

abandoned. In April, 1918, Baird received an imperative call to Washington, to serve on the committee concerned with plans for the re-education and reestablishment of disabled soldiers. He devoted himself strenuously to this new work, the burden of which undoubtedly hastened his end. He broke down in November, and did not again leave the hospital.

The loss of a man of Baird's caliber would be a heavy blow to any science at any juncture: it is an especially heavy blow to psychology, whose academic representation is meager and which has recently suffered other and serious losses. His untimely death leaves a gap in our professional ranks, of which we shall become more and more sensible as the years go on. But what is now uppermost in our minds is the feeling of personal bereavement. Baird had, in very exceptional degree, the gift of loyal friendship. He made friends everywhere, with all sorts and conditions of men, and the friendships held; his open and cordial nature, his sturdy optimism, and his frank address, were irresistible. Those who were privileged to be his intimates will miss him sorely. It is a satisfaction to remember that during the last year of his life he received the highest honor his colleagues could bestow, the presidency of the American Psychological Association.

E. B. TITCHENER

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

REWARDS FOR BRITISH WAR INVENTIONS

THE appointment of a royal commission to determine what awards and royalties shall be paid to inventors in respect of the use of their inventions by government departments during the war is announced in *The London Times*. Mr. Justice Sargant is the chairman of the commission, and its other members are: Professor the Hon. R. J. Strutt, F.R.S., Sir James Johnston Dobbie, D.Sc., LL.D., Mr. G. L. Barstow, C.B., Mr. W. Temple Franks, C.B., Mr. A. Clayton Cole, Mr. H. J. Mackinder, M.P., and Mr. Robert Young, M.P. The commission has now issued, and is published in the *London Gazette*.

Certain special conditions are provided as follows:

1. In any case of user or alleged user of any patented invention for the services of the Crown by any government department and of default of agreement as to the terms of user, the commissioners, upon the application of the patentee and agreement to accept their determination, may proceed to settle, and may settle the terms of user in lieu and place of the treasury: Provided that the commissioners shall not actually award to the patentee any sum or sums of money whether by way of a gross sum or by way of royalty or otherwise which shall together exceed an aggregate sum of £50,000 beyond and in addition to any allowance the commissioners may think fit to make for outlay and expenses in connection with the invention; but the commissioners, if of opinion that the patentee is fairly entitled to a remuneration exceeding the said aggregate sum of £50,000, may make a recommendation to the treasury as to any such excess, with a statement of their reasons for such recommendation.

2. In any case where terms of user of any patented invention (including any terms as to selling for use, licensing, or otherwise dealing with any article made in accordance therewith, or any terms as to assignment of an invention under section 30 of the Patents and Designs Act, 1907), have been agreed, or are in course of agreement, between the patentee and any government department, the commissioners may on the application of the treasury make any recommendation as to the giving or withholding by the treasury of approval of such agreement or proposed agreement, and may assist in adjusting or determining any term or terms of any proposed agreement as to which the parties may not be fully agreed.

3. In any case of user or alleged user for the services of the Crown by any government department of any inventions, designs, drawings or processes which, though not conferring any monopoly against the Crown or any statutory right to payment or compensation, may nevertheless appear from their exceptional utility or otherwise to entitle the inventor, author or owner thereof to some remuneration for such user (including user or by way of selling for

use, licensing or otherwise dealing with any articles made in accordance therewith) the commissioners may, on the request of the treasury, inquire into the circumstances of the case, and may make a recommendation to the treasury as to the remuneration (if any) that is proper to be allowed therefor.

THE REVISION OF PRITZEL'S BOTANICAL DICTIONARY

PRITZEL in the middle of the last century compiled a dictionary of every important published picture or illustration of every known plant, of which he enumerates more than 100,000, giving a reference to the book and page where each illustration may be found; so that any one hearing of a plant he never happened to have seen could look out the name in "Pritzel," and on referring to the book and page given, find a representation of the plant—colored or otherwise.

Pritzel's book is long out of print, and as he finished his work in 1866 it is desirable to bring Pritzel's work up to date. Different scientific bodies (and private individuals) in England and in the United States have from time to time made suggestions for undertaking this work of revision, but as yet none of their suggestions have taken effect, chiefly on account of the very large expenditures and scientific work it involves.

The original Pritzel, which must of course be reprinted, contains about 100,000 entries, and it is estimated that at least 125,000 more entries will have to be incorporated with them. The Royal Horticultural Society has at last definitely undertaken to carry out the work with the assistance of botanists attached to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, the Natural History Museum and the Linnean Society, and in friendly cooperation with the United States government Bureau of Plant Industry.

In 1913 the society began to raise the required amount, the International Horticultural Exhibition held in 1912 starting the fund with a donation of £250 followed by £100 from the Veitch Memorial Trustees and the council of the Royal Horticultural Society voted £250 to which they have since added

another £250 to enable the work to be begun. The work has now been actually started, the typists having accommodation found for them at Kew through the assistance of the director, and the whole is under the immediate supervision of the following committee, viz.: Professor I. Bayley, Mr. E. A. Bowles, Mr. F. J. Hanbury, Captain Arthur W. Hill, Dr. B. Daydon Jackson, Mr. Gerald W. E. Loder, Sir Daniel Morris, Sir David Prain, Dr. A. B. Rendle, Dr. O. Stapf, Sir Harry J. Veitch, to which, as has been said, will be added direct assistance from Kew, the Natural History Museum, the Linnean Society and the Bureau of Plant Industry.

GERMAN SCIENCE AFTER THE WAR

Nature quotes from an editorial in *Die Umschau*, for November 30, 1918, by the editor, Professor J. H. Bechhold, in which he indicates the manner in which German science can aid the Fatherland in its hour of defeat and assist it to gain the supremacy in the economic sphere. After pointing out that reconstructed Germany must perforce be simple in order to conform to the new conditions of life imposed upon her by recent events, he asks the question: In what relation shall science, technics and art stand in the new state? Germany, it is explained, must in future seek to live upon her own resources; further, she will have only a small amount of raw material surplus to her own needs, and for this reason it will be incumbent upon her to export the output of her genius; to meet the situation as it should be met, Germany will have to build herself up on efficiency management. She is told that she must attempt to excel all other countries in the quality of her precision instruments and lenses, artificial silks and textiles, dyes and medicines; high-class furniture and works of art, in order to create a demand for these valuable products of her industry in foreign lands. For this reason, Germany will require, says Professor Bechhold, highly trained engineers, chemists, electricians, skilled mechanics and artificers, and, in order that her needs in these directions may be suitably met, she will further require first-class teachers,