

*Resolved*, That the council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science authorizes the establishment of local branches of the association in places where the members are prepared to conduct branches which will forward the objects of the association.

*Resolved*, That the standing committee on organization and membership be instructed to promote the establishment of such local branches.

The plan of regional division and local branches has been under consideration for some time. Last year a Pacific Coast division was established and an associate secretary for the south was appointed. At the Atlanta meeting a Brazilian division was authorized. There is every reason to believe that a forward step in the advancement and diffusion of science can be taken by the establishment of local branches, especially in places where there are no chapters of the Society of the Sigma Xi, academies of science, or similar organizations. Even where such agencies already exist, a union of the members of the American Association might cooperate with them for their common interests. A local branch can arrange for lectures, scientific programs, dinners and social meetings, which will bring together those interested in the progress of science, will encourage them in their work and improve the conditions under which it is done, and will increase the interest of the community in science. If a number of local branches are formed in a state or a region it will be possible to arrange for joint meetings or for a lecturer to address meetings in the different places.

The great increase in the number of scientific men, their scattering in this country over a vast area and the differentiation of their work have made it difficult or impossible for them to come together at national meetings and discuss their common objects. The advance and necessary specialization of science tend to divorce it from the interests of the people on whom in a democracy it must depend for recruits and for support. Local societies or clubs, especially in smaller centers where there are not enough scientific men to form groups of specialists and where lectures and scientific programs are not common, can

accomplish a great deal to maintain interest in research and to impress its importance on the general public. They will be aided by the prestige of the history and the national scope of the American Association with its eight thousand members and will in turn strengthen the work and influence of the association.

The standing committee of the association on organization and membership, of which Dr. W. H. Welch, of the Johns Hopkins University is chairman, the permanent secretary, Dr. L. O. Howard, is a member, and Professor J. McK. Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y., is secretary, has been authorized to promote the formation of such local branches and the secretary of the committee will be glad to correspond with members of the association who may be interested in the formation of local branches which will promote the objects of the association in their neighborhoods.

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#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Senate has confirmed the nomination of Col. William C. Gorgas as surgeon-general of the United States Army.

DR. WALTER P. BRADLEY has resigned as professor of chemistry after twenty-five years of service at Wesleyan University to take charge of the investigations of the United States Rubber Company in whose employ he recently spent a year's leave of absence.

DR. EDWIN G. CONKLIN, professor of biology in Princeton University, has been elected a foreign member of the Royal Bohemian Academy of Sciences.

DR. SAMUEL AMBERG, of The Otho S. A. Sprague Memorial Institute Laboratory, of Chicago, has been elected a corresponding member of the Society of Internal Medicine and Pediatrics in Vienna.

DR. ADOLF FRANK, known for his important contributions to agricultural chemistry, celebrated at Charlottenburg, on January 20, his eightieth birthday.

PROFESSOR W. M. DAVIS, of Harvard University, plans to carry out an exploration of some of the coral islands in the Pacific. He is so arranging his tour as to be able to attend the

meetings of the British Association in Australia.

PROFESSOR E. W. BROWN, of Yale University, has accepted the invitation of the British Association for the Advancement of Science to attend the Australia meeting in 1914. He expects to be absent from the university until February, 1915.

DR. J. C. ARTHUR and Mr. F. D. Fromme, of Purdue University, are making a botanical trip through Texas, New Mexico and Arizona during the month of February. The special object of the trip is to obtain additional information on certain species of Uredinales, whose life histories are incompletely known.

PROFESSOR GEORGE B. RIGG, of the University of Washington, is absent on leave for the rest of the academic year. He is at the University of Chicago.

WALTER WALLACE WEIR has been placed in charge of cooperative drainage experiments being carried on at Kearney Park, near Fresno, on the 5,400-acre ranch belonging to the University of California. The University and the Office of Experiment Stations of the United States Department of Agriculture are making these investigations in the reclamation of alkali lands by drainage ditches and a pumping system.

We learn from *Nature* that Mr. J. I. Craig has been transferred from the directorship of the meteorological section of the Egyptian Survey Department to the controllership of the Department of Statistics, and has been succeeded at the survey by Mr. H. E. Hurst.

MR. W. LAWRENCE BALLS, botanist to the Egyptian government, Department of Agriculture, has left the service and is returning to Cambridge to work up the data on cotton which he has collected.

DR. EMIL ABDERHALDEN, professor of physiology at the University of Halle, will lecture at Columbia University next autumn.

PROFESSOR DANA DURAND, of the University of Minnesota, formerly director of the United States Census, will lecture at Harvard University in April on combinations and trusts.

PROFESSOR D. W. JOHNSON, of Columbia University, recently gave an illustrated lecture before a joint meeting of the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society and the American Museum of Natural History on the subject "The Scenery of the Atlantic Coast and Its Answer to the Question: Is the Coast Sinking?"

