the following officers were elected: *President,* Sir Robert Hadfield, Bart., F.R.S.; *Vice-presidents,* W. R. Bousfield K.C., F.R.S., Professor F. G. Donnan, F.R.S., Dr. Eugene Haanel, Professor A. K. Huntington, Dr. T. Martin Lowry, F.R.S., Professor Alfred W. Porter, F.R.S.; *Treasurer,* Robert L. Mond; *Council,* G. S. Albright, W. R. Cooper, Dr. C. H. Desch, Dr. J. A. Harker, F.R.S., Emil Hatschek, Cosmo Johns, Harold Moore, E. H. Rayner, Dr. George Senter, Cav. Magg, E. Stassano.

AT the annual meeting of the Washington Academy of Sciences held at the Administration Building of the Carnegie Institution on January 14, 1919, the retiring president, Dr. Lyman J. Briggs, delivered an address on "The resistance of the air."

A JOINT meeting of the Washington Academy of Sciences and the Chemical Society of Washington was held on January 9, when Dr. F. B. Power, retiring president of the Chemical Society, delivered an illustrated address on "The distribution and character of some of the odorous principles of plants."

THE annual Darwin Lecture of New York University will be given on February 12 by Dr. C. L. Bristol, of the department of biology. In connection with the lecture a series of motion pictures of marine life made in Naples, Italy, will be shown by Dr. R. L. Ditmars, curator of reptiles, New York Zoological Gardens.

A CABLE message announces the death in Rome, on December 31, of David Lubin, of San Francisco, founder of the International Institute of Agriculture, and the American representative on its permanent board. He was born in 1841, and was formerly a merchant in Sacramento, where early in his career he made a fortune. He then devoted himself to economic reforms and was responsible for the establishment at Rome of an international agency for collecting official and reliable information from all parts of the world as to the acreage, output and ability of the cereal crops.

THROUGH an anonymous donor The Long Island College Hospital (Hoagland Laboratory) has had placed at its disposal a farm for keeping animals used in research. Already work and experimentation in fowl influenza (roup), diphtheria and chicken-pox have been begun.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

PROPOSALS for extending the accommodation and equipment of the department of pathology and bacteriology at Leeds University have been approved. It is hoped to concentrate the whole of the bacteriological work of the city in the additional accommodation provided by adapting the premises adjacent to the medical school.

THE Massachusetts Institute of Technology plans to offer to students who have substantially completed courses leading to the degree of bachelor of science in chemistry or chemical engineering, an opportunity to enter the school of engineering practise in February. Two terms of preparatory work will be given at Cambridge, the first beginning February 17; it is expected that the work at the practise stations will begin about October 1, and continue until the following May. The general plan of the course will be the same as that carried out while the school was in operation just before the opening of the war.

THE REV. EDWARD P. TIVNAN, S.J., professor of chemistry and regent of the school of medicine, Fordham University, has been appointed president of the university, to succeed the Rev. Joseph A. Mulry, S.J.

THE departments of descriptive geometry and mechanical drawing and of mechanism and machine design at Stevens Institute of Technology have been combined to form a new department of machine design, of which Franklin DeR. Furman is professor and head. The work of the department has been organized with two divisions—one the mechanism division, in which William R. Halliday is assistant professor, and the other the mechanical drawing division, in which Edwin R. Knapp is professor and Samuel H. Lott, assistant professor. The following changes in rank have been made at the institute: Louis A. Hazeltine,

acting professor in the department of electrical engineering, to professor; Robert M. Anderson, acting professor in the department of engineering practise, to professor; Lewis E. Armstrong, instructor in the department of mathematics, to assistant professor.

MR. LESTER YODER, formerly with the chemical section of the Agricultural Experiment Station of Iowa State College, is now at the U. S. Technological School, Carney's Point, N. J.

THE chemistry department of the University of Nebraska announces the following additions to its teaching staff: Dr. Horace G. Deming, of the University of Illinois, as professor of chemistry in charge of general and physical chemistry; Mr. B. Clifford Hendricks, of Peru, Nebr., State Normal School, as assistant professor of chemistry; Mr. T. J. Thompson, of Kansas Wesleyan University, as instructor in organic chemistry.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE LILLE SOCIETY OF SCIENCES

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: I wish to call the attention of American scientists to the following extracts from a letter received from Dr. Charles Barrois, professor of geology at the University of Lille and actively interested in the Society of the Sciences of Lille. Dr. Barrois writes:

For four years I have been cut off from the number of the living, reduced to servitude, without receiving a letter or a scientific book; I have not been able during this time to communicate with anybody in the world, nor to have any news of my family. That has been harder to me than physical sufferings and bombs.

My geological institution has been twice demolished by bombs, but I was able to save the collections from the débris and they were respected by the Germans. Our library of the Society of Sciences was unfortunately burned so that I am much embarrassed in my work; the books of the Public Library were also burned, those of the university were saved, but that was the least important library.

I am working at present to build up again my university, our Geological Society of the North, all the members of which are scattered, ruined or killed. I do not yet know if I shall succeed; books are necessary, and money is necessary to continue my publications and I fear it can not be obtained in France where they are much impoverished. I look sadly at the manuscripts of my confrères, entrusted to my care for publication. . . . I am quite a little disconcerted at being reduced to mendicancy in my old days, for our learned societies, but the American devotion and generosity have been shown so great in these latter days, that we believe we can be assisted by them openly.

If any one has any books or specimens that they think would be of assistance to Dr. Barrois and his associates in connection with the Library and Museum of the Society of the Sciences, the Smithsonian Institution will be very glad to transmit them to the society at Lille.

CHARLES D. WALCOTT

ROOT PRESSURE AND ROOT EXUDATION

A RECENT note in SCIENCE by Professor Kremers[1] upon the use of dahlias for experimental work upon osmosis reminds the writer of his use of the same plant for the demonstration of root pressure and the exudation of water in quantity. The growth from the tuberous roots is vigorous and in a short time is ready for the setting up of the experiment. The quantity of water exuded and the pressure are adequate for a thorough demonstration of these phenomena as outlined for example in Ganong's "Plant Physiology" and fully equal to the best plants which the writer has used in such demonstrations.

In this connection the writer wishes to express a thought which has been more and more impressed upon him in his work as a teacher of physiology, pathology and even morphology of plants. Each institution, and especially is this true of the smaller ones, is working out its technical problems in an isolated fashion, often repeating unprofitable experiments which have been found by other institutions to be unsuccessful. In other cases especially useful plants or types of ap-

[1] "Experimental Osmosis with a Living Membrane," Edward Kremers, SCIENCE, N. S., Vol. XLVIII., No. 1250, December 13, 1918, p. 599.