

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

armament problems of the Ordnance Department as major in the U. S. Army.

PROFESSOR BAILEY WILLIS, who succeeded Dr. Branner in the department of geology at Stanford University, will hereafter be in residence from January to June only, and will devote the balance of the year to geologic research and field work.

PROFESSOR DANIEL STARCH, of the University of Wisconsin, is on leave of absence for the first half of the present year. He is giving a three-hour course of lectures during the semester at Harvard University.

DR. JAMES W. GLOVER, professor of mathematics and insurance at the University of Michigan, spent the month of September in New York City, serving as acting president of the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America. Professor Glover is a member of the board of trustees and acted for Dr. Henry S. Pritchett, who is spending the summer in the west.

DR. R. H. SYLVESTER, clinical psychologist at the Iowa State University, Iowa City, has been selected as chief of the health center at Des Moines, with headquarters in the court house.

THE Pontécoulant Prize of the Paris Academy of Sciences has been awarded to Professor A. S. Eddington for his astronomical researches.

DR. BARTON WARREN EVERMANN, director of the museum of the California Academy of Sciences, with Dr. John Van Denburgh, the herpetologist, left San Francisco on September 11, for the Olympic Mountains in Washington. The party will be joined in Seattle by Mr. C. J. Albrecht, director of vertebrate exhibits of the Washington State Museum, and a photographer, and an effort will be made to obtain motion pictures of the Roosevelt Elk in their native haunts in these mountains. The films if successful will be used to supplement the story told by the habitat group of Roosevelt Elk, now being installed in the Academy's Museum in Golden Gate Park, through the munificence of Captain William C. Van Antwerp.

WE learn from *Economic Geology* that T. Wayland Vaughan, D. Dale Condit, C. Wythe Cooke and Clyde P. Ross, of the U. S. Geological Survey, have recently returned to Washington after spending several months in a reconnaissance of the Dominican Republic, for the Dominican government. Dr. Vaughan also visited Prince au Prince, Haiti, and made arrangements with the Haitian government for a preliminary geological survey of Haiti. He later made a reconnaissance in the Virgin Islands at the request of the Navy Department. Mr. Condit, who was in charge of the field work in Santo Domingo, has in preparation several reports one of which, soon to be published, will describe the results of geologic work in Barahona and Azua Provinces.

THE James Watt centenary celebrations in Birmingham were opened with lectures by Professor F. W. Burstall and Professor Hele-Shaw on September 10. In the afternoon there was a memorial service at Handsworth Parish Church, in which Watt, Boulton and Murdoch were buried, an address being delivered by Canon E. W. Barnes, Master of the Temple. This was followed by a garden-party at Heathfield Hall, and a reception by the Lord Mayor at the Council House. The following day lectures were given by Sir Oliver Lodge, Professor Alex. Barr and Professor J. D. Carmack, and in the afternoon visits were made to some of Watt's engines. In the evening the centenary dinner was held. The university held a special Degree Congregation to confer honorary degrees on the American Ambassador (the Honorable J. W. Davies), Sir Charles Parsons, Vice-Admiral Goodwin, M. Rateau (of Paris), Sir George Beilby, Colonel Blackett, Professor Barr and Mr. F. W. Lanchester.

THE death is announced on August 5 of Mr. W. D. Dallas, who was scientific assistant to the meteorological reporter to the government of India from 1882 to 1906.

THE *Deutsche medizinische Wochenschrift* of May 29, as quoted by the *Journal* of the American Medical Association, gives the total losses of Germany as 6,873,415. This includes

the 615,922 soldiers held prisoners of war in other lands, and the 4,207,023 wounded. The dead numbered 1,676,696, and the missing most of whom are presumably dead, 373,770, a total of 2,000,000 killed in the war.

### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE will of General Horace W. Carpentier has now been filed. The estate is valued at \$3,606,000. The principal beneficiaries are Columbia University and Barnard College, each of which receives \$1,420,000. Other beneficiaries include the Presbyterian Hospital, \$200,000; Sloan Hospital, \$200,000, and the University of California, \$100,000.

By the will of the late Charles W. Lenney, of New York, \$50,000 is left to Boston University.

MR. ARTHUR BALFOUR has been nominated for election as chancellor of Cambridge University, in succession to his brother-in-law, the late Lord Rayleigh.

COLORADO COLLEGE has again opened its forestry school, which was closed for two years because of the war. Mr. J. Gordon Parker has been appointed assistant professor of forestry in charge of the school.

A NEW department of physiological chemistry has recently been established at the University of Kansas. Dr. C. Ferdinand Nelson has been elected professor of biological chemistry and head of department.

AT Yale University Arthur Phillips, M.S., has been appointed assistant professor of metallurgy, in the Sheffield Scientific School; James Albert Honeij, M.D., at present assistant professor, professor of clinical medicine in charge of radiology, and Wilder Tileston, M.D., at present assistant professor of medicine, professor of clinical medicine.

DR. C. W. HEWLETT, professor of physics in the North Carolina College for Women, Greensboro, N. C., has been appointed assistant professor of physics at the University of Iowa.

RECENT appointments in the medical school of Loyola University, Chicago, are as follows:

S. A. Matthews, M.D., professor and head of the department of physiology, pharmacology and therapeutics; A. C. Ivy, A.M., Ph.D., formerly instructor in physiology at the University of Chicago, associate professor in physiology; E. S. Maxwell, formerly instructor in pathology at Vanderbilt University and more recently first lieutenant in the U. S. Medical Corps, associate professor in bacteriology and pathology.

DR. HARRISON R. HUNT has resigned as assistant professor of zoology at West Virginia University to become head of the department of biology at the University of Mississippi, Oxford, Mississippi.

DR. J. W. SHIPLEY, professor of chemistry in the Manitoba Agricultural College, has resigned his position in order to accept an appointment as assistant professor in chemistry in the University of Manitoba.

### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

#### THE RIGIDITY OF THE EARTH

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: An account of an experiment to determine the rigidity of the earth was published in *The Astrophysical Journal* and in *The Journal of Geology*, March, 1914 and in SCIENCE, June 26, 1914. This gave the ratios of the amplitudes of tides observed in N.-S. and E.-W. pipes to the amplitudes computed for the same pipes on the assumption of a perfectly rigid earth, as .523 and .710 respectively.

The work of reducing a new set of automatically recorded observations made by an interference method, which was interrupted by the war, was recently resumed, and it was found that the N.-S. and E.-W. ratios were very nearly equal to each other.

It was then noted that  $\frac{.523}{.710} = .7366$  and that the cosine of the latitude of Yerkes Observatory, where the experiment was performed, is .7363. It seemed highly probable therefore that  $\cos \phi$  had been introduced erroneously into the computed formula for the N.-S. tides.

We have just been informed by Professor