

THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

THE scientific program at the recent Baltimore meeting was as follows:

Cloud reflection and the albedo of the earth and Venus. C. G. Abbot.

Colorimetry of white surfaces. A. H. Pfund, introduced by J. S. Ames.

The inorganic constituents of lobster shells. F. W. Clarke and G. Steiger.

Hydrocephalus. Experimental and clinical study. W. E. Dandy, introduced by W. S. Halsted.

Clinical and experimental observations in cases of arterio-venous and lymphatico-venous fistulae. W. S. Halsted

Quantitative relations between chromatin and cytoplasm in the genus *Arcella*, with their relations to external characters. R. W. Hegner, introduced by H. S. Jennings.

The physiological effects of air-concussion. D. R. Hooker.

Two new factors in blood-coagulation. W. H. Howell.

Is the arrangement of the genes in the chromosome linear? W. E. Castle.

Cause of phyllomania in *Begonia*. E. F. Smith.

Comparative morbidity of white and colored troops. Chas. B. Davenport and Albert G. Love.

Second report on researches on the chemical and mineralogical composition of meteorites (illustrated). George P. Merrill.

Theory of wind instruments; The ballistic resistance function; The dynamics of the rifle fired from the shoulder. A. G. Webster.

Biographical sketch of George Davidson. W. W. Campbell. (By title.)

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

IN addition to the national scientific societies announced in SCIENCE last week as meeting in affiliation with the American Association for the Advancement of Science at Baltimore during convocation week, the Society of American Bacteriologists will meet on Friday and Saturday, December 27 and 28. The president is Dr. R. C. Buchanan, and the secretary, Dr. A. Parker Hitchens, Army Medical School, 462 Louisiana Ave., Washington, D. C.

IN view of the changed conditions after the armistice, the council of the American Psychological Association has decided to recon-

sider the postponement of the annual meeting. It has now been definitely planned to have a brief and rather informal meeting upon war topics on December 27 and 28, at Baltimore. A detailed announcement will be sent to members shortly.

THE Inter-Allied Scientific Conference after its meeting in London under the auspices of the Royal Society adjourned to Paris where it continued at the end of November its meetings under the auspices of the Academy of Sciences. The American delegates are: Dr. H. A. Bumstead, Colonel J. J. Carty, Professor W. F. Durand, Dr. Simon Flexner, Dr. George E. Hale, and Professor A. A. Noyes.

At a recent meeting of the New York branch of the American Chemical Society held at the Chemists' Club, resolutions were passed proposing the organization of an American Chemical Institute under the auspices of the American Chemical Society, whose special function shall be to promote research with a view to the introduction of new or improved medicinal products, so as to make the United States free of any future effort to control this field by German manufacturers.

SENATOR ROBERT S. BROOKINGS, of Missouri, has been named by the Senate to be a regent of the Smithsonian Institution to succeed the late Charles W. Fairbanks.

WITH the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, Dr. William Pepper, Dean of the University of Pennsylvania Medical School, has been reassigned to work at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia.

DR. GEORGE A. BAITSELL, assistant professor of biology in Yale University, has been granted leave of absence to accept an appointment as captain in the Chemical Warfare Service, United States Army.

DR. M. F. BARRUS, of the department of plant pathology at Cornell University, has recently been commissioned first lieutenant in the Quartermaster's Corps. He will be engaged in the crop production work of the army.

DR. A. G. MCCALL, in charge of the soil investigational work of the Maryland Experiment Station, has been selected by the army

overseas educational commission to take charge of the soils and fertilizer work in France during the demobilization period. Dr. McCall will arrange to continue his work for the National Research Council on the salt nutrient requirements for plants.

DR. GEORGE T. MOORE, director of the Missouri Botanical Garden, has been appointed director of the productions division of the United States Food Administration for St. Louis.

PROFESSOR DAN OTIS, assistant dean of agriculture in the University of Wisconsin, has received an appointment from the government as farm management specialist for France.

DR. REGINALD A. DALY, Sturgis-Hooper professor of geology at Harvard, is a member of the committee which will have charge of the courses of instruction to be maintained in Europe for United States soldiers until they return to this country.

MAJOR R. W. BROCK, of the University of British Columbia, has been appointed geological adviser to the British Army in Palestine. For the last two years he has been overseas on military duty.

