

the various laboratories and individuals working on contact catalysis was pointed out by Chairman Bancroft, and as a result a Committee on Contact Catalysis was appointed, with W. D. Bancroft as chairman.

A report on the publication of critical tables of physical and chemical constants was presented by H. K. Moore. The council approved the suggestion that a special agent be employed to devote his entire time to the solicitation of funds for this publication. Thereupon H. E. Howe was appointed a fourth member of the board of trustees; W. D. Bancroft and C. E. Mendenhall was authorized to pay for the drawing up of a preliminary plan for the scientific organization of the tables, as a concrete basis for obtaining subscriptions.

Dr. Cottrell was appointed to draw up a resolution in support of the Patent bill, with instructions to forward the resolution to the Patent Office committee of the National Research Council for such action as it saw fit to take.

#### THE PERMANENT FUNDS OF THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

THE *Auk* states that from time to time the union has established several permanent funds for special purposes. In every case the principal with such contributions as may be received is invested so as to remain intact and the interest only is used for furthering the objects of the fund. The most important of these funds are: the Brewster Memorial Fund, the Research Fund, and the Publication Fund.

The Brewster Memorial Fund, the most recent, is the gift of the friends of William Brewster to perpetuate the memory of one of the founders and former presidents of the union by establishing a fund to encourage research in American ornithology. The sum of \$5,200 received in 1919, has already increased to some extent and the proceeds will be awarded biennially in the form of a medal and an honorarium to the author of the most important contribution to the ornithology of the Western Hemisphere during the two years immediately preceding. This fund is administered by a special committee and the first award will be made in 1921.

The Research Fund was established some years ago by a gift from Miss Juliette A. Owen, of St. Joseph, Mo., one of the Life Associates of the Union, to encourage original research in ornithology. It now amounts to several hundred dollars but the interest will not be available until the total amount reaches \$5,000. It is highly desirable that this fund should be increased at an early date so that the proceeds may become available for promoting ornithological work. Already applications have been received for assistance in special investigations which would be greatly stimulated if small grants could be made from this or some similar fund.

The publication fund comprises receipts from life memberships, bequests and special contributions. In *The Auk* for January, 1920, the editor has called attention to the immediate need of a fund of \$25,000, and in response to this appeal subscriptions of several hundred dollars in sums of \$100 or less have already been received. The editor of *The Auk* says that not only is an adequate fund necessary to place the publication of the journal on a permanent basis and to issue check-lists, indexes and special bibliographies, but means should be provided also for publishing occasional memoirs, monographs and more extensive papers than have hitherto been attempted. At this time when the usual channels of publication are becoming restricted on account of the high cost of printing it is especially desirable that the American Ornithologists' Union should be in a position to meet the demands which are made upon it. As its permanent funds increase the union will be able to broaden the scope of its work and to make more substantial contributions both to the development and diffusion of knowledge of ornithology.

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#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. W. W. CAMPBELL, director of the Lick Observatory, has been elected a foreign honorary fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

DR. L. HEKTOEN, director of the John McCormick Institute for Infectious Diseases,

Chicago, has been elected a member of the Swedish Medical Society in Stockholm.

A PORTRAIT of Dr. Thomas Huston Macbride, president emeritus of the University of Iowa, was presented by C. F. Kuehnle, on behalf of the alumni to the university at the June commencement. The portrait was painted by Professor C. A. Cumming, of the department of graphic and plastic art, and is life size.

DR. ELIAS POTTER LYON, dean of the University of Minnesota Medical School, was granted the degree of doctor of laws by the St. Louis University at its recent commencement.

MORRIS SCHERAGO, formerly head of the department of bacteriology of the University of Kentucky, has been appointed assistant bacteriologist in the New York State Laboratory.

PROFESSOR J. G. GALLAN, of the department of steam and gas engineering of the University of Wisconsin, who has been on leave of absence during the present academic year, has recently resigned to become professor of mechanical engineering in Harvard University. He will teach factory administration and will also act as consulting mechanical engineer for an eastern manufacturing company.

WILLIAM D. ENNIS announces his resignation as professor of marine and mechanical engineering in the post graduate department of the United States Naval Academy, to become vice-president of the Technical Advisory Corporation of New York. Mr. Ennis has been associated with the latter corporation since its organization and will be hereafter located at its general offices, 132 Nassau St., New York City.

MR. ROBERT V. TOWNEND, chemist in charge of the chlorinated toluene products with the Semet-Solvay Co., has accepted a position with the Victor Talking Machine Co., Camden, N. J., where he will organize and direct their department of chemical research.

DR. N. E. DORSEY, who recently resigned as chief of the radium and X-ray section of the Bureau of Standards in order to take up private consulting and testing work, has been

retained by the bureau in the capacity of consulting physicist.

