SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

At the meetings in New York last week, Professor George H. Shull, professor of botany in Princeton University, was elected president of the American Society of Naturalists; Professor Frederic S. Lee, of Columbia University, president of the American Physiological Society, and Professor Robert M. Yerkes, of Harvard University, president of the American Psychological Association.

Mr. E. B. Williamson has been appointed to the position of curator of Odonata in the Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan. He will retain his residence at Bluffton, Ind., and will direct most of the work in his department from there, making frequent trips to Ann Arbor to inspect the collections. Mr. Williamson is at present on a collecting trip in the Santa Marta Mountains, Colombia.

Mr. J. Alfred Hardcastle has been appointed to be astronomer to the Armagh Observatory in the room of Dr. J. E. L. Dreyer, who recently resigned to take up work at Oxford. Mr. Hardcastle is a grandson of the late Sir John Herschel, and has for many years been a university extension lecturer both for Oxford and Cambridge. The two distinguished occupants of the office who have preceded him—Dr. Dreyer and Dr. Romney Robison—held it for almost 100 years.

Irving Fisher, professor of political economy in Yale University, has been appointed lecturer on the Hitchcock Foundation for the fall of 1917 at the University of California. He will give a series of lectures on "Price Levels," between October 1 and 14, 1917.

Wallace Campbell, son of Director W. W. Campbell of the Lick Observatory, has been appointed teaching fellow in astronomy in the University of California, succeeding F. J. Neubauer, who becomes university fellow in the Lick Observatory.

Provost Edgar F. Smith, of the University of Pennsylvania, visited Wittenberg College, Springfield, Ohio, where he was professor of natural science in the early eighties and the Ohio State University, Columbus, O., Friday evening, November 24, where he delivered a lecture before the Columbus Section of the American Chemical Society on "Robert Hare, a Pioneer American Chemist."

The ninety-first course of Christmas lectures to juvenile audiences at the Royal Institution of Great Britain, which were instituted by Michael Faraday in 1826, are being given by Professor Arthur Keith, F.R.S., on December 28, 30, January 2, 4, 6 and 9, at 3 o'clock on each day. His subject is "The Human Machine which All Must Work." At a later date Professor C. S. Sherrington, F.R.S., will give six lectures on the old brain and the new brain and their meaning, and on pain and its nervous basis. The first Friday evening discourse will be given on January 19, when Professor Sir James Dewar will lecture on soap bubbles of long duration.

Dr. W. W. Keen, president of the American Philosophical Society, writes: "In the most impressive list of honors—so richly deserved—bestowed upon Professor Simon Newcomb as published by Mr. Archibald in your issue for December 22, 1916, there is one slight inaccuracy which I beg leave to correct. Under date of January 1, 1909, it is stated that Professor Newcomb was elected vice-president of the American Philosophical Society. Professor Newcomb was elected vice-president in January, 1905, and was re-elected every year up to and including 1909, the year of his death."

Dr. T. H. Bean, chief of the division of fish culture of the conservation commission of New York, and prominent in the work throughout the United States, died on December 28, in Albany, as the result of being struck by an automobile six weeks ago.

Dr. Claude L. Wheeler, editor of the New York *Medical Journal,* died on December 30, in Brooklyn.

Mr. Clement Reid, F.R.S., late of the British Geological Survey, died on December 16, at sixty-three years of age.

The death is announced of Mr. A. M. Worthington, F.R.S., formerly professor of physics at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich.

Mr. W. Ellis, F.R.S., formerly superintendent of the magnetical and meteorological

department, Royal Observatory, Greenwich, died on December 11, in his eighty-ninth year.

THE death is announced, in his eighty-sixth year, of Dr. Richard Norris, formerly professor of physiology in Queen's College, Birmingham.

REPORTS have reached this country of the death of Professor Max Lühe, of Königsberg, Prussia, in a field hospital in Russia, on May 3, 1916, at the age of forty-six years. Dr. Lühe's work in protozoology and parasitology is well known.

THE trustees of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research have passed the following vote:

Resolved: That in recognition of the decreased purchasing power of fixed salaries caused by the increased cost of living, an additional and special compensation, equal to fifteen per cent. of the current annual salary, be paid to each regular officer and employee of the institute, said sum to be paid on January 5, 1917; it being understood that this is not an increase of salary and does not create any precedent for the future. In the case of employees who have served less than one year the payment will be fifteen per cent. of the amount actually received up to December 31, 1916.

