

THE SMITHSONIAN STATION FOR THE STUDY OF SOLAR RADIATION

THE Smithsonian Institution has established a station for the study of solar radiation on Hump Mountain, two miles from the town of Elk Park, North Carolina, at an altitude of about 4,800 feet. Dr. Charles E. Abbot, who has just returned from Hump Mountain, reports that the main and auxiliary buildings are ready and that the equipment is nearly all hauled up to the station. With the assistance of Mr. A. F. Moore, of Los Angeles, who is to be the local director, Dr. Abbot unpacked and set up most of the observing apparatus, all of which he expects will be ready for use in a few days.

Assisting Mr. Moore, is Mr. Leonard H. Abbot, of Worcester, Mass., and associated with Mr. Moore for some weeks will be Mr. L. B. Aldrich, of the Astrophysical Observatory, who left Washington recently for North Carolina to represent Dr. Abbot. The expedition is expected to continue at Hump Mountain for a year, or longer if conditions warrant. Its purpose is to observe variations of the sun's output of radiation, such as have been discovered by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory and recorded heretofore at its station located on Mount Wilson, in California. It is hoped that the cooperative measurements of the new Smithsonian station in North Carolina and the station on Mount Wilson will promote weather forecasting.

The data needed for such forecasting is secured from measurements of the sun's variation made with the bolometer, invented by Dr. Samuel P. Langley, late secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, taken at observing stations located in different parts of the world. After comparing and correcting these readings registered by the sun's rays, they are referred to standardized tables and the corresponding changes in the temperature of the earth's surface calculated in advance for different localities.

In a pamphlet on this subject recently published by the Smithsonian Institution, the author, Dr. H. Helm Clayton, of the Argentine Meteorological Service, states:

Two important conclusions are derived from this study: (1) That there is an intimate relation between solar changes and meteorological changes of short period, and that measurements of solar radiation like those made by Dr. Abbot and his associates have the greatest importance for meteorology. (2) That there is a class of meteorological changes which have their origin in equatorial regions and by a transference of air, probably in the upper layers, are felt within a few days in higher latitudes. These changes are the complement of the complex meteorological drift which goes from west to east in temperate latitudes with a component of motion from pole to equator in both hemispheres.

THE AQUARIUM OF THE CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

By the will of Mr. Ignatz Steinhart, recently deceased, the California Academy of Sciences will receive the sum of \$250,000 for an aquarium building to be erected in Golden Gate Park adjacent to or adjoining the buildings or museum of the Academy of Sciences. According to the terms of the will the aquarium is to be known as the Steinhart Aquarium, to be under the management, superintendence and control of the California Academy of Sciences, and the expense of maintenance to be met by the city of San Francisco.

At a recent election a charter amendment was adopted which directs the Board of Supervisors of the city of San Francisco to include each year in their annual budget an item of *not less* than \$20,000 for aquarium maintenance.

Mr. Steinhart made many bequests to charitable and educational institutions, the total amount disposed of being about \$3,000,000.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

AMONG the degrees conferred at the commencement at Princeton University were the doctorate of laws on Dr. George E. Hale, chairman of the National Research Council, and the degree of doctor of science on Dr. Charles H. Mayo, retiring president of the American Medical Association, and Theobald Smith, director of the department of animal pathology of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research.

THE degree of Sc.D has been conferred by Union College on William Pitt Mason, professor of chemistry in the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

MR. ORVILLE WRIGHT was awarded the honorary degree of doctor of science at the graduation exercises of the University of Cincinnati.

LEHIGH UNIVERSITY has conferred its doctorate of laws on Wallace C. Reddick, president of the North Carolina College of Agriculture, who gave the commencement address.

AT the formal opening of the American Red Cross Hospital of Paris, on May 31, President Poincaré bestowed the cross of the Legion of Honor on Dr. Joseph A. Blake, surgeon-in-chief of the hospital, and thanked him in the name of the republic for his valuable services during the war.

PROFESSOR HALLER has been elected honorary president of the newly organized French Society of Industrial Chemistry.

GEORGE B. WISLOCKI has been appointed to take charge of the laboratory of surgical research in the Harvard Medical School.

THE California State Board of Health has appointed Professor Charles A. Kofoed, professor of zoology, University of California, as consulting biologist, and Assistant Professor W. W. Cort, associate biologist, and has made provision for the establishment of a biological laboratory for protozoological and helminthological work in conjunction with their Bureau of Communicable Diseases. Two assistants will be appointed in the laboratory.

