

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY has conferred the doctorate of laws on Dr. William H. Nichols, president of the General Chemical Company of New York, and recently president of the American Chemical Society.

THE University of Maine has conferred the Ph.D. on Dr. Lamson Scribner, of the United States Department of Agriculture.

THE University of Arizona has conferred the degree of doctor of laws on Thomas Henry Kearney, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, in recognition of his work in the breeding of Egyptian long-staple cotton at the Sacaton Station in Arizona. Here he and his collaborators isolated the first plant of the Pima variety of cotton, so well adapted to the southwestern region, propagated it to the extent necessary to make commercial plantings, and are still occupied in producing a large amount of absolutely pure seed each year. The Pima cotton crop of Arizona was worth approximately \$20,000,000 in 1919.

THE honorary degree of doctor of science was conferred upon George N. Hoffer, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, by Lebanon Valley College, at their fifty-fourth annual commencement exercises, in recognition of his contribution to our knowledge of cereal diseases. Dr. Hoffer graduated from Lebanon Valley in 1909 and is at present working at the experiment station at Purdue University.

DURING a visit to Millbank Hospital on June 8, King George bestowed on Major General William C. Gorgas, former surgeon general of the United States army, the insignia of Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. General Gorgas was a patient in Queen Alexandra's Nursing Home for Officers.

THE president of the French republic has conferred the honor of Officer of the Legion of Honor on Dr. Aldo Castellani, of the London School of Tropical Medicine, for his method of combined typhoid-paratyphoid and enteric-cholera vaccination.

AT the end of the present academic year Professor Frederic S. Lee retires, at his own

request, from the directorship of the department of physiology of Columbia University, and hereafter he will occupy a research professorship. He sails for Europe early in July and expects to spend the coming year abroad.

MR. G. W. MOREY, of the Geophysical Laboratory, Carnegie Institution of Washington, who has been on leave of absence and in charge of the optical glass plant of the Spencer Lens Company of Buffalo, New York, since November, 1918, has returned to resume his research work at the laboratory.

PROFESSOR CHARLES BASKERVILLE, in recognition of his investigations on inhalation anesthetics, has been elected a member of the research committee of the National Anesthesia Research Society.

AT the St. Louis meeting of the American Chemical Society a communication was presented from Dr. W. F. Hillebrand regarding the apparently organized thefts of platinum ware that are taking place throughout the United States, with the suggestion that a committee be appointed to consider whether or not legislation might not be recommended to Congress which would assist in controlling the matter. The council voted that such a committee be appointed, and the president appointed R. B. Moore, of the Bureau of Mines, Washington, D. C., Chas. H. Kerk, of J. F. Bishop & Company, Malvern, Pa., and Geo. F. Kunz, of Tiffany & Company.

SIR HUMPHREY D. ROLLESTON, Royal College of Physicians of London; Colonel H. J. Waring, Royal College of Surgeons of London; Dr. Norman Walker, Royal College of Physicians and Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and the Royal Faculty of Medicine and Surgery of Glasgow, and Professors Gustave Roussy and E. E. Desmarest, of the University of Paris, were present at the meeting of the American Medical Association at New Orleans and have been visiting the leading medical centers of the country. They are the guests of the National Board of Medical Examiners of the United States.

DR. W. C. PHALEN, formerly geologist in the U. S. Geological Survey and mineral technol-

ogist in the Bureau of Mines, has been engaged as geologist by the Solvay Process Company with headquarters at Syracuse, N. Y.

A MEETING of the New York Section of the Société de Chimie Industrielle was held at Rumford Hall, on the evening of May 14. The following officers were elected: *President*, Marston T. Bogert; *Vice-president*, J. Enrique Zanetti; *Treasurer*, J. V. N. Dorr; *Secretary*, Charles A. Doremus; *Council*, Jerome Alexander, L. H. Baekeland, Charles Baskerville, Henri Blum, Charles F. Chandler, René Engel, Georges de Geofroy, Ellwood Hendrick, Charles H. Herty, George F. Kunz, W. H. Nichols, G. E. Valabrègue. The meeting was addressed by M. Maurice Casenave, minister plenipotentiary, director-general of French Services in the United States on "Commercial relations between France and the United States," and by Mr. Joseph H. Choate, general counsel of the Chemical Foundation, Inc., on "Conditions of the chemical industry in the United States before the war."

DR. L. HEKTOEN, of the John McCormick Institute for Infectious Diseases, Chicago, delivered the Noble Wiley Jones lectures of the University of Oregon, on May 31 and June 2, the subject of the first lecture being "Old and new knowledge of humidity" and of the second "Phases of streptococcus infection."

DR. W. VAN BEMMELEN, director of the Magnetic and Meteorological Observatory of Batavia, delivered an address on "The volcanoes of Java," before the Washington Academy of Sciences on June 15.

ON May 24, 1920, a statue of Edward Van Beneden was unveiled at Liège, Belgium, with appropriate exercises. Dr. Robert W. Hegner, of the school of hygiene and public health of the Johns Hopkins University, acted as the American representative on this occasion.