MR. WM. B. BRIERLEY, of the pathological laboratory, Royal Botanical Garden, Kew, and formerly lecturer in economic botany to Manchester University, has accepted the appointment of mycologist to the new Institute of Phytopathological Research, Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden.

At Cambridge the Gedge prize for original observations in physiology has been awarded to Mr. Thomas Richard Parsons, B.A., of Sidney Sussex College, formerly of Birkbeck College, for an essay on "The reaction of blood in the body."

DURING his stay in England as the representative of the United States Public Health Service, Professor Frederic S. Lee has been asked to sit on the industrial fatigue research board, a newly organized body under the chairmanship of Professor Sherrington. The board will continue in part the activities begun by the health of munition workers committee, which has ceased to exist.

PROFESSOR ANTON JULIUS CARLSON, chairman of the department of physiology at the University of Chicago, now captain in the Sanitary Corps, is reported to have landed in France at the end of October, after several months of service in connection with the rationing of American troops at the rest camps and in the aviation squadrons throughout England.

PROFESSORS James F. Kemp, Waldemar Lindgren, Joseph Barrell and A. C. Lawson, have been at Bingham, Utah, preparing evidence in connection with mining litigation.

PROFESSOR J. H. LAHEE has resigned from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to become geologist for the Sun Oil Company in Dallas, Texas.

H. W. TURNER has recently made a geological reconnaissance of the Peace River oil field in northern Alberta.

MISS MARY J. HOGUE, formerly a member of the zoological staff of Wellesley College, is working in the laboratory of the Base Hospital at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

MR. GEORGE W. MOREY, of the geophysical laboratory of the Carnegie Institution, has been given a year's leave of absence and is in charge of the optical glass plant of the Spencer Lens Company at Hamburg, New York.

PROFESSOR BAILEY WILLIS, of Stanford University, recently addressed the New York Academy of Sciences on "The physical basis of national development."

PROFESSOR HENRY C. SHERMAN, of Columbia University, lectured before the New Brunswick Scientific Society, on November 25, on "Permanent gains from the food conservation movement."

A JOINT meeting of the New York Section of the American Chemical Society, the New York Section of the American Electro-chemical Society, the Society of Chemical Industry and the Société de Chimie Industrielle was held on Friday evening, December 6, in Rumford Hall. The program of the evening consisted of the following addresses, accompanied by lantern slides: Colonel William H. Walker,

Chemical Warfare Service, "The manufacture and use of toxic gases;" Colonel Bradley Dewey, Chemical Warfare Service, "The manufacture of gas defense apparatus."

DR. ETIENNE BURNET, of the Pasteur Institute, Paris, surgeon in the French army and member of the Mission of French Scholars to the United States, delivered a lecture at the New York Academy of Medicine in cooperation with Columbia University, November 15, on "Pasteur as a representative of the French scientific spirit."

A RECENT meeting of the Biological Club of the University of Chicago in memory of Samuel Wendell Williston, former professor of paleontology in the university, Dr. Stuart Weller, of the same department, gave an appreciation of Dr. Williston's work. A Williston memorial meeting will be held in Leon Mandel Assembly Hall on December 8, the speakers being Professor E. C. Case, of the University of Michigan, and Professors Stuart Weller and Frank R. Lillie, of the University of Chicago.

PROFESSOR GEORGE F. ATKINSON, head of the department of botany at Cornell University since 1896, died suddenly on November 14, at the City Hospital in Tacoma, Wash. Professor Atkinson was engaged in a field study of the mushroom flora of the Pacific coast at the time of his death.

DR. PIERRE DE PEYSTER RICKETTS, for thirty-two years connected with the teaching staff of Columbia University, died on November 20 at his home in New York City. He was born in Brooklyn seventy years ago, was graduated from the School of Mines, Columbia, in 1871, and received his degree of Ph.D. five years later. He was assistant in the School of Mines for a number of years prior to 1885, when he was appointed professor of assaying, and in 1893 was made professor of analytical chemistry and assaying, retiring in 1900 to become the head of the firm of Ricketts, Inc., mineralogical and mining consulting engineers.

A PERMANENT reserve force upon which the Public Health Service can draw in time of emergency such as that presented by the influenza epidemic has been authorized by the Congress. This consists of officers, none holding rank above that of assistant surgeon general, commissioned by the president for a period of five years, subject to call to active duty by the Surgeon General U. S. P. H. S. When in such active duty they receive the same pay and allowances as are now provided by law for the regular commissioned medical officers in the service. By far the larger part of the reserve to be organized under this act will be on active duty only during times of national emergency, though it will probably be necessary to establish periodic terms of training, so as to better fit the officers for such service. With the passing of the emergency these men will automatically go on the inactive list; always however, subject to call to active duty by the surgeon-general. Detailed plans for the organization, training and assignment of the reserve officers are now under consideration.

