

That the gift of ten thousand dollars presented by Mrs. Mary Clark Thompson, the income thereof to be applied to a gold medal of appropriate design to be awarded annually by the National Academy of Sciences for high recognition of exceptional service to geology and paleontology, and the medal to be known as the Mary Clark Thompson Gold Medal, be accepted and that the academy express to Mrs. Thompson its appreciation of her desire to reward those interested in researches in geology and paleontology. (Adopted June 24, 1919.)

The committee is considering a design for the medal.

#### THE ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH AND THE WAR

THE Rockefeller Institute has received the following letter from Merritt W. Ireland, Surgeon-General of the United States Army, commending its war-time activities:

During the war which is now happily past, your institute proved to be one of America's strongholds. I am informed that from the beginning to the end of hostilities the entire institution was placed by you at the disposal of the War Department and that you did work of the greatest value, not alone for the Medical Department but for the Chemical Warfare and Air Service; that your hospital as well as your laboratories became in effect as much a part of the army as the hospitals and laboratories established by the War Department in our cantonments.

I have also been informed that this great work, extending over the whole period of our participation in the war, was paid for entirely out of your own funds, and was without further support from the government than the routine payment of salaries of such members and assistants of the institute as became part of the Medical and Sanitary Corps.

I thank you for your work of patriotism and your generosity in placing so fully at the disposal of the Medical Department your great and productive facilities for research, for teaching, and for the care of the sick.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

PROFESSOR VITO VOLTERRA, who holds the chair of mathematical physics in the University of Rome and is a member of the Italian Senate, will deliver a series of Hitchcock lec-

tures at the University of California from October 6 to 17. This will be the second series of Hitchcock lectures this semester, Professor W. J. V. Osterhout, of Harvard University, having just completed the first series on the general subject, "Fundamental life processes." Professor Volterra will lecture on "The propagation of electricity" and "Functional equations."

PROFESSOR JAMES H. BREASTED, of the University of Chicago, has sailed for Europe in order to lead an archeological expedition to Egypt and western Asia, for which permission has been granted by the British government. Before leaving Professor Breasted arranged for publication in *The Scientific Monthly* the lectures on the William Ellery Hale foundation entitled "The origins of civilization," which he delivered before the National Academy of Sciences last April.

MAJOR-GENERAL WILLIAM C. GORGAS, formerly Surgeon-General, U. S. Army, who has been investigating the sanitary matters in Central and South America, has, it is reported, offered to assume technical directorship of the sanitation of Guayaquil, Ecuador, provided the money for the work is supplied by the municipality or the republic. At the request of the Peruvian authorities, General Gorgas is about to proceed to Piura, which is infected with yellow fever. He and his party left Guayaquil for Callao on September 1.

THE Duke of Abruzzi has planned an expedition to the upper reaches of the Wady Scebel, a river which, rising in north Italian Somaliland in the outlying spurs of the Abyssinian mountain ranges, joins the Fafan River. He will be accompanied by his aide de camp, Marquis Radicati; a doctor, a photographer, and four naval under-officers who have taken part in his former expeditions.

MR. E. HELLER has charge of an expedition sent by the Smithsonian Institution to South Africa to make collections for the National Museum.

PROFESSOR A. S. HITCHCOCK, systematic agrostologist in the Bureau of Plant Industry, will leave New York for British Guiana, on