

With the marvelous expansion of the industry of this country and the growing necessity of science to industry, the scientific bureaus have been utterly unable to hold their assistants against the competition of industry which is taking their highly trained men at salaries the government does not pay or even approach.

I feel very deeply that there ought to be more adequate compensation for the scientific and technical men in the government service so that none of them may be compelled to accept positions on the outside.

Many of these scientific men are of fine type for government work, care little for the commercial field, take an intense professional interest in their tasks and are of inestimable value to the government.

RESIGNATION OF PROFESSOR E. F. NICHOLS FROM THE YALE UNIVERSITY FACULTY

ANNOUNCEMENT is made from Yale University that the resignation of Ernest Fox Nichols, Sc.D., LL.D., professor of physics, has been tendered and accepted. Professor Nichols has accepted the post of director of pure science in the Nela Research Laboratories of the National Lamp Works of the General Electric Company, at Cleveland, Ohio.

In offering his resignation Dr. Nichols wrote the following letter to the Yale corporation in explanation of the conditions which had led to his decision:

SLOANE LABORATORY,
YALE UNIVERSITY,
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT,
April 21, 1920

THE CORPORATION OF YALE UNIVERSITY.

Gentlemen: I have been offered the post of director of pure science in the Nela Research Laboratories, National Lamp Works of the General Electric Company, at Cleveland, Ohio. The position offers complete freedom in the choice of research problems, and places at my unhampered disposal such human and material resources as no university I know of can at present afford.

I would like to accept this offer and therefore respectfully ask you to release me at the close of the present academic year from my post of professor of physics in Yale University.

The thought of leaving present colleagues and university surroundings is to me, in many ways, a source of deep regret, and I have hesitated long over my decision; yet the heightened opportunities

of the new position are in everything else so advantageous that the offer becomes finally irresistible.

With appreciation and sincere regard,

Yours very truly,

Signed: ERNEST FOX NICHOLS

Dr. Nichols went to Yale University in the fall of 1916 to occupy a new chair of physics, having resigned the presidency of Dartmouth College, in which capacity he had served since 1909, in order that he might have the desired opportunity to continue his scientific work. Professor Nichols is a graduate of the Kansas Agricultural College in the class of 1888, and has held professorships of physics in Colgate College, Dartmouth College and Columbia University. During the war from 1917 to 1919 he was absent from Yale University, to engage in research and development work for the navy.

THE ALLEGHENY OBSERVATORY

THE following minute was adopted by the observatory committee and also by the executive committee of the board of trustees of the University of Pittsburgh at its meeting on January 14:

In complying with the request of Dr. Frank Schlesinger that he be relieved of his duties as director on April 1, 1920, to take charge of the Yale Observatory, the committee desire to express their appreciation of his fifteen years of active and fruitful service, during which the Allegheny Observatory has made many valuable contributions to astronomical science, and worthily upheld its international reputation created by Langley and Keeler. While we regret to lose the valuable cooperation and friendly personal relationship which our long association with Dr. Schlesinger has developed, we sincerely congratulate him on the enlarged and attractive field of scientific usefulness which his new position offers; and heartily wish for himself and family, continued health, happiness and success. Moreover, we look forward with pleasure to our continued cooperation in the solution of the great astronomical problems which are rapidly bringing into closer fellowship the astrophysicists of the world.

On the evening of March 22, a few days before Dr. Schlesinger's departure for New

Haven, a testimonial dinner was given to him by the observatory committee. Besides the committee there were present other members of the board of trustees and a few other guests.

Dr. H. D. Curtis has been elected director of the observatory and he is to assume charge early in July, 1920. Dr. Curtis has been connected with the Lick Observatory for about twenty years. For a number of years he had charge of the station of the Lick Observatory at Santiago, Chile; more recently he has had charge of the work with the Crossley Reflecting Telescope on Mount Hamilton.

Dr. Frank Craig Jordan, assistant professor at the Allegheny Observatory since 1908, has been promoted to a full professorship and has been elected assistant director of the observatory.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

MEMBERS of the National Academy of Sciences have been elected as follows: Dr. James Rowland Angell, University of Chicago and the National Research Council, president-elect of the Carnegie Corporation, psychologist; Dr. Henry Prentiss Armsby, Pennsylvania State College, physiological chemist; Dr. Wilder D. Bancroft, Cornell University and the National Research Council, chemist; Dr. Hans F. Blichfeldt, Stanford University, mathematician; Dr. A. J. Carlson, University of Chicago, physiologist; Dr. William Duane, Harvard University, physicist; Dr. Lewis R. Jones, University of Wisconsin, plant pathologist; Dr. Elmer Peter Kohler, Harvard University, chemist; Dr. Charles K. Leith, University of Wisconsin, geologist; Dr. Clarence Erwin McClung, University of Pennsylvania and National Research Council, zoologist; Dr. Elmer V. McCollum, the Johns Hopkins University, physiological chemist; Dr. George Washington Pierce, Harvard University, physicist; Harris J. Ryan, Stanford University, electrical engineer; Dr. Joel Stebbins, University of Illinois, astronomer, and Dr. Bailey Willis, Stanford University, geologist. Arthur L. Day, of the Carnegie Institution, and T. H. Morgan, of Columbia

University, were elected members of the council.

At a meeting held April 20, the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, in recognition of their scientific accomplishments, elected as correspondents the following: William Berryman Scott, Merrit L. Fernald, Hans Frederick Gadow, Johann P. Lotsy, Daniel T. MacDougal, Raymond Pearl, William E. Ritter, William Schaus and William Lutley Sclater.

DR. WILLIAM MORRIS DAVIS, emeritus professor of geology at Harvard University, has been awarded the Vega medal of the Swedish Anthropological and Geographical Society.

At its last meeting the Rumford Committee of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences made the following appropriations for research: To Professor H. M. Randall, of the University of Michigan, in aid of his research on the structure of spectra in the infra-red, five hundred dollars; to Professor L. R. Ingersoll, of the University of Wisconsin, in aid of his research on the polarizing effect of diffraction gratings, one hundred and fifty dollars; to Professor A. G. Webster, of Clark University, in aid of his researches on new methods in pyro dynamics and practical interior ballistics, five hundred dollars.

PROFESSOR JACQUES HADAMARD, Sc.D., LL.D., of the Collège de France, is delivering at Yale University the thirteenth regular course of lectures on the Hepsa Ely Silliman Foundation. The first of M. Hadamard's lectures on "Some topics in linear partial differential equations" was given on April 23.

THE second series of the LeConte Memorial lectures will be given in the Yosemite National Park during the months of June and July. These lectures were instituted in honor of the naturalist and geologist, Joseph Le Conte, who for thirty years was a member of the faculty of the University of California. This year the speakers and subjects are announced as follows: Dr. John C. Merriam, "The philosophy of Joseph Le Conte"; Dr. A. C. Lawson, "The geological history of the Sierra Nevada"; Dr. Joseph Grinnell, "The vertebrate animals of