It is to be hoped that this resolution will be brought to the attention of trustees of all educational and scientific institutions.

PLANS are under way at the headquarters of the American Institute of Mining Engineers for the one hundred and fourteenth meeting of the institute to be held in New York from February 19 to 22 inclusive. It is expected that this meeting will bring out discussions of an important character regarding the development of mining methods in recent times and some of the immediate problems. About 500 mining engineers from many different parts of the world will be in attendance. Since the western meeting of the institute in September, its membership has increased by more than 200 members. In the past three years the enrollment has risen from 4,284 to 5,922. This increase is regarded as an important commentary on the development of mining in this country, the membership of the institute being limited to those engaged in mining, and metallurgical engineering, geology or chemistry. The officers of the American Institute of Mining Engineers are L. D. Ricketts, president; Sidney J. Jennings, first vice-president; George C. Stone, treasurer, and Bradley Stoughton, secretary.

THE *British Medical Journal* states that the Italian minister of war recently invited medical women to offer themselves for military service. Graduates of more than five years' standing are to have the rank of sublieutenant; those of more than fifteen years' standing that of captain. Signora Filomena Corvini is the first woman who has received a commission. She has been appointed to the 9th Army Corps for service at the front.

THE late Dr. Magnan, a former president of the Paris Academy of Medicine, has left to that body a sum of £1,000 to found a triennial prize to be awarded to the author of the best work on a psychiatrical subject.

IN her will Mrs. Mary Palmer Draper, who died on December 8, 1914, left gifts exceeding $450,000 to the New York Public Library and a legacy of $150,000 to the Harvard College Observatory, where she had already established the Draper Memorial. The report made by Appraiser Berwin reveals that the net estate amounted to $1,630,220 and is insufficient to pay the specific bequests in full. Accordingly they have been abated proportionately. The gifts to the New York Public Library as enumerated were: Books, portraits, engraved gems, etchings and engravings, $25,548 in value; cash bequests of $250,000, abated to $238,836, and a remainder interest in the trust fund for Rosin B. Palmer, $64,796 in value. The bequests severally were to found the John S. Billings Memorial Fund for the purchase of books and the Anna Palmer Draper Fund as a memorial to the decedent's father. The bequest to Harvard is abated to $143,301. Under the terms of the will this is to be expended in preserving and using the photographic plates of the Draper Memorial. Mrs. Draper gave her husband's plates and scientific apparatus previously loaned to the observatory. The Polyclinic Hospital, which was to receive $50,000, will get $47,767. The Children's Aid Society, the New York Association for Improving

the Condition of the Poor, the New York Skin and Cancer Hospital and the Laboratory of Surgical Research of the New York University, which were bequeathed $25,000 each, are apportioned $23,883. The Metropolitan Museum of Art will get art objects worth $21,830. Bequests to individuals are likewise reduced.

THE faculty of medicine of Harvard University offers as usual this year a course of free public lectures, to be given at the Medical School, Longwood Avenue, on Sunday afternoons, at four o'clock. The program follows:

January 7.—Rev. Dr. Francis G. Peabody, "Alcohol and Efficiency."

January 14.—Dr. Hugh Cabot, "The Care of the Wounded with the British Expeditionary Force in France."

January 21.—Dr. E. W. Taylor, "Infantile Paralysis; Precautions Necessary and Unnecessary."

January 28.—Dr. W. T. Porter, " 'Shock' in the Trenches."

February 4.—Dr. J. L. Morse, "Feeding and Its Relation to the Infant's Development."

February 11.—Dr. F. J. Cotton, "The Development of Employer's Liability Insurance in Accident and Sickness."

February 18.—Dr. E. H. Place, "Does it Pay to Have the Contagious Diseases during Childhood?"

February 25.—Dr. Percy G. Stiles, "Sleep."

March 4.—Dr. L. M. S. Miner, "Diseases of the Teeth and the Use of the X-ray in their Diagnosis and Treatment."

March 11.—Miss Ida M. Cannon, "Social Service in Medicine."

March 18.—Dr. Cleveland Floyd, "Tuberculosis; its Cause and Prevention."

March 25.—Dr. W. B. Cannon, "Methods of Medical Progress."

April 1.—Dr. C. T. Brues, "Fleas and Other Insect Parasites in Their Relation to Public Health."

