

greater progress in American mining at the one hundred and nineteenth meeting of the American Institute of Mining Engineers, which will be held here during the week of February 17. Prominent members of the Canadian Mining Institute, National Research Council, the American Institute of Electrical Engineers will join the American mining experts in their discussions.

At no period in the history of American mining have the problems of production, especially as to labor and scientific processes, been so momentous as to-day and at this meeting important readjustment plans will be presented. The program calls for ten business sessions, at which some forty subjects will be presented; a number of social features of a metropolitan kind, and an all-day excursion to the federal shipyard in Newark Bay where the first electric-welded ship is being built.

It is expected that this meeting of the institute will be attended by mining experts from every state in the union and from a number of foreign countries, who are identified with the most important mining operations now going on. Many of these men have in the past two years been serving the government in their respective fields.

At the joint session with the electrical engineers there will be six important papers on the subject of electric-welding. Some of these by officials of the National Research Council and Emergency Fleet Corporation, who have participated in the development of electric-welding which has made great strides forward in the war work of the last two years.

The institute meeting will open on Monday morning, February 17, Tuesday will be Canadian Mining Institute day and Wednesday will be featured by the session with the electrical engineers and the National Research Council session, followed by the annual banquet in the evening.

The officers of the American Institute of Mining Engineers are: Sidney J. Jennings, *president*; L. D. Ricketts, Philip N. Moore, *past presidents*; C. W. Goodale, *first vice-presidents*; George D. Barron, *treasurer*; Bradley Stoughton, *secretary*.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

EDWARD CHARLES PICKERING, professor of astronomy in Harvard University and director of the Harvard College Observatory, died on February 3 at the age of seventy-two years.

To oversee the opening of the port of Dantzig and to supervise relief work there Professors Alonzo Taylor, of the University of Pennsylvania, and Vernon L. Kellogg, of Stanford University, started on January 29 on a railroad journey across Germany. Drs. Taylor and Kellogg will, on their return, make a report on food conditions in Germany.

MAJOR C. E. MENDENHALL, professor of physics on leave of absence from the University of Wisconsin, has been appointed scientific attaché to the United States legation at London and will sail for England immediately.

DR. ALEXIS CARREL, who had been in charge of a field hospital in the Montdidier section, has returned to take up his work at the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL JOHN M. T. FINNEY, of Baltimore, chief consulting surgeon of the American Expeditionary Forces, who sailed nineteen months ago for France as head of the Johns Hopkins Base Hospital Unit, returned to the United States on January 22.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL ALLERTON S. CUSHMAN, having received his honorable discharge from the Ordnance Department, U. S. A., where he has served for the past eighteen months, has returned to his former professional activities as head of the Institute of Industrial Research, Washington, D. C.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL J. H. HILDEBRAND has returned after an absence of a year in France to his position of professor of chemistry in the University of California. He has been recently Commandant of Hanlon Field, near Chaumont, which included the Experimental Field and the A. E. F. Gas Defense School of the Chemical Warfare Service.

MAJOR J. H. MATHEWS, Ordnance Department, U. S. A., has been released from military service and has returned to the University of Wisconsin. Professor Mathews has been pro-

moted to a full professorship, and has resumed his work in physical chemistry.

CAPTAIN R. H. WHEELER, professor of psychology in the University of Oregon, who has been conducting psychological tests in the army, has returned to take up his work at the university.

MAJOR MAURICE DAUFRESNE, the well-known French chemist is visiting the United States.

L. E. CALL, head of the department of agronomy in the Kansas State Agricultural College, is leaving for France, where he will have charge of the work in grain crops for soldiers taking work in agriculture.

PROFESSOR CHARLES E. MUNROE, of George Washington University, chairman of the Committee on Explosives of the National Research Council, visited Boston to make an investigation of the circumstances connected with the recent collapse of a huge molasses tank which caused the death of several people.

WE learn from the *Journal of the American Medical Association* that Lieutenant Colonel H. Gideon Wells, Chicago, left the United States early in November as a member of the Balkan commission of the American Red Cross. The armistice and the cessation of hostilities made necessary a change in plans. He has now been detached from the position in connection with the commission to the Balkan states, and has been appointed commissioner representing the Red Cross in Roumania. He has organized a commission of sixty-eight persons to undertake general relief work instead of medical relief work alone, as there is a well developed medical profession in Roumania. The medical men of the party, aside from Lieutenant Colonel Wells, are Lieutenant Colonel Morley D. McNeal, of Johns Hopkins, Baltimore, and Major J. Breckenridge Bayne, Washington, D. C. The latter was two years in Roumania, kept there practically as a prisoner during the German occupation, although allowed to do medical work among the Roumanian people.

