

THE COLUMBUS MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

THE arrangements for the Columbus meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science are taking definite shape and a large attendance and an interesting program are certain.

The following affiliated societies have already indicated their intention of meeting at Columbus at the same time:

American Society of Naturalists.
American Society of Zoologists.
American Physical Society.
Botanical Society of America.
Botanists of the Central States.
American Phytopathological Society.
Entomological Society of America.
American Association of Economic Entomologists.
American Mathematical Society (Chicago Branch).
American Nature-Study Society.
American Microscopical Society.
Society for Horticultural Science.
Association of Official Seed Analysts of America.
American Federation of Teachers of the Mathematical and the Natural Sciences.
The School Garden Association of America.

Some slight conflict, owing to the fact that the committee, designated to take charge of the Second Pan-American Scientific Congress to be held in Washington, without consultation with the officers of the American Association for the Advancement of Science or, apparently, with other well-posted scientific men in this country, changed the date of the Congress from October, 1915, to December 27, 1915-January 8, 1916, thus occupying a large part of the time already set aside for the meetings of many national scientific organizations, nearly all of which are to meet elsewhere than in Washington.

The group of economic and historical societies have met this unfortunate situation by changing their plans to meet in Washington. Their sessions are to be held during the first week of the Congress. The American Association for the Advancement of Science and its affiliated societies, however, owing to the fact that the Congress is to be devoted very largely to economic subjects, have seen no reason to

alter their plans and will carry forward the Columbus meeting which every indication shows will be eminently successful.

The authorities of the congress, however, are anxious to secure some degree of cooperation from the American Association for the Advancement of Science and its affiliated societies and have extended an invitation to these organizations to come to Washington at the conclusion of the Columbus meeting and attend the meetings of the second week of the congress (January 3-8, 1916). It has also been suggested by the assistant secretary general of the congress (Dr. G. L. Swiggett), that the association might to advantage hold an adjourned session of one day in Washington to indicate its desire to assist in welcoming the delegates from other American countries to the United States.

Whether this invitation will be accepted is a matter which can not well be decided until the Columbus meeting. That such a session of the association should be called an adjourned session from Columbus would, in a way, be discrediting the Columbus hosts of the association, since the coming meeting should be definitely known as the Columbus meeting and not as the Columbus-Washington meeting. It might, however, be arranged so that the American Association could hold a special session at Washington on some one of the dates indicated and which need not in any way detract from the success of the Columbus meeting or from the fact that the convocation week meeting of 1915-1916 shall go down to history as the Columbus meeting.

L. O. HOWARD,
Permanent Secretary

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE spring meeting of the American Chemical Society for 1916 will be held in Urbana, Illinois, April 18 to 21, inclusive. At that time the new chemical laboratory of the University of Illinois, said to be the largest in the world, will be dedicated.

MR. E. W. SWANTON has been elected president of the British Mycological Society.

PROFESSOR EBERTH, formerly professor of pathologic anatomy in Halle, discoverer of the typhoid bacillus, celebrated his eightieth birthday on September 21.

THE officers elected by the Medical Research Club of the University of Illinois for the year 1915-16 are: Dr. J. J. Moore, president, and Dr. Roy L. Moody, secretary.

DR. THEODORE MORTENSEN, curator of the National Museum at Copenhagen, is in Los Angeles conducting scientific research as a guest of the biology department of the University of Southern California.

DR. DANIEL J. MCCARTHY, professor of medical jurisprudence in the University of Pennsylvania, has returned from the American Ambulance Hospital in Paris and will make a report on the influence of the war on the nervous system and mental future of the soldiers.

MARGARET HARWOOD (Radcliffe, '07), later at Harvard Observatory until June, 1912, and since then, by annual award, astronomical fellow of the Nantucket Maria Mitchell Association, has been appointed for an indefinite term fellow of the association and director of its observatory. This year, which is the "quadrennial" provided for in the fellowship, Miss Harwood is studying at the University of California. Her new year at the Nantucket Observatory will begin June 15, 1916. A five hundred dollar Maria Mitchell fellowship for research work at Harvard Observatory will be available for the three years 1916 to 1919.

PROFESSOR H. RIES, of the department of geology, of Cornell University, will give a course of ten lectures on economic geology, at Columbia University during the first term, in the absence of Professor J. F. Kemp, who is absent on leave.

At the November meeting of the Central Association of Science and Mathematics Teachers, Professor L. C. Karpinsky, of the University of Michigan, will give a paper on the story of algebra. After this paper an hour will be devoted to the discussion of the place of the history of mathematics in elementary science.

PROFESSOR HEINRICH O. HOFMAN, acting head of the department of mining and metallurgy at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, addressed on October 20 the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia on "The Metallurgy of Copper."

THE opening address at the college of medicine, University of Illinois, was delivered by Dr. Wm. H. Welker, assistant professor of physiological chemistry.

