

ment of medical education in the United States. The following announcement has been made:

"The General Education Board announces a gift from John D. Rockefeller of twenty millions of dollars, the income to be currently used and the entire principal to be distributed within fifty years for the improvement of medical education in the United States."

The working capital previous to this accretion amounted to between \$35,000,000 and \$40,000,000. Since the present sum is to be devoted exclusively to medical education, whereas the board's previous resources, under the terms of the charter granted it by Congress, have been devoted to "promoting education within the United States, without distinction of race, creed or sex," the activities of the organization with respect to medical teaching will be greatly increased.

The board will meet in December, at which time a detailed program with respect to medical education will be mapped out.

Mr. Abraham Flexner, secretary of the board, stated in a general way that just as the board in the past out of its general funds has made considerable donations to the treasuries of medical schools of such universities as Yale, Johns Hopkins, Chicago and Washington in St. Louis, it will, as soon as its plans are worked out, spend large sums for the improvement of the hospital facilities, the teaching staffs and the laboratory facilities of such schools as are decided to be worthy of help. It was pointed out that under the terms of the gift while the entire principal must be distributed within fifty years, there is nothing to prevent the concurrent distribution of both principal and interest and this, he said, undoubtedly would be done.

Mr. Flexner stated that there would be a general survey of the schools of the country which would determine not only which ones could be improved, but also what were the specific needs in each instance. The needs of all parts of the country would be taken into consideration in apportioning such sums as it is decided to disburse from the fund.

#### LECTURES ON POPULAR SCIENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

THE Sunday afternoon lectures on popular science topics given the research men of the University of California and Stanford University and the local representatives of the various United States Bureaus under the auspices of the California Academy of Sciences in the Museum in Golden Gate Park are serving a good purpose in bringing into closer relations the scientific expert and the public. The following illustrated lectures have been announced:

October 12: Dr. Walter P. Taylor, assistant biologist, United States Biological Survey, Washington, D. C., on "The flora and fauna of Mount Rainier."

October 19: Mr. C. A. Kupfer, forest investigator, United States Forest Service, San Francisco, on "California's future; what the Forest Service is doing to determine and meet the coming demands for timber and other National Forest resources."

October 26: Mr. R. F. Hammatt, in charge information, United States Forest Service, San Francisco on "Some forestry problems, both government and private."

November 2: Mr. F. D. Douthitt, grazing examiner, United States Forest Service, San Francisco, on "Range management on the National Forests in California."

November 9: Mr. Don P. Johnston, assistant district forester, United States Forest Service, San Francisco, on "Industrial research in the Forest Service."

#### THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NATURALISTS

THE American Society of Naturalists will hold its thirty-seventh annual meeting at Princeton University, on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 30 and 31. The society will offer, beginning on Tuesday morning, December 30, a program to which its members are invited to contribute papers.

A symposium on "Some Relations of Biology to Human Welfare" will be presented on Tuesday afternoon.

The Naturalists' dinner will be held on the evening of Tuesday. At the close of the dinner Edward M. East will give an address entitled "Population."

Titles of papers offered by members of the society, with estimated length of delivery and statement of lantern or chart requirements, must be in the hands of the secretary by December 1. It is desired that papers be short and it should be remembered that the interests of the Naturalists are primarily in problems of organic evolution. The papers on the program will in general be arranged in order of the receipt of title except that papers on similar subjects may be grouped.

Attention is called to the change in the constitution by which a nomination for membership must now remain in the hands of the executive committee for at least one year before action can be taken upon it. Therefore, nominations to receive attention in 1920 must reach the secretary by December 31, 1919. Blank forms for nomination may be obtained from the secretary, Bradley M. Davis, Botanical Laboratory, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.

#### AWARD OF THE WILLARD GIBBS MEDAL

THE Willard Gibbs gold medal was presented on September 26 to Professor William A. Noyes, director of the department of chemistry at the University of Illinois, for special work in chemistry for the government performed during the war.

The presentation was made following a reception and dinner to Professor Noyes by more than four hundred of the country's leading chemists and educators, who were in attendance at the Fifth National Exposition of Chemical Industries, held at the Coliseum, Chicago. The presentation speech was made by Dr. William H. Nichols, of New York, president of the American Chemical Society, following a brief history of the achievements of Dr. Noyes by L. V. Redman, of Chicago.

Dr. Harry Pratt Judson, president of the University of Chicago; Dr. W. E. Stone, president of Purdue University; Dr. Ira Remsen, past president of Johns Hopkins University; Dr. David Kinley, acting president of the University of Illinois, and Harry H. Merrick, president of the Chicago Association of Commerce, gave short addresses, pointing out

the prominence which American science has attained in the chemical work, and of the successful efforts now under way to apply the thousands of war secrets to commercial uses.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. W. A. HERDMAN, professor of zoology in the University of Liverpool, who has been general secretary of the British Association for the Advancement of Science since 1903, has been elected president of the association.

THE Triennial Council of the United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa elected at the recent meeting at Harvard University as the new president of the United Chapters for the term, 1919-22, President E. A. Birge, of the University of Wisconsin. He succeeds Professor E. A. Grosvenor, of Amherst College.

DR. HUGH CABOT, professor in the Harvard Medical School and chief surgeon at the Massachusetts General Hospital, has been appointed chief surgeon of the University of Michigan. He expects to take up his new work about January 1.

DR. ISADORE DYER has been appointed a colonel in the Medical Section, Officers' Reserve Corps. Dr. Dyer was made a member of the Council on Medical Education of the American Medical Association at the meeting of that organization held in Atlantic City in June.

DR. C. LEO MEES resigned as president of Rose Polytechnic Institute on September 1, and retires on a pension under the Carnegie Foundation, at the age of sixty-six, his retirement being due chiefly to impaired health. President Mees has been a teacher for forty-four years, thirty-two of which have been spent at Rose. For seven years he served as professor of physics, and for twenty-five years as president. He has been appointed president emeritus by the board of managers.

DR. F. C. BROWN has resigned his position as associate professor of physics, University of Iowa, and accepted a position as technical assistant to the director of the Bureau of Standards. He has, during the war, been doing scientific work in connection with aircraft