

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE annual meeting of the National Academy of Sciences will be held at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington on April 28, 29, and 30. The William Ellery Hale Lecture will be given by James Henry Breasted, professor of Egyptology and oriental history, University of Chicago, on "The Origin of Civilization."

COLONEL HARVEY CUSHING, of the Harvard Medical School, has returned to the United States.

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

MAJOR C. B. STANTON, formerly professor of civil engineering at the Carnegie Institute of Technology, who has been with the 15th Engineers in France for nearly two years, has notified the dean of the Science School that he has been appointed a professor in the American University for American soldiers at Beaune, France. Major Stanton was with his regiment at Bordeaux awaiting orders to board a transport and come home when he received the unexpected order of reporting to this "soldier university" as professor of civil engineering.

MAJOR WILLIAM B. HERMS, associate professor of parasitology in the University of California, has resumed his university duties. Major Herms has been serving with the Sanitary Corps of the U. S. Army for a little over a year, stationed since April, 1918, at the port of embarkation, Newport News, Va., where he was in charge of malarial drainage operations, delousing stations and assisting in general sanitary inspection.

PROFESSOR FRANK E. MORRIS has returned to the Connecticut College for Women as professor of psychology and ethics, which position he left last year when he enlisted in the psychological department of the Sanitation Corps of the Army.

LIEUTENANT A. C. CHANDLER, assistant professor of zoology at the Oregon Agricultural College on leave of absence, has been ordered to the front with the American soldiers to make a study of rat parasites in France.

DR. LIVINGSTON FARRAND, chairman of the central committee of the American Red Cross, sailed for France on March 9, to be gone until the latter part of April. Having set in motion at headquarters the plans for the future of the Red Cross, Dr. Farrand goes abroad to study the organization's problems in Europe, and to confer with Henry P. Davison, formerly chairman of the war council, who is now at Cannes arranging for the international conference of Red Cross societies called to meet at Geneva 30 days after the declaration of peace. Dr. Farrand has arranged to have a number of American health experts join him at Cannes for the purpose of conferring with similar experts from the allied countries relative to matters that are to be taken up at Geneva.

DR. T. A. HENRY, superintendent of the laboratories at the Imperial Institute, London, has been appointed director of the Wellcome Chemical Research Laboratories, London. Dr. F. L. Pyman, the former director of these laboratories, has accepted the professorship of technological chemistry in the College of Technology, University of Manchester.

DR. H. C. TAYLOR, of the University of Wisconsin, has been appointed to be chief of the office of farm management of the Department of Agriculture.

PROFESSOR WILLIAM D. HURD, director of the Massachusetts Agricultural College, has resigned and will enter the service of the National Fertilizer Association. He is to have charge of educational projects in the middle west. Professor Hurd undertook the organization of the state system of extension work in 1909. There are now twenty full-time workers at the college engaged in projects of food production, distribution and conservation.

DR. ARTHUR LACHMAN, formerly professor of chemistry in the University of Oregon, is

now connected with the Great Western Electro-Chemical Co., San Francisco, Cal.

THE annual meeting of the District of Columbia Chapter of the Society of the Sigma Xi was held in the auditorium of the National Museum, on March 6. Major R. M. Yerkes, Sanitary Corps, U. S. Army, gave an illustrated lecture on the "Relationship of Army Mental Tests to Education and Vocational Guidance." Officers for the ensuing two years were elected as follows: *President*, C. L. Shear; *Vice-president*, H. L. Shantz; *Secretary*, M. W. Lyon, Jr.; *Treasurer*, D. Roberts Harper 3d; *Councillors*, Charles E. Tullar and C. A. Briggs.

A CANADIAN branch of the American Phytopathological Society was recently organized. The purpose of the organization is to correlate the work of plant pathologists in Canada and keep them in closer touch with each other, at the same time retaining a close union with the plant pathologists in the United States. The officers are: Professor J. E. Howitt, *president*; Mr. W. A. McCubbin, *Vice-president*; Dr. R. E. Stone, *Secretary-treasurer*.

THE following officers and council of the Royal Astronomical Society were elected at the annual general meeting on February 14: *President*: Professor A. Fowler; *Vice-presidents*: Sir F. W. Dyson, Astronomer Royal, Dr. J. W. L. Glaisher, Major P. A. MacMahon, and Professor H. F. Newall; *Treasurer*: Mr. E. B. Knobel; *Secretaries*: Dr. A. C. D. Crommelin and Rev. T. E. R. Phillips; *Foreign Secretary*: Professor H. H. Turner; *Council*: Professor A. E. Conrady, Dr. J. L. E. Dreyer, Professor A. S. Eddington, Brig-Gen. E. H. Hills, Mr. J. H. Jeans, Dr. Harold Jeffreys, Mr. H. S. Jones, Lieutenant-Colonel H. G. Lyons, Mr. E. W. Maunder, Dr. W. H. Maw, Professor J. W. Nicholson, and Lieutenant-Colonel F. J. M. Stratton.

