

them, and there will be opportunity for somewhat general consideration. The importance of the economic aspects of agriculture and of rural affairs, and the broad field which the subject opens up, suggest this as an appropriate topic for the new section, and it is hoped that it will prove of general interest.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

CHARLES SEDGWICK MINOT, James Stillman professor of comparative anatomy in the Harvard Medical School, eminent for his contributions to embryology and biology and for public service in science, died at his country home near Boston on November 19, at the age of sixty-two years.

THE gold medal of the Hayden Memorial Geological Award was presented to Dr. Henry Fairfield Osborn, in recognition of his paleontological studies, at a special meeting of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, on November 24. The presentation address was made by the president of the academy, Dr. Samuel G. Dixon.

ONE of the royal gold medals of the Royal Society, has been awarded to Professor Ernest William Brown, Sc.D., F.R.S., of Yale University, in recognition of his investigations in mathematical astronomy.

THE honorary degree of doctor of science was conferred on November 19 by Brown University upon Professor William H. Bragg, of the University of Leeds, before the corporation and faculty of the university in special convocation. Following the conferring of the degree Professor Bragg delivered the last of four lectures on "X-rays and Crystals," which he has been giving as the first of the anniversary lectures to celebrate the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of Brown University.

THE John Fritz Medal will this year be awarded to Mr. John Edson Sweet, of Syracuse. Mr. Sweet was one of the founders of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and one of its early presidents.

At its last meeting the Rumford committee of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences made the following appropriations in

aid of researches on light and heat: to Professor P. W. Bridgman, of Harvard University, \$150 in addition to prior grants in aid of his researches on thermal effects at high pressures; to Professor Frederick A. Saunders, of Vassar College, \$100 in aid of his research on the spectra of metallic vapors; to Professor Frederick Palmer, Jr., of Haverford College, in aid of his research on the properties of light of extremely short wave-lengths, \$200; to Professor Henry Crew, of Northwestern University, in aid of his research on the specific heat of liquids, \$200.

THE annual public address of the Philadelphia meeting of the Entomological Society of America will be given on Wednesday evening, December 30, in the rooms of the Academy of Natural Science, by Professor Stephen Alfred Forbes, of the University of Illinois and State Entomologist. His subject will be "The Ecological Foundations of Applied Entomology." At the same meeting Dr. Henry Skinner at the request of the executive committee of the society will present "A History of the Entomological Society of America."

THE anniversary meeting and reception of the New York Academy of Medicine took place on November 19. The anniversary discourse, entitled "Some of the Relations of the Profession of Medicine to Municipal Government" was delivered by the Hon. George McAneny, president of the board of aldermen of New York City.

M. BOUTROUX, professor in the University of Paris, has accepted an invitation of the British Academy to deliver the first of the recently endowed annual philosophical lectures. His subject will be "Certitude et Verité," and the lecture will probably be delivered early in December.

WORD has been received from Dr. W. C. Farabee, leader of the University of Pennsylvania's South American expedition, that he had just returned from a second successful trip up the Amazon. The party traveled some four thousand miles and returned with many valuable collections.

DR. JOHN L. HEFFRON, dean of the College of Medicine of Syracuse University, has been appointed a member of the advisory medical council of the state university for a term of five years.

KARL F. KELLERMAN has been recently promoted from the position of physiologist in charge of soil bacteriology investigations to be physiologist and assistant chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

DR. F. B. POWERS is about to retire from the directorship of the Wellcome Chemical Research Laboratories, London, on December 1, in order to return to the United States. His period of service dates from the foundation of these laboratories by Mr. H. S. Wellcome in 1896. Dr. Power will be succeeded by Dr. F. L. Pyman. The character and policy of the Wellcome Chemical Research Laboratories will continue as in the past.

WE learn from *Nature* that by the will of W. Erasmus Darwin, eldest son of Charles Darwin, the Royal Society of London is bequeathed the sum of £1,650; his nephew, Mr. C. Galton Darwin, receives the portraits of Charles Darwin by Lawrence and Oules, as well as Darwin's medals, Royal Society's candlesticks, snuff-box, christening mug, autobiography, notebook on children, two early sketches of "The Origin of Species," two volumes of "Hooker's Correspondence," the family Bible, the old Dutch brass-bound box containing the family papers, the letters written home from the *Beagle*, and pictures and miniatures. The desire is expressed that these relics should always be kept in the family.

PROFESSOR HERMAN J. KLEIN, director of the Astronomical and Meteorological Observatory of Cologne, editor of *Sirius*, has died at the age of seventy-two years.

MR. C. F. ADAMS, head of the department of physics of the Detroit Central High School, died on October 29, in his sixtieth year.

THE American Physical Society holds a meeting in Chicago on November 27 and 28.

