

The executive committee of the Division of Chemistry and Chemical Technology voted that the use of such a sum for a similar purpose in connection with chemical research would not be a wise expenditure at the present time for the following reasons:

1. The proposed plan, to be successful, would require the enlistment of the services of the best men in the country in traveling about and consulting with the various research workers. Such a utilization of their time would detract just so much from the progress of their own research work, with no certainty that the hoped-for stimulation and organization of the research workers of the country would exceed in value this loss.

2. The committee also feels that the first step in attaining the purposes of the proposed project should be a carefully prepared and indexed research census and that the promotion of cooperation between investigators working along similar lines can be best attained by calling a conference at some central point. The program of work for each such conference should be carefully worked out in advance by correspondence with the investigators, supplemented by such personal visits as the chairman of the Division may be able to make.

3. In view of the amount of preparatory work to be done in connection with securing the necessary data, corresponding with the research workers, and arranging the program for such conferences, the committee does not feel that during the first year it would be practicable to call more than five such conferences, but feels that a sum of money, not to exceed \$7,000, could be wisely and fruitfully expended in this way during the first year and would be glad to join the Physics Division in requesting such a sum from the Rockefeller Foundation, to be used in this manner. It feels, however, that any requests for additional amounts should be based upon the knowledge and experience gained during the first year.

#### THE PATRON'S MEDAL OF THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

At the anniversary of the Royal Geographical Society on June 2, the medals were presented in accordance with the announcement already made in *SCIENCE*. The president of the society, Sir Thomas Holditch, in presenting the patron's medal to Mr. Butler Wright for Professor W. M. Davis said:

The Patron's Medal is awarded to Professor William Morris Davis, of Harvard University, for his eminence in the development of physical geography. He is the most eminent of living American geographers, and has devoted his life to investigations in physical geography and to the teaching of geography as a university subject at Harvard, and as visiting professor in several European universities. At the commencement of his career he devoted much attention to meteorology, and his "Elementary Meteorology, 1894" is a standard work. Later he had practical experience as a geologist on the U. S. Geological Survey. For forty years he has given his main attention to the physical geography of the land surface, on which he has published several books and very many papers, some of the most important of these in the *Geographical Journal*. Professor Davis has travelled throughout North and South America and Europe, widely in Asia (including an expedition to Turkestan), Africa and Australasia. All the leading geographers of Europe have at one time or another taken part in geographical excursions on a great scale led by Professor Davis, and have borne witness to his extraordinary grasp of physical features and his power of exposition in the field. As a university teacher he introduced new methods of study, especially in his geographical laboratory at Harvard, which have proved of high value in scientific training. As a theoretical geographer he is known mainly by the completeness with which he worked out the geographical cycle of erosion, and the consequences which follow from the application of the conception. All the work of Professor Davis, both in the field and in the study, is marked by a forceful originality which has acted as a vivifying stimulus to several generations alike of disciples and critics. It is not too much to say that his writings have been largely instrumental in displacing German in favor of English as the language of advanced work in geography. Mr. Butler Wright has undertaken to accept the medal on behalf of Professor Davis, and it is with honor that I give it to so distinguished an American. There has always been a good feeling between American geographers and ourselves, and I hope that this will be a small token that it will continue.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE fiftieth anniversary of the appointment of Dean George H. Perkins as professor of geology in the University of Vermont was celebrated at the recent commencement. The

exercises included addresses by prominent alumni and the presentation of a fine portrait by Carle J. Blenner, of New York, which is to hang in the library. For the past two years Dean Perkins has been acting president.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILDER D. BANCROFT, professor of physical chemistry at Cornell University, now on leave as acting chief of the Chemical Warfare Service, U. S. A., was the recipient of the honorary degree of doctor of science at the June commencement of Lafayette College.

ON June 2, the Secretary of War conferred upon Lieutenant Colonel Edward Orton, Jr., Motor Transport Corps, formerly in charge of the Service Division, the distinguished service medal, with the following citation: "His untiring energy and splendid judgment were displayed in the efficient organization of the Engineering Division of the Motor Transport Corps, in bringing about standardization of equipment and supplies and in efficiently directing the forces of the motor industry to the mutual advantage of the Army and Industry itself." Lieutenant Colonel Orton was formerly dean of the college of engineering, Ohio State University.

THE Ricketts prize of \$250, given by the University of Chicago each year to its students for the best research work in bacteriology, was divided between E. B. Fink and F. W. Mulson, both doctors of philosophy.

DR. NELSON W. JANNEY, formerly chief of the medical services of Base Hospital No. 99, American Expeditionary Forces, has resigned his professorship in the New York Postgraduate Hospital to succeed the late Dr. Nathaniel Bowditch Potter in the directorship of the Memorial Laboratory and Clinic for the Study and Treatment of Nephritis, Gout and Diabetes, Santa Barbara, Calif.

HOWARD FONDA has returned to his position in the department of bacteriology in the Long Island College Hospital, Brooklyn, after eighteen months' service in France.

