acquaint scientific men with the richly varied sea-life of the California coast.

There will be lectures, conferences and demonstrations every afternoon of the six weeks by members of the scientific staff of the institution on the following subjects (each once weekly). "The Relation of Biology to the Sciences of Man," Professor William E. Ritter, Fridays; "Heredity, Environment and Adaptation," Dr. F. V. Sumner, Thursdays; "Some of the Messages of Marine Biology to Student and Teacher," E. L. Michael, Wednesdays; "Physical Oceanography, Including Some of Its Relations to Meteorology," G. F. McEwen, Tuesdays. "Local Coastal Physical Geography" will be a course to be conducted Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, at 10 o'clock by W. C. Crandall, who as master of the *Alexander Agassiz,* the institution's seagoing scientific collecting vessel, has wide familiarity with the California coast. The rest of the mornings of every day except Saturday will be devoted to lectures, laboratory, museum and field work for small groups of students on the characteristic animal and plant life of the ocean waters along the shore of southern California, this work being conducted by W. C. Crandall and P. S. Barnhart.

The university has been encouraged in such undertakings by the success of the annual summer session at Berkeley (for next summer from June 26 to August 5), which last year enrolled 5,364 students.

Half a mile of ocean frontage, with cliffs, sand beaches and tide pools inhabited by a wide variety of sea-life is the ideal location which the Scripps Institution for Biological Research occupies, two miles north of La Jolla and fifteen miles north of the center of San Diego but within the corporate limits of the city. The "investors," as Miss Ellen B. Scripps and Mr. E. W. Scripps prefer to be known, have provided the Scripps Institution with maintenance funds and with a commodious laboratory building containing twelve private laboratories for investigators, a large aquarium room, a two-story concrete museum and library building, now in course of construction; and a concrete pier a thousand feet in length, at which the eighty-five foot collecting vessel, the *Alexander Agassiz,* can dock, and from the end of which, far out beyond the surf zone, pure sea water is pumped in to supply the nineteen tanks in the public aquarium and also the scientific laboratories. The institution possesses a biological library of over 5,000 bound volumes and 8,000 pamphlets and the principal scientific journals in its field, and a museum is being assembled of the marine fauna of the California coast.

"Endowed research in pure science is absolutely essential to continued progress in civilization"—such is the declaration of faith which Director William E. Ritter makes in his announcement of this assembly in science at La Jolla, from June 25 to August 5. "In a democratic country like ours," he continues, "there must be provision for investigation and also definite measures to disseminate the fruits of investigation as widely as possible among the people."

Any persons interested in science who wish to attend the assembly at the Scripps Institution are requested to write as soon as possible to Professor William E. Ritter, scientific director of the institution, at La Jolla, so that proper provision may be made.

THE CLOSING OF BRITISH MUSEUMS

A protest against the closing of British museums (including art galleries) was made to the prime minister on February 10 by a deputation representing the Museums Association, the National Art Collections Fund, the Royal Asiatic Society, the Hellenic Society, the Art Workers' Guild and the Imperial Arts League. Mr. Asquith said that in addition to the reading room of the British Museum, the government had decided to keep open the National Gallery and the Victoria and Albert Museum. In view of the numerous colonial visitors and wounded soldiers who resorted to the Natural History Museum, a further concession might be made by keeping open the portions of the museum which most interest ordinary visitors. Sir E. Ray Lankester writes to the London *Times:*

I am afraid that our legislators are ignorant of

the contents and purposes of the museum, as well as misinformed in regard to the paltry amount really involved in admitting the public. That is more than probable since, when I was its director, I was frequently told by the eminent politicians and other public men—who had unfortunately been appointed trustees of the museum—that they had never visited its galleries, and really felt little interest in its contents. The action of those who desire to pose as economists in making a paltry saving by treating science with contempt can only be explained by their disastrous ignorance.

Lord Morley writes to the same journal in regard to the Natural History Museum:

The saving to be effected would be nearer £2,000 than £3,000 per annum. I need not dwell on the disadvantage to students; that is obvious. Then, as the Archbishop said, not at all too strongly, "there would be a great deal of disappointment to such institutions as convalescent homes in the neighborhood of the Natural History Museum, which had been largely visited by wounded officers and men." Besides these, London has a host of colonial visitors just now, and experience shows that the Natural History Museum is one of the places the best of them most desire to see. Interest in the Elgin Marbles at Bloomsbury may, if ministers like, be more or less of an acquired taste. Interest in and curiosity about the animals, birds, insects and all the other wonders in the collection at South Kensington are simple and natural and instructive. To shut your doors in face of curiosity and interest so general, wholesome, and enlivening as this, for the sake of a few hundred pounds in a budget counted by thousands of millions, seems a singular and not quite a diminutive example of perversity, even in our civilized world's present saturnalia of perversity.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Hébert Prize of the Paris Academy of Sciences has been awarded to Professor M. I. Pupin, of Columbia University, for his theoretical and experimental researches in electricity.

THE William H. Nichols medal will be presented to Dr. Claud S. Hudson at the meeting of the New York section of the American Chemical Society, on March 10. Dr. Hudson will make an address on "The Acetyl Derivatives of the Sugars."

DR. SIMON FLEXNER, director of the laboratories of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, has been appointed Cutler lecturer at the Harvard Medical School for 1915–16.

DR. BRADLEY MOORE DAVIS, professor of botany at the University of Pennsylvania, has been elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

THE committee of the British Privy Council for Scientific and Industrial Research has appointed the Hon. Sir C. A. Parsons, K.C.B., F.R.S., to be a member of the advisory council in place of Professor B. Hopkinson, F.R.S., who has been forced to resign by the pressure of special work connected with the war. The committee has also appointed Professor J. F. Thorpe, F.R.S., to fill the vacancy on the advisory council caused by the death of Professor Raphael Meldola, F.R.S.

DR. HENRY K. BENSON, professor of industrial chemistry at the University of Washington, has been appointed director of the newly established Bureau of Industrial Research, the first such institution on the Pacific coast. One fellowship dealing with a problem of the iron and steel industry and amounting to $2,000 has already been established as a result of the cooperative spirit existing between the bureau and the business men of the Pacific northwest. Other fellowships are contemplated. Men interested in the by-products of the fisheries industries have also assigned one of their problems to the bureau for special investigation. The bureau will attempt to coordinate the research activities already undertaken by the university, with a view to the utilization of the resources of Washington.

DR. FREDERICK H. BLODGETT, since 1912 plant pathologist and physiologist at the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, on January 1, assumed his duties as pathologist in the Extension Service of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas. The increasing volume of correspondence and the need of definite information by field observations and demonstration projects on disease control will be met by this addition to the staff.