April 8.—Dr. J. Bapst Blake, "Accident and Injury; First Aid" (with demonstration of simple methods and materials).

April 15.—Dr. Paul Thorndike, "Urinary Troubles in Elderly Men" (to men only).

April 22.—Dr. W. H. Robey, "Some Facts and Fancies about Heart Disease."

A SERIES of popular medical lectures will be given at the Stanford University Medical School during January, February and March, 1917. The program is as follows:

January 12: "What Every One Should Know about Cancer," Dr. Harry M. Sherman, representing the American Society for the Control of Cancer.

January 26: "Modern Efforts to secure Painless Childbirth," Dr. Frank W. Lynch, professor of obstetrics and gynecology, University of California.

February 9: "Poliomyelitis," Dr. William C. Hassler, health officer of San Francisco.

February 23: "The Importance of Proper Habits of Carriage as a Basis of Health." Illustrated. Dr. Harry D. Langnecker, clinical instructor in orthopedic surgery, Stanford Medical School.

March 9: "The Problem of Race and Race Prejudice," Professor Arthur W. Meyer, professor of anatomy, Stanford Medical School.

March 23: "Prevention of Blindness." Illustrated. Dr. Hans Barkan, clinical instructor in ophthalmology, Stanford Medical School.

WE learn from *Nature* that a meeting was held on November 9 in the University of Sheffield to discuss the formation of a Society of Glass Technology. The widespread interest in the scheme was demonstrated by the presence of representatives of cities as far apart as London, Edinburgh and Cardiff, whilst every glass-manufacturing district was well represented. Mr. W. F. J. Wood, of Messrs. Wood Bros., Ltd., Barnsley, was elected to the chair, and the meeting opened with a cordial welcome from the vice-chancellor of the university, Dr. H. A. L. Fisher, who remarked that Sheffield had cause for legitimate pride in the knowledge that its university had been proposed as the headquarters of a society representing such an important industry. He emphasized the fact that this industry, among others, had suffered in the past owing to its detachment, wholly or partially, from its scientific aspects. The formation of the department of glass technology in the university was serving to remedy this state of affairs, and the inauguration of this society was a distinct step in the same direction. Dr. W. E. S. Turner outlined the steps that had led up to the formation of the society, and spoke of the remarkable response from those interested in glass. Expressions of approval and promises of support had been received from all over the country. Dr. Turner pointed out that there was no

intention of making the society a local institution; but that it was in every way a national one. The report of the provisional committee was adopted, and a formal resolution giving actual being to the society was passed unanimously. The following officers were then elected: *President,* Mr. W. F. J. Wood; *Vice-presidents,* Mr. S. B. Bagley, Mr. F. J. Cheshire, Sir William Crookes, Mr. A. S. Esslemont, Professor H. Jackson, Mr. S. N. Jenkinson, Mr. H. J. Powell, Dr. W. Rosenhain, F.R.S., Mr. H. J. Stobart, Dr. M. W. Travers, F.R.S., Mr. Duncan Webb and Mr. H. S. Williams-Thomas; Treasurer, Mr. F. Sweeting; *Secretary,* Dr. W. E. S. Turner; *Assistant Secretary,* Mr. C. J. Peddle.

IT is stated in the daily papers that the Federal Bureau of Mines has succeeded in producing radium which is worth $1,000,000 at market prices at a cost of $340,000. Most of this radium will go to the Memorial Hospital of New York and the private cancer hospital conducted by Dr. Howard A. Kelly, of Baltimore.

Now that it is possible to obtain photographic records of events of historical importance the question of preserving really valuable films is again engaging attention. Two difficulties stand in the way of securing a permanent national collection of films. One is the risk of fire owing to the inflammable character of the material used, and the other is the fact that the life of a cinematograph film is limited to a few years. According to the London *Times* the attention of the British Museum was recently called to the question of the permanent preservation of the cinema films illustrating the South Polar Expedition of the late Captain Scott. These films are shown by Mr. Herbert G. Ponting in his lecture "With Captain Scott in the Antarctic," which is now being given at the Philharmonic Hall. The director of the museum replied that the matter of preserving historic films had not been overlooked, but as special risk was incidental to the storage of films the trustees, in the interest of the national collections generally, felt disinclined to receive favorably such proposals. Preservation of the films taken of the fighting in the war is so desirable that it is hoped that some way of solving the existing difficulties may be found.