THE board of trustees of the Leo M. Levi Memorial Hospital, Hot Springs, Ark., announces the founding of a department of medical research to be maintained in connection with the hospital. Dr. Geo. L. Hoffman, formerly assistant to Professor W. Kolle, past director of the Institut zur Erforschung der Infektionskrankheiten in Bern, has been appointed director of the newly founded department, and will assume charge on July first.

MR. PAGE, the United States Ambassador, attended the recent annual meeting of the Royal

Geographical Society of Great Britain and presented to Mr. G. G. Chisholm the medal awarded to him by the American Geographical Society. Mr. Chisholm is lecturer in geography at the University of Edinburgh, secretary of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society, and author of commercial and school geographies. Mr. Page, in handing the medal to him, said he had richly earned the recognition of his countrymen for the painstaking character and conscientious thoroughness of his work. Mr. Douglas W. Freshfield, the president, presented the Royal medals and other awards that have already been announced in SCIENCE.

As reported in last week's SCIENCE, Dr. Arthur Dean Bevan, of Chicago, was elected president at the recent meeting of the New York Medical Association. The following officers were also elected: *First Vice-president*, Dr. Edward H. Bradford, of Boston; *Second Vice-president*, Dr. John McMullin, U. S. Public Health Service; *Third Vice-president*, Dr. Lawrence Litchfield, of Pittsburgh; *Secretary*, Dr. Alexander C. Craig, of Chicago; *Treasurer*, Dr. William Allen Pusey, of Chicago; *Chairman of the House of Delegates*, Dr. Hubert Work, of Pueblo, Colo.; *Vice-chairman*, Dr. Dwight H. Murray, of Syracuse, N. Y.; *Trustees*, Dr. Philip Marvel, of Atlantic City; Dr. W. T. Sarles, of Sparta, Wis.; Dr. Bert Ellis, of California, and Dr. Wendell C. Phillips, of New York City. Chicago has been chosen as the place of meeting for 1918.

THE faculty of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas recently appointed a committee on National Defense to cooperate with the Council of National Defense and the State Council on National Defense, consisting of the following members: Dr. W. B. Bizzell, *chairman*; Colonel Clarence Ousley, Mr. H. M. Eliot, Dr. Charles Puryear, Dr. O. M. Ball, Mr. B. Youngblood, Dr. E. P. Humbert.

J. E. TODD, formerly professor of geology in the University of South Dakota and for the last ten years occupying a similar position in Kansas University, has recently been retired on half pay. He hopes to continue research

work, including a report on the history of Kansas during the Glacial Period, which is nearly ready for publication by the Kansas University Geological Survey. He celebrates this year the fiftieth anniversary of his graduation at Oberlin College, O.

It was incorrectly stated in the issue of SCIENCE of June 8 that Dr. George Dock, of St. Louis, had received the French war cross for service in France. The item, which in some way became distorted in the daily and medical press, should have referred to Dr. Dock's son, George Dock, Jr., a Dartmouth graduate of 1916, who has been in the American Ambulance for more than a year and was for many months in the vicinity of Verdun. There, in the words of the citation, "s'est distingué . . . par son mépris du danger et son entrain remarquable. Les 18 Septembre et 28 Decembre, 1916, s'est dépensé pour des evacuations difficiles et particulièrement pénibles sur des routes sans cesse bombardées."

DR. ALEXANDER LAMBERT, of New York, has been ordered to France as medical adviser to the War Relief Commission of the Red Cross during the war. Dr. Tom A. Williams, of Washington, goes to France at the end of this month to fill an appointment as neurologist in the French Service de Santé.

MR. GEORGE P. ENGELHARDT, curator of invertebrates, and Mr. Jacob Doll, curator of Lepidoptera in the Brooklyn Museum, have undertaken an expedition to the plateau regions of southwestern Utah and northern Arizona. The objects of the field work will be general, though particular attention will be given to lepidoptera, small mammals and reptiles. The expedition was made possible through the generosity of Mr. B. Preston Clark, of Boston.

THE University of Pennsylvania Museum Expedition to study the Eskimos of Bering Straits and of the northern coast of Alaska, has left Seattle, Wash. It is financed by John Wanamaker and headed by Lieutenant Van Valin, who for three years was in the government service as an inspector of schools in Alaska.

At the annual meeting of the Botanical Society of Pennsylvania held on the grounds of Mr. Robert Le Boutillier, Wayne, Pa., on Saturday, May 5, 1917, Dr. C. Stuart Gager gave an address on "The aims and objects of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden."

