

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE BONAPARTE AND LOUTREUIL FOUNDATIONS OF THE PARIS ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

WE learn from *Nature* that of the 72,500 francs placed at the disposal of the Academy by Prince Bonaparte, it proposed to allocate 30,000 francs as follows:

Five thousand francs to Charles Alluaud, traveling naturalist to the National Natural History Museum, for a geological and botanical expedition in the Moroccan Grand Atlas Chain.

Two thousand francs to A. Boutarie, for the construction of an apparatus for recording nocturnal radiation.

One thousand francs to Emile Brumpt, for continuing his work on parasitic hæmoglobinuria or piroplasmos of cattle.

Three thousand francs to E. Fauré-Fremiet, for undertaking a series of studies on histogenesis and certain surgical applications.

Three thousand francs to A. Guilliermond, for pursuing his researches on lower organisms and on mitochondria.

Three thousand francs to Joseph Martinet, for continuing his researches on the isatins capable of serving as raw material for the synthesis of indigo coloring matters.

Three thousand francs to A. Vavssières, for the continuation of his researches of the marine molluscs, family Cypræidæ.

Ten thousand francs to the Fédération française des Sociétés de Sciences naturelles, for the publication of a fauna of France.

The committee appointed to allocate the Loutreuil foundations recommended the following grants:

1. To establishments named by the founder:

Ten thousand francs to the National Museum of Natural History, for the reorganization of its library.

Seven thousand five hundred francs to the Paris Observatory, at the request of the Central Council of the Observatories, for purchasing an instrument.

2. Grants applied for direct:

Six thousand francs to the Société Géologique du Nord, to enable it to take up work interrupted by the war.

Ten thousand francs to l'Ecole des hautes études industrielles et commerciales de Lille, for restoring the material of its chemical laboratory.

Twenty thousand francs to the Observatory of

Ksara (near Beyrouth). This laboratory was practically destroyed by the Turks and Germans. The grant is towards its restoration.

Eight thousand francs to Henri Deslandres, for the study of the radical movements of the solar vapors and the thickness of the gaseous atmosphere of the sun.

Seven thousand five hundred francs to Maurice Hamy, to carry out certain improvements in astronomical apparatus of precision.

Three thousand five hundred francs to Félix Boquet, for the publication of Kepler tables.

One thousand francs to G. Raymond, for the continuation of his actinometric experiments.

Ten thousand francs to Charles Marie, for exceptional expense connected with the publication of the "Tables annuelles de constants et données numériques de chimie, de physique et de technologie."

Ten thousand francs to the Fédération française des Sociétés de Sciences naturelles, for the publication of a French fauna.

Two thousand francs to P. Lesne, for his researches on the insects of peat-bogs.

Two thousand francs to A. Paillot, for his researches on the microbial diseases of insects.

Two thousand francs to Just Aumiot, for the methodical study of the varieties of potato.

Five thousand francs to Albert Peyron and Gabriel Petit, for the experimental study of cancer in the larger mammals.

Three thousand francs to Th. Nogier, for completing the installation of the radio-physiological laboratory of the Bacteriological Institute of Lyons.

AWARD OF THE NOBEL PRIZE TO PROFESSOR HABER

By order of the minister from Sweden the first secretary of the legation has made public the following statement correcting certain remarks that have appeared in the daily press concerning the award by the Swedish Academy of Science of a Nobel Prize for chemistry to Professor Fritz Haber of Berlin-Dahlen.

1. The invention for which the prize was awarded to Professor Haber was the synthesis of ammonia by direct way out of its constituent elements.

2. The report on which the award was made stated that the Haber method of producing

ammonia is cheaper than any other so far known, that the production of cheap nitric fertilizers is of a universal importance to the increase of food production, and that consequently the Haber invention was of the greatest value to the world at large.

3. The Haber method was invented and published several years before the outbreak of the great war. At the International Congress for Applied Chemistry held in the United States in 1912, it was described by Professor Bernthsen. The method was consequently known to all nations before the war and available to them to the same extent. It seems to have been put into practise in the United States.

4. Ammonia, the product of the Haber method, must be converted into nitric acid in order to give rise to explosives or to corrosive gases. As a matter of fact, the Haber plants in Germany were erected with a view to producing agricultural fertilizers.

5. As far as I know, no gas masks have ever been manufactured in Sweden. In all events, there existed in Sweden during the whole war an export prohibition on all sorts of war material. That prohibition has been rigorously upheld.

6. The Nobel Prizes are paid in one single post and not in monthly installments.

DYE SECTION OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

THE second meeting of the Dye Section will be held in St. Louis, beginning Wednesday, April 14. At this meeting the committee on permanent organization will submit "By-Laws" for the consideration of the Section, the approval of which by the Section and by the Council, will be the necessary steps to the permanent organization of the Dye Chemists of the United States, as the Dye Division of the American Chemical Society.

The secretary asks all scientific workers in the field of dyes to present the results of their researches and experiences at these meetings of the dye chemists. Papers on the manufacture, properties or application of dyes, both of coal tar or natural origin, will be of timely

interest. Any chemist having any such scientific information ready for presentation is asked to communicate at once with the secretary, giving subject and time for presentation.

As is usual, full details of the final program, time and place of meeting can be obtained by addressing Dr. C. L. Parsons, 1709 G. Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., or the undersigned.

R. NORRIS SHREVE,
Secretary

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SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

REAR ADMIRAL ROBERT EDWIN PEARY, retired, the distinguished arctic explorer, died at his home in Washington, on February 20, from pernicious anemia, aged sixty-three years.

PROFESSOR E. G. CONKLIN, of Princeton University, and Professor T. H. Morgan, of Columbia University, have been elected honorary members of the Belgian Society of Zoology and Malacology.

DR. JOHN R. SWANTON, of the Bureau of American Ethnology, and Dr. Truman Michelson, of the Bureau of American Ethnology and professor in George Washington University, have been elected corresponding members of the Société des Américanistes de Paris.

THE *Bulletin of the Johns Hopkins Hospital* for December contains a record by Dr. Thomas S. Cullen, of the work and writings of Dr. Henry Mills Hurd, Baltimore, who was the first superintendent of the hospital.

DR. JAMES HARRIS ROGERS, of Hyattsville, Maryland, has received from the Maryland Academy of Sciences, Baltimore, its inventor's medal for his work on "underground and sub-sea wireless."

It is stated in *Nature* that the council of the Glass Research Association has appointed Mr. R. L. Frink, Lancaster, Ohio, director of research. The secretary of the association says: "Mr. Frink has a lifelong experience of the American glass trade and glass research, is well known to the foremost English glass