PROFESSOR WALDO H. NORRIS, of Grinnell College, will lecture on zoology at Harvard University this term under the exchange agreement with colleges of the middle west.

DR. W. P. MASON, professor of chemistry in the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, lectured on January 29, before the Franklin Institute of Philadelphia, on advantages and disadvantages of water storage.

DR. JOHN P. STEWART, professor of experimental pomology of the Pennsylvania State College, during the current fall and winter has lectured before the Maine State Pomological Society, the Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association and the New Hampshire State Agricultural Convention on "The Results of Seven Years' Experiments with Different Cultural Methods, Covercrops and Fertilization in Apple Orchards."

DR. W. B. SCOTT, Blair professor of geology and paleontology at Princeton University, is giving a course of six lectures on the theory of evolution before the Wagner Free Institute of Science, Philadelphia. The lectures which are given on Saturday evenings are on the Richard B. Westbrook Free Lectureship.

DR. DAYTON C. MILLER, professor of physics in the Case School of Applied Science, has delivered before the Lowell Institute, Boston, a series of eight lectures, the subjects of which were as follows: January 20, Sound, Sound Waves, Character of Sounds; January 23, Pitch, Loudness, Tone Color, Pure Tones; January 27, Methods of Recording and Photographing Sound; January 30, Effects of Horn and Diaphragm on Sound; February 6, Tone Qualities of Various Musical Instruments, Ideal Tone; February 10, Physical Characteristics of Vowels and Other Sounds of Speech; February 13, Synthetic Reproduction of the

Tones of Instruments, of Vowels and Spoken Words.

At the College of Medicine of the University of Illinois, Chicago, Drs. Bartlett, Burmeister, Davis, Dreyer, Eycleshymer, Falls, Fantus, Hartung, Miller, Moore and Welker recently organized a medical research club of the University of Illinois. Dr. D. J. Davis was elected president, and Dr. Wm. H. Welker was elected secretary for the balance of the college year. Dr. Eycleshymer presented a paper entitled, "Some Observations on the Decapitated Young *Necturus*."

THE *British Medical Journal* understands that arrangements have nearly been completed for the establishment, as a memorial to Lord Lister in Edinburgh, of a Lister Institute. It is proposed that the institute, which will be devoted mainly to research in bacteriology and pathology, shall work in connection with the university, but that it shall be managed by an independent board consisting of representatives of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, and of the university, and probably of the Carnegie trustees, who have recently become interested in the laboratories of the Royal College of Physicians. It is intended that certain facilities for teaching shall also be provided. It would appear to be the intention that eventually all pathological work, both in research and teaching, in Edinburgh shall be under the general supervision of the professor of pathology, who, in addition to holding that chair and taking an appropriate share in the conduct of the new institute, will act as honorary pathologist to the Royal Infirmary.

DR. WILLIAM KELLY SIMPSON, professor of laryngology at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, died on February 6, aged fifty-eight years.

DR. K. H. F. ROSENBUSCH, formerly head of the geological-mineralogical laboratory at Heidelberg, distinguished for his contributions to mineralogy, has died at the age of seventy-eight years.

DR. FELIX HAHNSCHAFTE, professor of geology in the Berlin Mining Academy, has died at the age of fifty-three years.

THE U. S. Civil Service Commission announces an open competitive examination for assistant chief, Bureau of Chemistry, to fill a vacancy in this position in the bureau of chemistry, Department of Agriculture, at \$4,000 a year. It is desired to secure the services of a man of broad training and extensive practical experience in physiological chemistry and medicine as well as experience as an administrative officer to assist in the research and supervisory work of the bureau of chemistry, and the enforcement of the food and drugs act. Applicants will not be assembled for examination, but their relative qualifications will be rated upon the evidence adduced as to their education and training, practical experience and fitness, and their publications. Applicants must give in their applications a complete statement of their educational training, a complete statement of their practical experience, and a list of their publications. Copies of such publications should be filed with the application. An educational training including an M.D. degree from a medical school of recognized standing and special training in analytical and physiological chemistry other than that included in the medical course; and not less than three years' experience as a medico-legal expert, and some experience as an administrative officer, are prerequisites for consideration for this position. Applicants must have reached their thirtieth but not their forty-fifth birthday on the date of the examination.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

BOWDOIN COLLEGE has received a bequest of \$500,000 for the general fund of the college from the estate of Edwin B. Smith, former assistant attorney general of the United States, who died in New York on January 5.

YALE UNIVERSITY receives \$500,000 under the will of Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, who died on January 21. The Royal Victoria College at Montreal, a girls' school, is given \$1,000,000. Lord Strathcona leaves to St. John's College, Cambridge, \$50,000; to the University of Aberdeen, for the creation of a chair of agriculture, \$25,000; to the Presby-