

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

A BOARD of medical officers, consisting of Colonels Deane C. Howard, M.C., U. S. Army; Frederick F. Russell, M.C., U. S. Army; Victor C. Vaughan, M.C., N. A.; Lieutenant-Colonel William H. Welch, M.C., N. A., and Contract Surgeon Rufus Cole, has been appointed for the purpose of making an investigation as to the nature, causes and prevention and treatment of pneumonia, and its complications, in the various military camps in the United States. It will report from time to time to the surgeon-general of the army, to whom a full report will be made as soon as practicable after the completion of the investigation.

MAJOR A. J. CARLSON, S.C. N. A., attached to the Food Division or the Surgeon-General's Office, is at present on duty in England making a study of food conditions in the rest camps of the United States Army.

MAJOR SAMUEL C. PRESCOTT, S.C., N. A., attached to the Food Division of the Surgeon-General's Office, has just returned from a tour of southern camps in which he was making an inspection of the conditions of storage as affecting the healthfulness of foods supplied to troops in training.

THE following named officers of the Food Division, Surgeon General's Office, are on duty in France: Major Philip A. Shaffer, Captains Walter H. Eddy, Arthur W. S. Thomas, F. B. Kingsbury and M. G. Mastin, all S.C., N. A.

DR. GEORGE E. VINCENT, president of the Rockefeller Foundation, who had been on a trip of nearly three months to Italy, France and England, arrived in New York on June 1, accompanied by Dr. Livingston Farrand, president of the University of Colorado, who had been in charge of the foundation's tuberculosis work in France for a year.

THE close of the present year at Western Reserve University will be marked by the retirement of Professor F. P. Whitman, who has held the chair of physics and astronomy at Adelbert College for thirty-two years. Professor Whitman, who was born in Troy, New

York, was graduated at Brown University in 1874.

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE at its commencement, on May 20, bestowed the honorary degree of doctor of letters upon Provost Edgar F. Smith.

AT its recent commencement Syracuse University conferred the honorary degree of doctor of science on Professor Albert Perry Brigham, of Colgate University.

THE University of Pittsburgh has conferred its doctorate of science on Raymond Foss Bacon, director of Mellon Institute, University of Pittsburgh, and lieutenant-colonel in charge of the chemical work of the American forces in France, and on George Coffin Johnston, professor of roentgenology in the University of Pittsburgh, and major in the medical corps, the doctorate of engineering, on Walter Victor Turner, pneumatic expert with the Westinghouse interests, and the doctorate of chemistry on Arthur Dehon Little of Boston.

IN recognition of his distinguished work at Yale University, Joseph Barrell, '00, Ph.D., professor of structural geology, has been elected to honorary membership in the Phi Beta Kappa Society.

DR. J. BISHOP TINGLE, professor of chemistry at McMaster University, Toronto, has been elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

SIR THOMAS R. FRASER, who succeeded Sir Robert Christison as professor of materia medica in the University of Edinburgh in 1877, has tendered his resignation, to take effect at the end of the present year.

DR. R. S. HEATH, professor of mathematics at Birmingham University, vice-principal and registrar, has announced his intention to retire owing to ill-health.

THE War Industries Board has created a commodity section on medicines and medical supplies, with Lieutenant Colonel F. F. Simpson as its chief.

DR. THOMAS L. WATSON, professor of geology in the University of Virginia and state geologist of Virginia, has been engaged for

some months in cooperative state and federal work on war minerals and materials in Virginia. He is a member of the subcommittee of the National Research Council on materials for rapid highway and railroad construction behind the front, and an associate member of the war minerals committee.

MR. W. S. FIELDS has resigned as assistant plant pathologist in the Arkansas Experiment Station to take up work as extension plant pathologist under the Bureau of Plant Industry, with headquarters in Mississippi.

THE Bureau of Fisheries has engaged Professor J. Percy Moore, of the University of Pennsylvania, for investigation of fishes and other aquatic animals in relation to mosquito control in northern regions. For the present, at least, his investigation will be conducted in the general vicinity of Philadelphia.

THE following men have been called for military service from the botanical department of the Michigan Agricultural College: Mr. C. F. Murphy and Mr. C. W. Bennett, graduate assistants in botany, and Mr. Ray Nelson, research assistant in plant pathology.

THE geologists of the Ohio Academy of Science for their spring meeting made an excursion to the southern part of the state. The party, twelve in number, left Columbus at noon on May 31 and returned late on June 2. The Silurian formations of Highland county were visited under the lead of A. F. Foerste, and the Mississippian and Pennsylvania of Pike and Jackson counties under the lead of J. E. Hyde and Wilber Stout. Stops were made at the Serpent Mound in Adams county and at Camp Sherman.

FOUR curators of the Museum of the University of Pennsylvania are now in the army, while two others are in Egypt excavating for the Eckley B. Coxe, Jr., Expedition and can not return until after the war. Dr. Stephen Langdon, curator of the Babylonian section, is in the British army and will remain there during the war. He is professor of Assyriology at Oxford University, but was given permission last year to come to this country and accept the post of curator on condition that he

give one course of lectures a year in Oxford. Owing to raising the age limit he was not permitted to leave England this spring and is serving with the colors. Dr. William C. Farabee, who led the museum's Amazon Expedition for three years, has just been appointed a captain in the intelligence corps and will soon leave for service. Stephen B. Luce, of the Mediterranean Section, has been appointed a lieutenant in the Navy and is now in service. H. U. Hall, assistant curator of the American Section, is serving in France with the Keystone Division.