. IN August the Congress of the United States appropriated $175,000 for the investigation of sources of potash within the United States. This appropriation was designed to make possible the continuation on a large scale of the work inaugurated and carried on by the Bureau of Soils of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. As a result of this work, and of the operations to date of the various commercial organizations engaged in the extraction of potash from kelp on the Pacific coast, it appeared to the officials of the Department of Agriculture that the giant kelps of the Pacific coast represented the largest and most immediately available source of potash in the country. Accordingly the secretary of agriculture has authorized the construction at some point on the coast of Southern California of a plant to be designed and operated to demonstrate on a commercial scale the various processes of extracting potash and by-products from kelp. This work will be carried on by the Bureau of Soils under the personal supervision of J. W. Turrentine. The bureau proposes to proceed at once with the execution of its plans.

THE white pine blister rust has been discovered in Minnesota in four localities along the St. Croix River, close to the eastern boundary of the state. A careful survey of other portions of the state last summer failed to disclose the presence of the disease elsewhere. It is believed that the infestation came from the adjoining state, Wisconsin, which in turn was first infested from a shipment of pines from Germany. An emergency appropriation was allowed to the Minnesota state entomologist, and field work, both survey and eradication, has been pushed during the past season. A special appropriation will be asked from the legislature this winter in order that the work may be continued for a number of years. It would appear that Minnesota has a good chance to stamp out the disease before it obtains a foothold.

THE New York *Sun* states that a suggestion is being made in England to establish a "cen-

tral department of minerals and metals" under government auspices to collect and impart information bearing on the sources of minerals and the production of metals, as being imperatively necessary in the public interest. This is advanced in a letter sent to the chairman of the "advisory council of scientific and industrial research" by the presidents of the "institution of mining engineers," "institute of mining and metallurgy" and "institute of metals." The letter points out that there is at present no connecting link between various organizations, that there is considerable overlapping and much waste and confusion. If a properly organized and efficiently conducted department of minerals and metals had been in existence much valuable time, many lives and vast sums of money would have been saved to the nation in the conduct of the present war, and much of the cost and inconvenience to British industries depending largely for their raw material on mineral products would have been saved. The following are some of the duties suggested by the new department: Arrangement for expediting the completion of mineral surveys of the United Kingdom and crown colonies and other British possessions. Systematic collection and coordination of information bearing on the occurrence, uses and economical value of minerals and their products; special attention being devoted to securing industrial applications for newly discovered minerals or metallurgical products and to finding mineral materials required for new metallurgical products or inventions.

According to *Nature* the *Gazette de Hollande* emphasizes the use made in Germany of geological advice in trench warfare, and Professor Salomon, of Heidelberg, is said to have urged the formation of a special organization of geologists in connection with the army. It is said that excellent use has been made by the British military authorities of the Geological Survey staff, members of which have been of technical assistance in fields as wide apart as the deeply dissected strata of Gallipoli and the undulating Cretaceous expanses of the Paris-Brussels basin. The geologist has been found of service in military mining as well as in questions of water supply, and the memoir recently issued by the Geological Survey on "Sources of Temporary Water Supply in the South of England and Neighboring Parts of the Continent" was drawn up specially to meet the needs of camps.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

Muskingum College, New Concord, Ohio, has received an anonymous gift of $150,000 for endowment and buildings, on condition that the college pay an equal amount.

With the desire to encourage the study of Russian, in view of the commercial intercourse between Russia and Hull, Capt. H. Samman has expressed to the Hull Chamber of Commerce his willingness to start an endowment fund for the purpose with a sum of £10,000.

O. R. Sweeney, Ph.D. (Penna.), for the past six years instructor in qualitative analysis at the University of Pennsylvania has been appointed instructor in industrial chemistry at the Ohio State University where he formerly graduated from the chemical engineering course.

C. H. Snyder, the consulting structural engineer, has been appointed lecturer in civil engineering in the University of California.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

PHOSPHATES

Some experimental results in a comparison of different phosphates at the Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station have recently been referred to by Dr. C. G. Hopkins[1] in such a way as to be easily misunderstood. The writer wishes to say that neither now nor in the past have these results allowed us to advocate, as intimated by Dr. Hopkins, the use of unacidulated bone meal. From the standpoint of economy the data obtained here have been

[1] Science, p. 652, November 3, 1916.