THE annual congress of the Southeastern Union of Scientific Societies was held in London, in the rooms of the Linnean Society, on June 6-9. Dr. William Martin, formerly general secretary of the union, the president, had as the subject of his address "The application of scientific method."

THE eighth Halley lecture was delivered at the University of Oxford, on June 12, by Professor Arthur Schuster. The subject was "Terrestrial magnetism: past, present and future."

SIR ALEXANDER R. BINNIE, the distinguished English civil engineer, died on May 18, at seventy-eight years of age.

M. JOSEPH RIBAN, honorary professor of the faculty of sciences of Paris, known for work on organic and applied chemistry, has died at the age of eighty years.

WE learn from the London *Times* that it has been decided to take over a part, at least, of the Victoria and Albert Museum for the accommodation of the Board of Education and their staff. The Imperial Institute, which had been selected for this purpose, is to be devoted to other uses. The Trench Warfare Department, which occupied part of the Board of Education's premises in Whitehall, is to find a place in the building in Millbank of the British-American Tobacco Company, who, upon being informed of the needs of the government, immediately offered to surrender their headquarters on the understanding that other premises should be found for their staff. Arrangements are being made with an hotel to supply the necessary accommodation.

THE National Museum has recently received as a gift from Mrs. George W. Vanderbilt the botanical specimens and books of the Biltmore Herbarium, the well-known botanical institution established and maintained for many years by the late George W. Vanderbilt

at Biltmore, North Carolina. During the disastrous floods of last July the Herbarium was largely inundated, suffering a loss of about three fourths of the botanical specimens and injuries to a considerable portion of the library. The uninjured specimens, chiefly phanerogams, number about 25,000, and will be of great value to the National Herbarium in augmenting its representation of southeastern plants. The collection contains, also, a large series of *Crataegus* specimens, including the types of many species described by Mr. C. D. Beadle, curator of the herbarium and an authority in this difficult genus. The library includes complete sets of several important botanical and horticultural publications, as well as many botanical works not hitherto in the National Museum.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

A COMMITTEE of the Massachusetts Medical Society, consisting of Samuel B. Woodward, chairman, Dr. E. H. Bradford, Dr. Edward C. Streeter, Dr. Arthur N. Broughton, Dr. Peer P. Johnson and Dr. Philemon E. Truesdale, has been appointed to further the establishment of a department of military medicine, surgery and hygiene in the Harvard Medical School. It is proposed to raise an endowment fund of \$100,000.

THE financial board of the University of Cambridge has issued a report on the estimated income and expenditure for the year 1917. Although the common university fund, which is derived from assessments of colleges, is slightly greater than in 1913, the university chest, which is largely derived from capitation fees, examination fees, etc., has fallen from £53,400 to £23,900. The board estimates that the normal expenditure on the university chest will be £36,200, as against an estimated income of £20,400, leaving a deficiency of £15,800. Towards this they are able to provide the sum of £12,700, leaving a deficiency of £3,100.

THE archeological and ethnological collections of the late Dr. J. William White, of Philadelphia, have been presented to the University Museum by Mrs. White.

At the University of Virginia Dr. Theodore Hough, acting dean, has been made dean of the medical school; Dr. James A. Wardell, associate professor, has been appointed professor of pharmacology and materia medica, and Dr. John H. Neff, instructor, adjunct professor of genito urinary surgery.

At Harvard University Earnest A. Hooton has been appointed instructor in anthropology, Clarence E. Kelley and Harlan T. Stetson, instructors in astronomy, William E. Brown, instructor in public health administration, Raymond E. Merwin, associate in Central American archeology, and Willis A. Boughton, assistant director in the chemical laboratory.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR W. M. CARRUTH, of the department of mathematics at Hamilton College, has been promoted to a professorship.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

AN INSTITUTE FOR THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Referring to the proposal of an institute for the history of science and civilization, as outlined in a recent issue of SCIENCE,¹ the attention of all interested in this project is invited to the fact that the resources of precisely such an institution as has been proposed are indispensable to the full performance of its duties by the United States Patent Office, and to the fact that the resources of this office, inadequate as they now are, should in turn be at the disposal of the proposed institute, for the attainment of its separate purposes.

The suggestion is accordingly made that to the published list of important possible activities, there might most advantageously be added a sixth—the facilitation of prompt and reliable judgments upon all questions of novelty arising in connection with the administration of the patent laws, thereby aiding in the placing of the administration of such laws upon a secure scientific foundation. Surely the attainment of this additional purpose would be of sufficient public importance to deserve separate enumeration, and the furtherance of it

¹ SCIENCE, No. 1160, p. 284.