At the annual meeting of the Association of of American State Geologists held in Baltimore, December 27-28, 1918, the following

officers were elected for the year 1919: W. O. Hotchkiss (Wisconsin), president; Edward B. Mathews (Maryland), member executive committee; Thomas L. Watson (Virginia), secretary. The association was addressed on December 28 by Messrs. George Otis Smith, director, United States Geological Survey; H. Foster Bain, assistant director, Bureau of Mines and Professor John C. Merriam, of the National Research Council. The following standing committees were appointed: *Cooperative geological problems*: H. A. Buehler (Missouri), chairman, J. M. Clarke (New York), J. A. Udden (Texas), and J. Hyde Pratt (North Carolina). *Strengthening of State Surveys*: H. B. Kummel (New Jersey), chairman, H. E. Gregory (Connecticut), and W. H. Emmons (Minnesota). *Topographic mapping*: W. O. Hotchkiss (Wisconsin), chairman, F. W. DeWolf (Illinois), and R. C. Allen (Michigan.).

THE board of commissioners of the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey at a meeting held in the office of Governor Philipp on January 16, 1919, elected President E. A. Birge, of the University of Wisconsin, as president of the board of commissioners. Owing to his new duties Dr. Birge felt it incumbent upon him to resign from the position of director and superintendent of the survey, which position he has held since it was organized in 1897. W. O. Hotchkiss, who has been state geologist for the survey since 1909 was made director and superintendent in addition to holding his present position as state geologist.

PROFESSOR A. M. CHICKERING, of Albion College, Michigan, has recently been elected to the vice-presidency of the section of zoology of the Michigan Academy of Science, to fill out the unexpired term of Professor Leathers, of Olivet College.

W. M. SMALLWOOD, professor of comparative anatomy, Syracuse University, is spending the second semester on leave of absence at the University of Minnesota, working with Dean J. B. Johnston in comparative neurology.

PROFESSOR A. LAVERAN, a member of the Paris Academie de médecine since 1893, has

been elected vice-president for 1919, automatically becoming president in 1920.

At the meeting of the Washington Academy of Sciences on January 30, Major F. R. Moulton gave an address on the "Deviation of the stars."

DR. GREGORY P. BAXTER, professor of chemistry at Harvard University, is giving at the Lowell Institute, Boston, a series of lectures on "Chemistry in the war."

WILLIAM ERSKINE KELLICOTT, professor of biology at the College of the City of New York, died on January 29, at the age of forty years.

DR. BROWN AYRES, since 1904 president of the University of Tennessee and previously professor of physics and dean of the School of Technology of Tulane University, died on January 28, aged sixty-two years.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

A SCHOOL for social research in New York City has been organized to meet the needs of those interested in social, political, economic and educational problems. The school will open with a full program in October, 1919. In the meantime, lectures will be given from February 10 to May 3 by Professor Thorstein Veblen, James Harvey Robinson, Charles A. Beard and others.

DR. W. R. BLOOR, formerly assistant professor of biological chemistry at the Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass., has been appointed professor of biochemistry and head of the division of biochemistry and pharmacology at the University of California.

MR. C. S. MCKELLOGG, corporal in the Chemical Warfare Service, stationed at the American University, has been furloughed to the University of Mississippi as assistant professor of chemistry, where he is to have charge of the work in organic and physiological chemistry.

DR. LÉON FRÉDÉRICQ, who was professor of physiology at Liège and later at Ghent, was imprisoned by the Germans because he refused

to continue his courses in Flemish after the Germans had taken the city and were trying to remodel the university to be a Flemish institution. The government of Belgium has now appointed Professor Frédéricq lord rector of the university.

DR. JULES DUESBERG, will sever his connections as a member of the faculty of the Johns Hopkins University and will sail for Belgium on February 12. Dr. Duesberg went to Baltimore in 1915. He is a native of Liège and in 1911 was made professor of anatomy at Liège University, where he will now resume his work.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE ON MONKEYS TRAINED TO PICK COCO NUTS

READERS of the Sunday editions of some of our metropolitan papers may recall that in the fall, the season of cotton picking in the South, waggish space writers sometimes make the suggestion that monkeys be trained to do this work and that thereby the shortage of labor be relieved.

In this connection there have come under my notice during the past year accounts showing that in a far distant part of the world monkeys are trained to do service which, for want of a better descriptive title, may be called manual labor. The first of these is from the well-known woman traveller, Isabella Bird. In her interesting book "The Golden Chersonese and the Way Thither" (1883) she writes on page 425:

A follower had brought a "baboon," an ape or monkey trained to gather coconuts, a hideous beast on very long legs when on all fours, but capable of walking erect. They called him a "dog-faced baboon," but I think that they were wrong. . . . He is fierce, but likes or at all events obeys his owner, who held him with a rope fifty feet long. At present he is only half tame, and would go back to the jungle if liberated. He was sent up a coconut tree which was heavily loaded with nuts in various stages of ripeness and unripeness, going up in surly fashion, looking around at intervals and shaking his chain angrily. When he got to the top he shook the fronds and stalks, but no nuts fell, and he chose