

greatly improved. Miss Ellen B. Scripps has announced to the regents of the University of California her intention to give to the university during the next two years \$100,000 for further equipment.

A concrete pier a thousand feet in length will be built, at which can lie the *Alexander Agassiz*, the sea-going vessel owned by the institution and used exclusively for its work. Additional aquarium facilities will be provided, all planned to be useful for scientific purposes, but in part to be available for public educational objects. A salt-water pumping plant and settling basin are also to be provided, and living quarters for a group of scientific assistants, graduate students, etc.

The Scripps Institution has a site of 177 acres, with a half mile of ocean frontage, well-equipped laboratories, residences for the scientific staff, a good working library, and excellent equipment. The land was given by the city of San Diego, while for the most part the other equipment has come by the gift of Miss Scripps, who has created also an endowment of \$150,000 for its work. The state of California gives to the University of California \$7,500 per annum as a contribution toward the work of the institution, and Director William E. Ritter and his staff give their whole time to the research work. It is much resorted to also by visiting investigators and special facilities are arranged every summer for competent graduate students.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Albert medal of the Royal Society of Arts for the current year has been awarded to Sir J. J. Thomson, for his researches in physics and chemistry, and their application to the advancement of arts, manufactures and commerce.

THE gold medal of the first class of the Panama-Pacific Exposition has been awarded to Mr. Thomas A. Edison, for his storage battery.

DR. SIMON FLEXNER, director of medical research of the Rockefeller Institute, has been given the honorary degree of LL.D. by the University of Maryland.

THE University of Maine has conferred its doctorate of laws on Professor E. F. Ladd, professor of chemistry in the North Dakota College and food commissioner of the state.

A COMPLIMENTARY dinner was given at the Harvard Club of Boston on the evening of June 2 to Dr. Theobald Smith, who has resigned the George Fabyan professorship of comparative pathology in Harvard University to take charge of the department of animal pathology in the Rockefeller Institute. About 200 men, many of whom are prominent in the scientific world, were present, and President Lowell, who presided, said he had received a great number of letters and telegrams from all parts of the world. The speakers at the dinner were: Dr. Frederick C. Shattuck; Dr. William S. Thayer, of the Johns Hopkins University; Dr. Simon Flexner, of the Rockefeller Institute; President Emeritus Charles W. Eliot; Dr. William H. Welch, of the Johns Hopkins University; Dr. E. H. Bradford, dean of the Harvard Medical School, and Dr. Smith.

As the coming commencement at Amherst College marks the fiftieth anniversary of Professor B. K. Emerson's graduation from the college and the forty-fifth year of his work as a teacher, the forthcoming number of the *Amherst Graduates' Quarterly* will contain an editorial in appreciation of his work in geology. The article will be illustrated with a portrait of Professor Emerson, and with views of the old and new geological lecture rooms in which most of his college instruction has been conducted.

A TESTIMONIAL dinner was given, on June 3, in honor of Dr. Francis Clifford Phillips and Mrs. Phillips at the German Club, Pittsburgh, Pa., by one hundred former students and friends who desired to show their love and esteem upon the occasion of Dr. Phillips's retirement from active service as professor of chemistry in the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Phillips, who is well known professionally because of his contributions to the chemistry of gases and his active participation in the interests of the American Chemical Society, has occupied the chair of chemistry at Pittsburgh

since 1875 and is retiring under the terms of the Carnegie Foundation. Among the speakers at the dinner were Drs. Walther Riddle, Albert E. Frost, R. B. Carnahan and J. H. James, and Professor Alexander Silverman. As an expression of their high regard for his devotion to the University of Pittsburgh, the old students of Dr. Phillips presented him with a check for \$1,000.

DR. A. F. BLAKESLEE, professor of botany and genetics at the Connecticut Agricultural College, Storrs, Conn., has accepted the position of plant geneticist on the staff of the Carnegie Station for Experimental Evolution of the Carnegie Institution. His address after October 1 will be Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island.

DR. ALLAN J. McLAUGHLIN, commissioner of health, has established in Boston a new department to be known as the division of hygiene and has appointed Professor Selskar M. Gunn of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Simmons College as its chief. Some of the duties of the division will consist in directing child welfare work, public health nursing, promoting traveling exhibits, public lectures and distributing health bulletins and pamphlets.

DR. MATTHIAS NICOLL, JR., has been appointed assistant director of laboratories of the Department of Health, New York City.

DR. SAMUEL H. HURWITZ (M.D., Johns Hopkins, '12), formerly of the Harvard Medical School, has been appointed instructor in research medicine in the George Williams Hooper Foundation for medical research of the University of California.

HERBERT R. COX is leaving the U. S. Department of Agriculture to become an associate editor of *The Country Gentleman*, with headquarters in Philadelphia.

THE Cancer Research Institute connected with the Charité Hospital at Berlin has been placed in charge of Professor F. Blumenthal, formerly Leyden's assistant, during Professor Klemperer's absence at the front.

MR. J. E. CULLUM has retired from his position as superintendent of the Valencia

Meteorological Observatory, Cahirciveen, and the Meteorological Office has appointed Mr. L. H. G. Dines as his successor.

HERBERT M. WILSON, engineer in charge of the Pittsburgh Experiment Station of the United States Bureau of Mines, has resigned from the government service to become the director of a newly-formed organization to be known as the Coal Mine Insurance Association. Mr. Wilson was closely associated with Director Joseph A. Holmes in the inception and development of the Bureau of Mines. Early in 1907, when Secretary James R. Garfield added a technologic branch to the United States Geological Survey, Director Charles D. Walcott, of the survey, selected Joseph A. Holmes as chief of the new division and Mr. Wilson was appointed as his principal assistant. With the creation of the Bureau of Mines, Mr. Wilson became engineer in charge of the Pittsburgh station, a position which he has held ever since. The Coal Mine Insurance Association is a combination of ten American and British insurance companies that have associated themselves for the joint underwriting of coal-mine accident insurance.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

Two anonymous gifts of \$150,000 and \$100,000 have been made to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for dormitories. Funds with which to construct the mining building, some \$225,000, have been offered to the institute by Charles Hayden, '90, of Boston, and T. Coleman du Pont, '83, and S. Pierre du Pont, '90, of Wilmington, Del., past and present presidents of the du Pont de Nemours Powder Co. Coleman du Pont, it will be remembered, with his gift of \$500,000, made the purchase of the Technology site in Cambridge possible. Charles A. Stone, '88, and Edwin S. Webster, '88, of Boston, will provide a residence for the president.

MR. JOHN R. LINDGREN, of Chicago, has bequeathed half his estate, valued at \$1,050,000 to Northwestern University, subject to certain life annuities.