WE learn from *The British Medical Journal* that a House of Commons Medical Committee has been formed to include all medical members and other members of the House of Commons interested in scientific matters akin to medicine. All the medical members, except-

ing the ministers, have joined, and also Sir Philip Magnus (member for the University of London) and Sir Henry Craik (one of the members for the Scottish Universities). The chairman is Sir Watson Cheyne, and the secretary Major A. C. Farquharson. The executive committee consists of Sir William Whitla, Lieut.-Colonel Nathan Raw and Captain Elliott. The objects of the committee are to exchange opinions so as to secure representation of agreed views on medical subjects in Parliament. The committee is open to receive representations on all such matters from the colleges and corporations, and from societies and associations, and will hold conferences when considered desirable. It will not allow itself in any way to be identified with any one particular body. A subcommittee has been appointed, consisting of Colonel Nathan Raw (England), Sir Watson Cheyne (Scotland), and Sir William Whitla (Ireland), to watch the ministry of health in its progress through the House.

DR. H. D. CURTIS, of the Lick Observatory, Mount Hamilton, California, gave an address on "Modern Theories of Spiral Nebulæ" at a joint meeting of the Washington Academy of Sciences and the Philosophical Society of Washington on March 15.

THE death is announced on February 19, at eighty-five years of age, of Dr. F. Du Cane Godman, F.R.S., trustee of the British Museum, and distinguished for his work in natural history, especially ornithology.

AN item concerning the "Goodrich conservation bill," printed on page 213 of *SCIENCE* for February 10, applies to the state of Indiana, and not to Illinois.

MALCOLM PLAYFAIR ANDERSON, a well-known naturalist and explorer, was killed in Oakland, California, on February 21, by the fall of a beam in a shipyard. Mr. Anderson was a graduate of Stanford University, a son of Dr. Melville Best Anderson, professor emeritus of English literature at Stanford. He was an accomplished ornithologist, his work having been largely in China and Japan, where he was head naturalist of the Duke of Bedford's ex-

plorations in Eastern Asia. He was brother of Robert V. Anderson, late of the U. S. Geological Survey, now representing the War Trade Board at Stockholm.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

By the will of the late Morton F. Plant, the Connecticut College for Women receives a bequest of \$250,000.

Two years ago Professor and Mrs. Herdman gave to the University of Liverpool, the sum of £10,000 to establish a chair in memory of their son, Lieutenant George A. Herdman, who was killed in action. *Nature* states that they have now made a further gift of £10,000 for the purpose of establishing a chair of oceanography with special reference to fisheries. The council of the university has accepted this gift with grateful thanks, and has resolved that (1) Professor Herdman be appointed professor of oceanography as from October 1 next; (2) Dr. J. Johnson succeed him on October 1, 1920, and during the twelve months from October 1 next be lecturer on oceanography at the salary derived from the endowment.

THE senate of the University of Cambridge has approved the plan for the establishment of the degree of doctor of philosophy. The syndicate dealing with this question recommends that, subject to certain exemptions, candidates for the degree, before submitting a dissertation, must have pursued a course of research for not less than three years, and the senate has determined that of this period one year in the case of a graduate of the university and two years in the case of other students must be spent in Cambridge.

SIR OLIVER LODGE has retired as principal of Birmingham University.

THE resignation of Dr. Harry B. Hutchins, as president of the University of Michigan, which was presented on October 12, 1916, has now been accepted by the regents to take effect on June 30. It is reported that Dr. James Rowland Angell, professor of psychology and dean of the department of arts and sciences of

the University of Chicago, will be asked to accept the presidency.

DR. JOHN JOHNSTON, secretary of the National Research Council in Washington, has been appointed professor of chemistry in the Graduate School of Yale University. Professor Johnston is a graduate of the University of St. Andrews.

LIEUTENANT KARL SAX, recently discharged from military service in the coast artillery at Fort Amador, Canal Zone, Panama, has been appointed instructor in genetics at the University of California.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

DESMOGNATHUS FUSCUS (SIC).

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Professor Wilder's letter recalls a proposal made by Mr. Oldfield Thomas and myself, a proposal worth repeating. Zoological nomenclature has many inevitable difficulties to overcome, and it will save time and disputes if there be removed from it the extrinsic burden of trying to conform with the rules of Greek and Latin grammar. Let the convention be established that the name of a genus, whatsoever its derivation, be regarded as masculine when the genus denotes a group of living animals, feminine if it denote a group of living plants, and neuter if it denotes a fossil animal or plant. Let it be agreed that the scientific name of an existing species may be changed to accord with this conventional sex where possible, and that in the making of new names, the accord should be made by the author, corrected by the editor or by any subsequent writer. This would simplify matters and, in a considerable proportion of instances would give useful information.

P. CHALMERS MITCHELL

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: I have read with interest and some amusement the letter by Mr. H. H. Wilder, on "*Desmognathus fuscus* [sic]." It seems to me to lend additional support to the suggestion made years ago by my friend, the Rev. T. R. R. Stebbing, that