THE fourteenth annual meeting of the American Philosophical Association will be

held at Chicago, Ill., on December 28, 29 and 30, in acceptance of the invitation of the philosophical department of the University of Chicago. The Western Philosophical Association will meet in Chicago at the same time, and all sessions will be participated in by both associations. The Political Science Association also convenes at Chicago, and on December 29, in the afternoon, this association will join the two philosophical associations in a discussion of the subject of Democracy and Responsibility. In addition to this joint discussion there will be a discussion by the two philosophical associations of the subject selected by the executive committee of the American Philosophical Association as the main topic at this meeting. This subject is "The Interpretation of Justice, with Special Reference to Problems forced to the Front by Present Economic, Social and Political Conditions."

It is announced that the award of the Nobel prizes for medicine, literature, chemistry and physics will be postponed till next year. It is proposed in future, as we have already noted, to make the formal distribution of the prizes every year in June instead of December 10, the anniversary of M. Nobel's death, when the awards will merely be announced.

APPLICATIONS for the Sarah Berliner fellowship for women of the value of one thousand dollars, available for study and research in physics, chemistry and biology, should be in the hands of the chairman of the committee, Mrs. Christine Ladd-Franklin, 527 Cathedral Parkway, New York, by January 1.

LAST summer the government of New Zealand took advantage of the meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science in Australia to invite a number of guests, including fifteen Americans and Canadians, whose names were given in *SCIENCE* at the time, to join in supplementary meetings in New Zealand. The plan was to hold a two-days' session in Wellington and in Christ Church. The war interfered with the carrying out of the program which had been planned by the New Zealand committee. When

the American visitors sailed from America on July 22, no intimation of the coming war had reached them. They arrived in New Zealand on August 13, in the early stages of the war, but the plans were not wholly abandoned. The committee in charge of the New Zealand meetings decided that they would like to have the American visitors lecture, each of them giving at least one lecture. Most of the American visitors have now returned to their homes.

News of the Routledge expedition to Easter Island is given in the *Geographical Journal*. Mr. Routledge writes little as to the scientific work so far accomplished, merely observing that the remarkable antiquities of the island were being examined by the party. He gives some account of disturbances in the island, due to unrest among the native Kanakas, about 250 in number. The main or only industry of the island—cattle rearing—is carried on by a company under the direction of an English manager, the only permanent white resident. Thefts of cattle and other property of the company had already been rife, when the natives put in a claim to the possession of all the cattle on the island—some 15,000 head—and began to destroy them wholesale. Such was the state of affairs, when the Chilean warship which visits the island every two or three years put in an opportune appearance, and for the moment relieved the situation. Four of the ringleaders were deported, but Mr. Routledge is inclined to anticipate further trouble. He describes the natives as unenterprising, and loath to work even for their own living.

THE United States Bureau of Mines has begun the collection of a general library of petroleum literature under the direction of W. A. Williams, chief petroleum technologist. The details of this work have been assigned to Dr. David T. Day, who has recently been transferred from the United States Geological Survey as petroleum technologist, and who will also assist in a thoroughly organized research into the chemistry of oils, which is being developed by the Bureau of Mines. It is hoped all technologists will aid in the work by exchanging with the bureau all available books and maps on this subject.

A MEETING was held on November 4, at the offices of the British Medical Association, to consider the position of the Belgian medical men and pharmacists, whose professional position has been involved in the utter ruin which has fallen upon their country and has destroyed the whole machinery of the medical profession and its adjuncts. The meeting was convened by the editors of the *Lancet* and the *British Medical Journal*, from which latter journal we take this reproduction, in response to representations made by a provisional Belgian committee, whose representative, Professor C. Jacobs, is now in London. Sir Rickman Godlee took the chair, and after a brief explanation of the position by Professor Jacobs, the following committee was appointed, with power to add to their number, to make an early report on the procedure to be adopted: Sir Thomas Barlow, president of the Royal College of Physicians of London; Sir Watson Cheyne, president, and Sir Frederic Eve, vice-president, of the Royal College of Surgeons of England; Dr. Meredith Townsend, master of the Apothecaries' Company; Sir Rickman Godlee; Dr. Frederick Taylor, president of the Royal Society of Medicine; Mr. T. Jenner Verrall, chairman of representative meetings of the British Medical Association; Dr. Des Vœux; Mr. E. T. Neathercoat, vice-president, and Mr. Woolcock, secretary, of the Pharmaceutical Society. Dr. Sprigge was appointed secretary and Dr. H. A. Des Vœux, treasurer. The instructions of the meeting to the committee were (1) to communicate with the Belgian Minister and the authorities of the Belgian Relief Fund; (2) to apply to America and other countries if desirable for assistance in the raising of any fund, and (3) to report generally.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE General Education Board has granted \$250,000 to Goucher College, Baltimore, conditionally upon \$750,000 being raised by April 1, 1917.

A FUND of \$60,000 has been turned over to Amherst College by the alumni council. The disposal of the income from this sum is to be