CAPTAIN OSCAR RIDDLE, Sanitary Corps, has returned from France and resumed his duties

at the Station for Experimental Evolution, Cold Spring Harbor, N. Y.

THE National Research Council has appointed a committee to encourage research in colloid chemistry and to foster the training of more colloid chemists, consisting of the following: Harry N. Holmes, *chairman*, Oberlin College; Jerome Alexander, New York City; W. D. Bancroft, Washington, D. C.; G. H. A. Clowes, Eli Lilly Co., Indianapolis; W. A. Patrick, Johns Hopkins University, J. A. Wilson, Milwaukee.

PROFESSOR E. B. VAN VLECK, of the University of Wisconsin, has accepted an invitation as lecturer on mathematics at Harvard University for the second half of the ensuing academic year. Professor Van Vleck will give, besides a course in the calculus, one on the theory of functions of a complex variable and on the partial differential equations of mathematical physics.

DR. ARTHUR M. JORDAN returns to the University of Arkansas this year as head of the department of psychology after a two years' leave of absence spent in research work at Columbia University.

DONALD B. MACMILLAN, leader of the Crocker Land expedition, will be provided with a small schooner with auxiliary power, to be christened *The Bowdoin*, when he leaves next summer on his next Arctic exploration trip, according to plans of the alumni of Bowdoin College. The schooner will be built to withstand the pressure of icefloes. The party, about ten in number, will devote two or three years in exploration work for the National Geographic Society.

THE Lane Medical Lectures, which are held biennially at the Stanford University Medical School, will this year be given by Dr. Alonzo Englebert Taylor, professor of physiological chemistry at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Taylor has been representative secretary of agriculture on the War Trade Board for the past two years, and his lectures will deal with the results of his nutritional and medical survey of European food conditions. The exact

date has not been definitely decided upon, but will be about December 12, 1919.

THE French branch of the Ramsay Memorial Fund, which is to commemorate the work of the late Sir William Ramsay, is asking for contributions to a fund of one million francs (£40,000) for the purpose of founding Ramsay Memorial Fellowships in chemical science, similar to those to be founded in Great Britain, such French fellowships to be available for bringing to England for purposes of research chemists trained in the universities and technical colleges of France. An appeal is being made throughout France. The French branch, of which Mr. Lloyd George is president, includes among its committee M. Pichon, M. Deschanel, Lord Derby, Lord Hardinge of Penshurst, Lord Bertie, and Sir George Riddell. The cost of founding each fellowship will be £6,000. It is hoped by their means to enlist the influence of the universities of the two countries in promoting helpful international relations. The appeal in France is being directed specially to British and American residents there, and to the large number of persons of all nationalities who have for many months past been in France, while performing duties connected with the Peace Conference.

THE current agricultural appropriation bill carries the following items, largely to be devoted to scientific research in applied agriculture:

Weather Bureau .....	\$1,880,210
Bureau of Animal Industry ...	5,783,231
Bureau of Plant Industry .....	3,379,638
Forest Service .....	5,966,869
Bureau of Chemistry .....	1,391,571
Bureau of Soils .....	491,235
Bureau of Entomology .....	1,371,360
Bureau of Biological Survey ..	742,170

This reaches a total of \$21,006,284 out of the entire appropriation to the Department of Agriculture amounting to \$33,900,211. The growth of the sums expended in research work under the Department of Agriculture has been enormous of late years, and seems to have been fully justified by results:

## UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE building for the Kansas University Medical School for which \$200,000 was appropriated by the recent legislature, will be erected provided the city of Rosedale furnishes the additional ground needed, which is valued at \$60,000.

EXCAVATION has been begun for a \$70,000 engineering laboratory at the Oregon Agricultural College. It will be a two-story structure 220 by 63 feet and of brick and concrete construction.

MRS. ALICE JESSIE SHEPPEE has given £2,000 to Oxford University for the foundation of a scholarship in engineering science.

DR. W. W. CHARTERS, dean of the College of Education at the University of Illinois, has resigned to accept a position with the Carnegie Institute of Technology as professor of education to do research work in connection with curriculum organization and construction.

DR. C. A. FISCHER, of Columbia University, has been appointed Seabury professor of mathematics and astronomy at Trinity College, Hartford.

J. P. Fairbank, B.S.C., University of Nebraska, who has been assistant professor and acting head of the department of agricultural engineering in the college of agriculture at the State College of Washington, Pullman, Wash., has been promoted to professor and head of the department of agricultural engineering.

DR. CHARLES W. EASLEY, head of the department of chemistry at the University of Maine, has accepted a chair at Syracuse University. He is to be succeeded at Maine by Dr. Charles A. Brautlecht, of the Florida State College for Women, Tallahassee.

MR. H. M. SHOWMAN, of the Colorado School of Mines, has been appointed assistant professor of mathematics in the Case School of Applied Science.

DR. LEONARD DONCASTER, F.R.S., has been appointed to the Derby chair of zoology in Liverpool University.