IN the issue of SCIENCE of April 23 it was stated that the family of Mr. Henry Phipps had given \$500,000 to the Henry Phipps Institute of the University of Pennsylvania for the study of tuberculosis. We are requested to state that this sum is given contingent on

the raising of a total of \$3,000,000 for the endowment of the institute.

DR. J. LUNELL, physician and botanist at Leeds, N. D., since 1894, has died. Dr. Lunell was an enthusiastic botanist and published a number of articles on North Dakota plants, the most extensive of these is the Catalogue of the Vascular Plants which was noted in this journal for November 1, 1918.

THE tenth season of the Marine Laboratory of Pomona College will begin June 24, at Laguna Beach, Orange county, California. There will be several courses in general biology and general zoology. There are opportunities for special work, and eight private laboratories are reserved for investigators.

THE publication committee of the Zoological Society, London, has issued a notice calling the attention of those who propose to offer papers to the great increase in the cost of paper and printing. This, it is stated, will render it necessary for the present that papers should be condensed, and be limited so far as possible to the description of new results.

DR. CORNELIUS BETTEN, for the past five years secretary of the New York State College of Agriculture, has just been made vice-dean of resident instruction, the appointment to take effect July 1, 1920. Dr. Betten is a graduate of Cornell, of the class of 1906, where he was fellow in entomology. After graduation he went to Lake Forest College at Lake Forest, Illinois, where he was professor of biology and head of the department. In 1915, he returned to his alma mater as secretary of the college of agriculture. Under authorization of recent legislation for the college of agriculture, provision is made for three vice-deans or directors; a vice-dean of the college, a vice-director of extension, and a vice-director of the experiment station. The faculty of the college was asked to make nominations, and Dr. Betten was practically selected by his associates, the actual appointment by the trustees of the university being a ratification of the faculty's choice. Professor M. C. Burritt has been for some time vice-director of extension. The vice-director of experiment stations still remains to be chosen. Under

the present plan, Dean A. R. Mann has the aid of three vice-officers as executives in the three main branches of the work of the college; resident instruction, extension, and research.

The geological department of the New York State Museum will send into the field this year a considerable corps of workers for the purpose of collecting the fossil terrestrial plants of the Devonian Period. The collections of the museum are already very rich in such plant material, but it has all been acquired incidentally to the study of the fossil faunas of the state, and the reports of the museum have given inadequate attention to this important field. The physical conditions under which the Late Devonian deposits were laid down in New York were distinctly favorable to the accumulation of terrestrial plants in the shallow water offshore sands and shales, and it was said by Sir William Dawson that the state museum possessed a more extensive representation of this early land flora than was to be found elsewhere. The standing tree ferns found many years ago in the sands of Schoharie county and which are exhibited in the museum, are the oldest representatives of a terrestrial forest growing in place; the unique *Archeosigillaria*, 18 feet in length, is another extraordinary plant from this flora and these striking objects, supplemented by much unstudied material, give promise that the field may be opened to a more adequate knowledge of the first great land flora of the earth.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

DR. FREDERICK CHARLES HICKS, Sinton professor of economics, has been elected president of the University of Cincinnati, succeeding Dr. Charles W. Dabney, who retires on reaching the age of sixty-five. Dr. Hicks went to the University of Cincinnati in 1900 as head of the department of economics, having previously taught in the University of Michigan and the University of Missouri.

MR. HOMER P. LATIMER, professor of anatomy at the University of Nebraska, has been

granted leave of absence for the year 1920-21. He will spend this summer and next year in study at the Institute of Anatomy of the University of Minnesota. Mr. D. S. Brazda has been appointed instructor in anatomy to take charge of some of the classes during Professor Latimer's absence.

PROFESSOR S. ELIZABETH VON DUYNE, M.D., resident physician and professor of physiology and hygiene at Converse College, has resigned to accept a similar position at Goucher College, her alma mater.

DR. LINUS W. KLINE, formerly professor of psychology and education in the Duluth Normal School, who has been engaged in research at the Johns Hopkins University during the past year, has been appointed professor of psychology and education in Skidmore College.

DR. P. W. WHITING, in charge of biology at Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pa., has resigned to accept a position at St. Stephens' College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York.

DR. RICHARD J. HARDING, McGill University, has been appointed professor of chemical pathology in the University of Toronto by the board of governors of the university.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE SCIENTIFIC WORK IN THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

HAVING recently returned from a tour of the Hawaiian Islands, and having familiarized myself with the scientific work that is being done there and which remains to be done in the Islands to the south, I am particularly interested in the success of the Congress so ably planned by Professor Herbert E. Gregory, of Yale University, who is now resident in Honolulu as director of the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum.

While the problems presented by the Islands are chiefly in geology, volcanology, and anthropology, there is also a great deal of interest in various fields of zoology and oceanography.

The cooperation planned by Professor