MEDICAL journals report that the permanent committee which has been appointed to centralize matters connected with the rehabilitation of disabled soldiers, comprises representatives of all the allied governments. They include Dr. Bourrillon (France), who serves as president of the committee; Dr. Mélis (Belgium), Sir Charles Nicholson (Great Britain), General Bradley (United States), L. March (France), Dr. Da Costa Ferreira (Portugal), and Agathonovitch (Serbia) as vice-presidents. All these hold high military rank. An institute for research has been founded at the headquarters of the committee which is already installed at 102 rue de Bac, Paris. A review is to be issued by the committee. The editor in chief is Dr. Jean Camus, of the Paris Medical School, with Dr. Bourrillon, the president of the committee, and Mr. C. Krug, the secretary general, as the board of directors for the publication. The work of the committee is to include the promulgation of the general principles for rehabilitation of the

disabled, which each country can adapt to its own laws and customs; to group and centralize the data and the lessons learned from experience, and to apply them and aid in every way the mutilated and to extend this aid into the future after the war. By this coordination of efforts each one of the allied peoples will be able to profit by the improvements and achievements realized in any one of them.

THE announcement was recently made in the British Parliament by the president of the Board of Agriculture that active steps have been taken with a view to the establishment at Cambridge of an Institute of Agricultural Botany, the primary function of which will be the breeding and distributing of improved varieties of agricultural crops. The plan in question was very fully described by Mr. Lawrence Weaver, of the Board of Agriculture, at a meeting of the Agricultural Seed Association held on July 15. It appears that the new institute will be modelled on the famous Swedish plant-breeding station at Svålof, and that its activities will be to follow two distinct lines, one of which will be purely scientific, while the other will have a commercial outlook. More precisely, the scientific wing will be concerned with the producing of pure cultures of new varieties on the field-plot scale; the economic wing will deal with the growing and distribution on a large scale of these varieties. Presumably, on the Svålof model, the scientific side will oversee the operations of the commercial to the extent of guaranteeing the purity of the stocks distributed by the latter. It is announced that subscriptions towards the establishment of the new institute amounting in the aggregate to upwards of £30,000 have already been received including a sum of £10,000 down and £2,000 a year for five years from a commercial firm and that the Board of Agriculture will provide the necessary buildings and equipment.

THE Association of British Chemical Manufacturers has in preparation a directory of British chemical products, and the manufacturers from whom they can be procured. The directory, which will be printed in English, French, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Rus-

sian and Spanish, is expected to be published before the end of the year.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

By the will of the late Andrew Dixon White, Cornell University will receive \$160,000 on the death of Mrs. White. It receives many paintings and other objects. Dr. White had already given the university his general and architectural libraries, scientific apparatus, funds for extinguishment of debt, illustrative material and other items, and also his house which cost about \$75,000. Yale University, Dr. White's alma mater, receives \$5,000 for the endowment of the Andrew Dickson White prizes in history and composition, which were established and have since been maintained by Professor Guy Stanton Ford.

DR. A. HOYT TAYLOR, for nine years professor of physics and head of the department, University of North Dakota, having resigned after a year's leave of absence, to continue his war service as lieutenant commander of Naval Radio Communication, in charge of Atlantic Coast Service, Dr. B. J. Spence, associate professor of physics, has been promoted to a full professorship to be head of the department. Dr. Spence has been at North Dakota for the past eight years. Dr. John W. Cox, professor of pathology and director of the State Public Health Laboratory, University of North Dakota, having resigned to enter the United States Public Health Service, he is succeeded by Dr. Alfred G. Long, of Mankato, Minn., as acting director.

PROFESSOR C. L. DAKE, of the Missouri School of Mines, has returned to his regular duties, after spending his year's leave of absence as a petroleum geologist.

ALFRED E. DAY, formerly of the Syrian Protestant College, has been appointed professor of biology in the University of Buffalo.

DR. CHARLES PACKARD, recently instructor in zoology in Columbia University, has arrived in Peking, China, where he will have charge of the work in biology in the Union Medical Col-