THE Royal medals of the Royal Geographical Society, London, have been awarded by the council as follows: The founder's medal to Miss Gertrude Bell, for her important explorations and travels in Asia Minor, Syria, Arabia, and on the Euphrates; the patron's medal to Commandant Tilho, French Colonial Infantry, for his long-continued surveys and explorations in northern Africa. Owing to the shortage of gold the medals will, with the King's approval, be struck in bronze instead of gold, and the balance of their value be given in war bonds. The other awards are as follows: The Murchison grant to Mr. C. A. Reid, for his maps of the Belgian Congo, which he has placed at the disposal of the society; the Cuthbert Peek grant to Mr. G. F. Archer, for his surveys in East Africa connecting Major Gwynn's Abyssinian triangulation with the triangulation of East Africa; the Back grant to Captain Bartlett, for his distinguished leadership after the loss of the *Karluk*; the Gill memorial to Major Cuthbert Christy, R.A.M.C., for his surveys and explorations in central Africa.

DR. WILLIAM TOWNSEND PORTER, professor of physiology in the Harvard Medical School, will be the commencement speaker at Milton Academy on June 15.

PROFESSOR WILLIAM S. FRANKLIN, of the department of physics of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, lectured before the Washington Academy of Sciences, on June 7, on "Some needed lines of research in meteorology."

DR. E. E. SOUTHARD, of the Harvard Medical School and the Massachusetts State Psychopathic Hospital, gave a lecture on May 14 at the University of Chicago on "War neuroses after the war."

THE Ramsay Memorial Fund, founded under the presidency of Mr. Asquith to raise £100,000 for Ramsay Memorial Fellowships in chemical science, and a laboratory of engineering chemistry at University College, London, has made considerable progress in recent months. Subscriptions and promises to date amount to £32,600. The latest donations include: M. Eugène Schneider, £500; Lady Durning Lawrence, £100 (second donation); Sir G. H. Kenrick, £100; Académie des Sciences de l'Institut de France (of which Sir William Ramsay was a corresponding member), £80; the Fertilizer Manufacturers' Association, £52 10 s.; his Highness the Maharaja Dhiraj of Patiala, £50. "Memorials of the Life and Work of Sir William Ramsay," by Sir William A. Tilden, will be published shortly by the Macmillans.

IN memory of Lieutenant William T. Fitzsimon, Kansas City, who was killed last September, when the German airplanes bombarded the Harvard University Hospital in France, the park commissioners of Kansas City have decided to erect a memorial in the form of a public drinking fountain which will bear an inscription relating the details of Dr. Fitzsimon's work and death.

CHARLES CHRISTOPHER TROWBRIDGE, assistant professor of physics in Columbia University, died suddenly on June 2, aged forty-eight years. Dr. Trowbridge was the author of researches on fluorescence and phosphorescence in gases and also on physical aspects of the flight and migration of birds.

DR. JOSEPH DENIKER, the distinguished French anthropologist, died on March 18, aged sixty-six years. Dr. Deniker, who was chief librarian of the Paris Natural History Museum, was born in Russia.

ALFRED GORDON SOLOMON, of London, known for his contributions to the chemistry of brewing, has died in his sixtieth year.

## UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

A GIFT of \$400,000 to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology was announced by President Richard C. Maclaurin at a meeting of the corporation on June 7. The name of the donor was not made public. The income of the fund will be used for general purposes of the institute during the war and thereafter applied to the development of courses in chemistry and physics.

THE alliance between Columbia University and the Presbyterian Hospital, which was first made in 1911, and was planned to result in the establishment of a great medical center in New York City, has been cancelled by the managers of the hospital. Columbia University was unable to obtain the money needed for its share of the buildings and rejected the plans proposed as a condition of an endowment from the Rockefeller Foundation.

DR. JOHN T. FAIG, professor of mechanical engineering in the University of Cincinnati, has been appointed president of the Ohio Mechanics Institute, succeeding Professor John Shearer, who has been head of the institute for twenty years. Professor Faig is now taking charge of the college of engineering in the absence of Dean Herman Schneider, who is engaged in military service in Washington.

DR. F. OCARANZA, professor of physiology at the University of Mexico, has been appointed secretary of the faculty of medicine. He is at the same time secretary of the Academy of Medicine.

THOMAS J. MACKIE has been appointed professor of bacteriology in the South African Medical College, Cape Town.

DR. T. FRANKLIN SIBLY, of University College, Cardiff, has been appointed professor of geology at Armstrong College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, in succession to the late Professor Lebour.

## DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE DESMOGNATHUS FUSCUS AGAIN

IN SCIENCE (N. S., Vol. 47, Apr. 19, 1918, pp. 390-391) Professor H. H. Wilder under the heading "*Desmognathus fuscus* [sic]" has