of Forestry, who was forester for the former Highlands of the Hudson Forest Reservation. The various properties will be mapped out and cruised to ascertain the amount of timber now standing and the amount to be removed. In addition, the fire problem will be studied and eventually a long term reforesta-

tion plan put into force. Centers of insect and fungus damage will be located and timber will be marked so that during the coming winter the park employees will be busy removing the dead, diseased and undesirable specimens. A forest nursery will be developed and active reforestation begun in 1914.

THAT balsam fir, a tree which a few years ago was considered of little value, is now in demand for pulp wood, is the statement made by the Department of Agriculture in a bulletin just issued on the subject. This demand has been brought about, says the department, by the enormous expansion of the pulp industry during the past two decades, with its present consumption of three and a quarter million cords of coniferous wood and the consequent rise in the price of spruce, the wood most in demand for paper-making. In addition, the department goes on to say, balsam has begun to take the place of spruce for rough lumber, laths and the like, as the price of the latter wood has risen. The chief objection to the use of large amounts of balsam fir in the ground-pulp process of paper-making is said to be due to the so-called pitch in the wood, which injures the felts and cylinder faces upon which the pulp is rolled out. Balsam fir does not have a resinous wood, and the material which gums up the cylinder probably comes from grinding balsam under conditions adapted to spruce wood. Yet from ten to twenty-five per cent., and possibly more of balsam can be used in ground pulp without lowering the grade of the paper produced. It is known that with balsam logs left lying in water over a season this drawback practically disappears. In chemical pulp, produced through the action of acids, these acids are known to dissolve the pitch, and any amount of balsam can be used, though some claim that too much balsam in the pulp gives a paper that lacks strength, snap and character. At the present time, balsam fir furnishes about six or seven per cent. of the domestic coniferous wood used by the country's pulp industry. The tree itself constitutes, numerically, about twenty per cent. of the coniferous forest in northern New York

and Maine, and is abundant in many parts of New Hampshire, Vermont, and in the swamps of northern Michigan, northern Wisconsin and Minnesota. It readily reforests cut-over areas, and attains a size suitable for pulp wood in a short time. Under present methods of cutting, balsam fir is said to be increasing in our second-growth forests at the expense of red spruce, and with the gradual decline in the supply of the latter wood the fir will become more and more important commercially.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE faculty of the graduate school of Cornell University has voted to recommend to the board of trustees that Dr. J. E. Creighton, professor of logic and metaphysics, be elected dean to succeed Dr. Ernest Merritt whose resignation takes effect in June. The recommendation by the faculty is virtually equivalent to election. Two years ago President Schurman, in a report to the trustees, proposed that the faculties of the graduate school and the college of arts and sciences be permitted to choose their own deans and the trustees approved the suggestion. Last year the faculty of the college of arts and sciences did select a dean, in the person of Dr. E. L. Nichols, professor of physics.

DR. GEORGE L. STREETER, professor of anatomy in the medical department of the University of Michigan, has been appointed professor of embryology in the Carnegie Institute of Embryology, of the Johns Hopkins Medical school.

PROFESSOR CHARLES MCMILLAN, professor of civil engineering at Princeton University since 1875, has retired and been appointed professor emeritus.

DAVID CAMP ROGERS, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology at the University of Kansas, has been appointed professor of psychology at Smith College.

MR. WILFRED JEVONS has been appointed junior lecturer and demonstrator in physics, and Mr. A. E. Barnes lecturer in materia medica, pharmacology and therapeutics at Sheffield University.