WE learn from *Nature* that on the occasion of the birthday of the King of England the following were knighted: Professor F. W. Andrews, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; Captain D. Wilson-Barker, captain-superintendent of the trainingship *Worcester*, and past-president of the Royal Meteorological Society; Dr. J. C. Beattie, principal of the University of the Cape of Good Hope; Mr. W. B. M. Bird, founder of the Salters' Institute of Industrial Chemistry; Dr. H. H. Hayden, director of the Geological Survey of India, and Professor J. B. Henderson, professor of applied mechanics, Royal Naval College, Greenwich.

MR. O. F. BROWN, assistant inspector of wireless telegraphy in the Post Office, has been appointed technical officer to the Radio Research Board, which has been formed recently under the chairmanship of Admiral Sir Henry Jackson, in connection with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

COLONEL H. G. LYONS has been appointed director and secretary to the Science Museum, South Kensington, in succession to Sir Francis Ogilvie, who has been transferred to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

THE death is announced of Augusto Righi, the distinguished Italian physicist, professor in the University of Bologna.

PROFESSOR T. R. RYDBERG, of the University of Lund, elected a foreign member of the Royal Society for his researches in spectroscopy, has died at the age of sixty-five years.

A. A. INOSTRANSEFF, for many years professor of geology in the University of Petrograd, has died at the age of seventy-seven years.

DR. F. A. TARLETON, senior fellow of Trinity College, and formerly professor of natural philosophy in the University of Dublin, died on June 19.

A SURVEY of the steamer *Albatross* was made on May 25 and 26 by a board consisting of I. H. Dunlap, assistant in charge of office, Lighthouse Inspector J. T. Yates,

and Lieutenant Commander Henry B. Soule, United States Navy. A thorough examination was made and the vessel, while showing the effect of active service in which she has been engaged for the past six or eight months, was found to be in good condition and to require a relatively small amount of overhauling. Since the *Albatross* has been received back from the Navy she has been employed in investigations in the Gulf of Mexico and the Gulf of Maine.

THE Civil Service announces an examination for research engineer. A vacancy at Watertown Arsenal, Watertown, Mass., at \$3,000 to \$3,600 a year, and vacancies in positions requiring similar qualifications may be filled from this examination. The duties of the appointee will consist of examination of research problems and the design of special apparatus in connection with experiments; submitting reports covering experiments; and, in some cases, putting the recommendations or findings into actual plant operation; also preparing reviews of scientific subjects, including translations from both French and German. The commission also announces an examination for scientific assistant, Bureau of Fisheries, to be held August 4, 1920. From this examination it is hoped to fill several vacancies in the Bureau of Fisheries at basic salaries of \$1,200-\$1,400 a year. Prospective candidates should apply to the commission for a copy of Form 1312.

A CORRESPONDENT sends us the following letter from Professor P. Rona, of the University of Berlin.

I have recently accepted the editorship of the *Zentralblatt f. Physiology*, published by Julius Springer. This journal has been organized along the lines of the *Chemische Zentralblatt* and will take in the entire field of biology. Foreign papers, that is non-German publications, will be given particular consideration.

It would therefore be of extreme importance if I could receive, with your assistance, all the American publications, either in exchange or as reprints, and if necessary through subscription to such journals. The latter, however, would be out of the question for the present on account of the high

rate of exchange. Of equal importance to us would be the reports of the various agricultural and biological stations, etc., which are not available at the ordinary publishers.

A LETTER has been received by the president of Columbia University, from Professor Albert Einstein, of Berlin University, thanking the trustees of the university for the Barnard Medal, conferred on him at this year's commencement on nomination of the National Academy of Sciences "in recognition of his highly original and fruitful development of the fundamental concepts of physics through application of mathematics." The letter says: "I beg to express to you my glad thanks for the great honor which you propose to do me. Quite apart from the personal satisfaction, I believe I may regard your decision as a harbinger of a better time in which a sense of international solidarity will once more unite scholars of the various countries."

DR. THOMAS P. FOLEY, chairman of the contract practise committee of the Chicago Medical Society, has started a movement among the members of the society to organize a union and has made the following statements:

Why should a physician, who has studied for years to perfect himself for his work, be paid less than an unskilled laborer? Yet it is the rule rather than the exception.

Recently a physician giving full time to industrial surgery in a large Chicago plant, rendered first aid to a man working as an unskilled laborer. The physician received \$75 a month with room and board. The laborer's pay check for one week, which he showed the physician, was for \$80.

Take the state service for example. At the Dunning Hospital for the Insane the chief electrician stands next on the pay roll to the superintendent. His salary is \$265 a month. That of the highest paid physician on the staff is only \$245. The electrician is a union man. The physician has no organization back of him.

We propose to form an organization along semi-union lines in Chicago like the lawyers' association and other such bodies of professional men. It is not aimed at the public, but rather at industrial and other corporation employers of physicians.