

summer of 1918, in search of more new land. Stefansson, he said, intended to leave his present base in April and hoped to reach Wrangel Island, off the northern Siberia coast, in July or August. He planned to spend the 1918-19 winter on the island and end his explorations by sailing through the Behring Strait to Nome, Alaska, in 1919.

NEW YEAR honors in Great Britain, as reported in *Nature*, include: *K.C.B. (Civil Division)*: Mr. A. D. Hall, F.R.S., secretary of the Board of Agriculture; Sir George Newman, principal medical officer to the Board of Education. *C.B. (Civil Division)*; Mr. F. L. C. Floud, assistant secretary to the Board of Agriculture. *Baronet*: Professor James Ritchie, Irvine professor of bacteriology, University of Edinburgh. *C.I.E.*: Mr. P. H. Cluttbuck, Indian Forest Service, chief conservator of Forests, United Provinces. *Knight-hoods*: Mr. W. N. Atkinson, who has contributed largely to a knowledge of the dangers of coal-dust in mines; Dr. J. Scott Keltie, editor of *The Statesman's Year-Book*, and for many years secretary of the Royal Geographical Society; Dr. A. Macphail, professor of the history of medicine, McGill University, Montreal. In addition a large number of medical men have received honors for services rendered in connection with military operations in the field.

THE lecture arrangements at the Royal Institution include the following: Professor J. A. Fleming, a course of six experimentally illustrated lectures, adapted to a juvenile auditory, on "Our useful servants: magnetism and electricity"; Professor W. M. Flinders Petrie, three lectures on Palestine and Mesopotamia—discovery, past and future; Professor Arthur Keith, three lectures on the problems of British anthropology; Dr. Leonard Hill, two lectures on (1) the stifling of children's health, (2) the climatic adaptation of black and white men; Sir R. T. Glazebrook, two lectures on the National Physical Laboratory; Sir Napier Shaw, two lectures on illusions of the atmosphere; Professor W. J. Pope, two lectures on the chemical action of light; M. Paul H. Loyson, two lectures on the ethics of the war;

Sir J. J. Thomson, six lectures on problems in atomic structure. The Friday meetings will commence on January 18, when Sir James Dewar will deliver a discourse on studies on liquid films. Succeeding discourses will probably be given by Professor J. Townsend, Professor A. S. Eddington, Principal E. H. Griffiths, Professor A. G. Green, Professor E. H. Barton and Sir J. J. Thomson.

At the annual meeting of the Washington Academy of Science Dr. W. H. Holmes, of the U. S. National Museum, gave an address on "Man's place in the cosmos as shadowed forth by modern science."

A SERIES of illustrated lectures dealing with science in relation to the war will be presented before the Washington Academy of Science during the present year. The first address of this series was given by Major S. J. M. Aul, of the British Military Mission, on "Methods of gas warfare," on January 17.

MR. W. C. MASON, British imperial entomologist, died at thirty-three years of age on November 28, at Zomba, Nyasaland, of black-water fever.

PROFESSOR C. CHRISTIANSEN, professor of physics in the University of Copenhagen from 1886 to 1912, died on December 28, aged seventy-four years.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE bond issue of \$1,000,000 voted by the legislature for the University of Tennessee has been sold and it is expected that the money will be immediately available.

THE Carnegie Corporation will defray the expense of repairing the buildings of Dalhousie University, Halifax, which were damaged by the explosion on December 6. It is estimated that the amount necessary for repairs will be about \$20,000.

MISS E. C. TALBOT, of Margam, has presented to University College, Cardiff, an endowment of about \$150,000 for a chair in preventive medicine. The first occupant of the

chair is to be nominated for election by the council by an expert board, of which Sir Wm. Osler is chairman.

At the request of the federal government a free course in wireless telegraphy will be given at Bowdoin College. Professor Charles C. Hutchings and Professor Rhys D. Evans are to be in charge of the course.

DR. RAYMOND PEARL, biologist in the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station, and at present at the head of the statistical department of the United States Food Administration, has been appointed head of the department of biometry and vital statistics in the new school of hygiene and public health of the Johns Hopkins University.

DR. PHILIP A. SHAFFER, of Washington University, has been called to the national service. He has been succeeded by Dr. A. Canby Robinson, associate professor of medicine.

MR. ANDREW BOSS has been appointed vice-director of the Minnesota Experiment Station in addition to his present duties.

DR. C. H. SHATTUCK, recently head of the department of forestry at the University of Idaho, has accepted an appointment as professor of forestry in the University of California.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

A SUGGESTION TO MORPHOLOGISTS AND OTHERS

IN the course of a year I look over a good many zoological papers on different topics outside of my own work—papers on genetics or the many aspects of embryology or ecology—and I am impressed with a general carelessness which exists among the writers on one point which probably seems unimportant to many of them but which to me seems of very considerable moment. The point is that very few of them give the name of the taxonomist who identified the species with which they have been working, nor do they indicate the preservation of typical material of the adult form so that the specific identification can be tested at any time.

Confusion has already resulted from this

lack, and more will come. In many cases very great uncertainty exists as to the exact species with which the writer was working. If I were to write a paper in which the name of a beetle was given, my accuracy would be attested by the fact that I inserted, in parenthesis, "Determined by Schwarz" or "by Casey" or "by Fall," or, if it were a Protozoan, the same thing would happen if I inserted in parenthesis "Determined by Calkins," or, if it were a cactus, "Determined by Rose" or "by Trelease," or if it were a fly, "Determined by Knab" or "by Aldrich" or "by Johnson" or "by Malloch" or "by Parker" or "by Townsend." Such a statement as this would at once set at rest any question of accuracy, and would at the same time indicate the probable place at which representative specimens could be found in case of accident to the author of the paper or in case he should not himself preserve such material.

I have never done any embryological work, and in the recent work on chromosomes and the like I do not know how important it is that specific identification should be made of the forms studied; it may be entirely unimportant, if the genus is all right. But knowing, for example, that there are more than fifty species of *Drosophila* in the United States, it gives me an idea of inexactness when I see so many of these recent genetic papers, having to do with this genus, in which no species is mentioned. The writers seem to be entirely indifferent on this point.

Beginning with Howard Ayres's well-known paper "On the Development of *Ecanthus niveus* and its Parasite Teleas," in which he writes in one place of teleas as "a parasitic Ichneumon fly" and in another as one of the "Pteromalidæ," a paper which was awarded the Walker Prize for 1883, and concerning which it must be said that no true teleas has ever been reared from *Ecanthus* eggs,¹ and extending down to the present day, hundreds

¹ It is quite possible that the parasite which Ayres had was *Polynema bifasciatipenne* Girault, a species belonging to an entirely different family—the Mymaridæ.—L. O. H.