In his annual report, President Charles F. Thwing, of Western Reserve University, pays tributes to Dr. Dudley P. Allen and Dr. Hunter H. Powell, referred to as having performed distinguished services as members of the faculty of the School of Medicine. President Thwing says:

Among the gifts included in the donation of \$1,000,000 for the endowment of the School of Medicine was the sum of \$40,000 given by members of this board with the request that this sum be used in some form to give aid to the work in which Dr. Powell was interested. I therefore venture to renew a recommendation made in a previous report that a fund be formally established to bear the name of Dr. Powell, of which the income shall be used for the support of the department to which he gave his life. To the \$40,000 which should be thus set aside might fittingly be added at least \$10,000. I also beg leave to express the hope that, in recognition of Dr. Allen's great service rendered to the cause of surgery in and through the School of Medicine, a special fund may be secured to bear his name, the income of which shall be used for research in the science of surgery, or for the support of its practise.

At the meeting of the faculty of the Cornell University Medical College held at the College on Friday, October 15, 1915, the following memorial was read and adopted:

Austin Flint, M.D., LL.D., professor emeritus in the Cornell University Medical College, passed away September 22, 1915, in the eightieth year of his age. A student of Claude Bernard and of Robin, he early achieved distinction. Thus, in 1862, at the age of twenty-five, he discovered a substance in human feces which he called stercorin, recognizing it as a derivative of cholesterol. This discovery was awarded honorable mention by the Institute of France. It did not receive full recognition because of an unfavorable pronounce-

ment by Hoppe-Seyler. However, in 1896, sterocorin was again discovered, this time by Bondzynski, and given the name of koprosterin. To Flint, however, working with older, cruder methods, belongs the credit of having first isolated the substance in pure crystalline form. Austin Flint was one of the greatest teachers of the old school of American medicine. A forceful orator and skilled experimentalist, he was the first in this country to expound the doctrines of the French school of physiology which in his early life was at the height of its renown. Dr. Flint took pride in being of the fifth generation of noted physicians, his great-grandfather and his father having borne the name Austin Flint, a name which outlives him in a surviving son. We, the faculty of Cornell University Medical College, with which Dr. Flint was associated during ten years, hereby record our appreciation of this life and beg to tender our sympathies to his family.

AUGUSTUS JAY DU BOIS, for thirty years professor of civil engineering in the Sheffield Scientific School, Yale University, died at his home in New Haven, on October 19, at the age of sixty-six years.

THE REV. FATHER CHARLES M. CHARROPPIN, S.J., an astronomer, and formerly head of the department of science of St. Louis University, died at St. Charles, Mo., on October 17.

REV. MICHAEL J. TULLY, S.J., died on October 20, at the age of thirty-nine years, at Fordham University, New York. Father Tully had occupied the chair of chemistry in Boston College, at Holy Cross, St. Francis Xavier and Fordham University.

EDWARD A. MINCHIN, F.R.S., professor of protozoology in the University of London, has died at the age of forty-nine years.

PROFESSOR C. A. EWALD, of Berlin, distinguished for his work on diseases of the stomach, for thirty years editor of the *Berliner klinische Wochenschrift*, died on September 20, in his seventieth year.

At the recent meeting in Manchester, as we learn from *Nature*, the general committee of the British Association unanimously adopted the following resolution, which has been forwarded to the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Presidents of the Board of Education and of Agriculture and

Fisheries: "That the British Association for the Advancement of Science, believing that the higher education of the nation is of supreme importance in the present crisis of our history, trusts that his Majesty's government will, by continuing its financial support, maintain the efficiency of teaching and research in the universities and university colleges of the United Kingdom."

THE geological department of Yale University has since 1871 graduated 50 men and 2 women with the degree of doctor of philosophy. Of these 50 are living, and all but 4 are following geology as a profession. Up to 1890 the degree was conferred upon 7, during the decade 1890-1900 upon 8, from 1900 to 1910 upon 22, and since then upon 15. Of those following the profession, 15 are professors and 6 are assistant professors or instructors in universities, 11 are geologists on the Geological Survey of Canada and 5 on the United States Geological Survey, 5 are state geologists, and 3 are curators of geological collections in public museums.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE sum of about \$400,000 has been subscribed in the University of Michigan alumni campaign for \$1,000,000 with which to build and endow a home for the Michigan Union, as a memorial to Dr. James B. Angell, president emeritus.

DELAWARE COLLEGE, at Newark, has received a gift of \$500,000, from a donor whose name is withheld, for the construction and maintenance of buildings.

THE contracts have been awarded for the erection of a new biological laboratory at the University of Nebraska to house the departments of botany and zoology. The building will be a memorial to the late Charles E. Bessey and will be known as "Bessey Hall." The main building will consist of three floors and a basement fifty by two hundred and thirty-five feet with a short wing at each end. Greenhouses and vivaria will be connected with the building.