

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

PROFESSOR LEONARD EUGENE DICKSON, of the department of mathematics at the University of Chicago, has been elected a corresponding member of the French Academy of Sciences. At a complimentary luncheon to Dr. Dickson at the Quadrangle Club, Professor A. A. Michelson, head of the department of physics, presided and welcomed Dr. Dickson to membership in the academy. Other speakers were Eliakim Hastings Moore, head of the department of mathematics; Thomas C. Chamberlin, former head of the department of geology, and Forest Ray Moulton, professor of astronomy.

At the eighty-eighth annual meeting of the British Medical Association, held at Cambridge, the president Sir T. Clifford Allbutt, chose as the subject of his address, "The Universities in Medical Research and Practice." At the conclusion of his address the president was presented with his portrait, the work of Sir William Orpen, which had been subscribed for by a great number of physicians. Sir Norman Moore, president of the Royal College of Physicians made the presentation address.

DR. DAVID DRUMMOND, vice-chancellor and professor of the principles and practice of medicine, University of Durham, has been elected president of the British Medical Association and will preside at the meeting to be held next July at Newcastle-on-Tyne.

AMONG the foreign guests at the Cambridge meeting of the British Medical Association were: Dr. Simon Flexner, director of the laboratories of the Rockefeller Institute and Professor J. Abel, professor of pharmacology, The Johns Hopkins University.

COLONEL F. F. RUSSELL has resigned from the Medical Corps, U. S. Army, to take charge of the newly organized Division of Public Health Laboratories of the International Health Board of the Rockefeller Foundation.

MR. E. A. HOLBROOK, formerly superintendent of the Pittsburgh branch of the Bureau of Mines, has been transferred to Wash-

ington as assistant to the director, Dr F. G. Cottrell, whose nomination has been confirmed by the Senate.

J. M. HILL, of the United States Geological Survey, has been transferred from Washington to the survey's office in San Francisco, where he will be associated with Charles G. Yale. Mr. Hill's field of geological studies will include the Pacific coast states and to some extent also Arizona and Nevada.

MR. ALAN OGILVIE who resigned the readership in geography of the University of Manchester, has joined the staff of the American Geographical Society of New York.

DR. SEYMOUR HADWIN has resigned his position as chief pathologist in charge of the biological laboratory, health of animals branch, Canadian Department of Agriculture, at Ottawa, and has taken a position as chief pathologist in the reindeer investigations of the Bureau of Biological Survey, United States Department of Agriculture, with headquarters at Unalakleet, Alaska.

DR. S. JOSEPHINE BAKER has been made consultant in child hygiene for the U. S. Public Health Service and has received a commission as surgeon in the reserve of the U. S. Public Health Service.

DR. J. S. FLETT has been appointed director of the Scottish Geological Survey and Museum to succeed Sir Aubrey Strahan.

DR. LUDWIK SILBERSTEIN, formerly of Adam Hilger, Ltd., of London, is now associated with the Research Laboratory staff of the Eastman Kodak Company. Dr. Silberstein is known for his mathematical papers dealing with electro-magnetism, optics, theory of relativity, projective geometry, spectrum theory, etc.

DR. HARRISON E. PATTEN has resigned from the Bureau of Chemistry of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, to accept the position of chief chemist with a St. Louis firm.

KENNETH P. MONROE has resigned as chemist in the color laboratory, United States Bureau of Chemistry, Washington, to accept a research position in the Jackson Laboratory of E. I. du Pont de Nemours Company, Wilmington, Del.

DR. W. VAN BEMMELEN, director of the magnetic and meteorological observatory at Batavia, Java, is visiting the laboratories and institutions of the United States.

DR. CHARLES D. WALCOTT, of the Smithsonian Institution, is spending the summer as in other years in geological and paleontological work in the Canadian Rockies.

DR. HUBERT LYMAN CLARK, of the Museum of Comparative Zoology of Harvard University, has been given leave of absence to be acting-professor of zoology at Williams College during the next academic year. He takes the place of Professor J. L. Kellogg, who will spend the year at Claremont, California.

DR. BARTON WARREN EVERMANN, director of the museum of the California Academy of Sciences, sailed for Honolulu on July 28 to attend the meetings of the Pan-Pacific Scientific Congress. The authorities of the Bishop Museum have asked Dr. Evermann, while there, to identify certain fishes in that institution. He will return to San Francisco about the end of August.

ACCORDING to the *Proceedings* of the Washington Academy of Sciences among those in attendance from Washington at the scientific congress to be held in Honolulu during August will be: Paul Bartsch, of the National Museum; William Bowie, of the Coast and Geodetic Survey; T. Wayland Vaughan, of the U. S. Geological Survey; H. S. Washington, of the Geophysical Laboratory, Carnegie Institution of Washington, and H. O. Wood, of the National Research Council.

DR. G. DALLAS HANNA and W. P. Zschorna, of the Bureau of Fisheries, have gone to the Pribilof Islands. Dr. Hanna has charge of the taking of the census of fur seals this summer; Mr. Zschorna is to continue experiments inaugurated in 1919 for improving methods of taking and curing sealskins.

DAVID B. REGER, of Morgantown, W. Va., is on leave of absence from the West Virginia Geological Survey for the next four months and will devote that time to consulting work in petroleum and coal. He has just com-

pleted a months trip to the prospective oil fields of Montana.

MR. H. P. v. W. KJERSKOG-AGERSBORG, assistant in zoology, Columbia University Extension Teaching, sails on the Swedish steamer *Drottningholm* for a six week's study of the Litorine Gasteropod fauna in fjords of arctic Norway. The Melfjord, which is the most southern of the arctic fjords offers an exceptional point of ecological interest owing to its greatly diversified type of shore-lines.

AT the annual meeting of the American Climatological and Clinical Association held in Philadelphia in June, the following officers were elected: president, Dr. Carroll E. Edson, Denver; vice presidents, Drs. Nelson Estes Nichols, Portland, Me., and Gordon Wilson, Baltimore, and recorder, Dr. Cleveland Floyd, Boston.

THE Eugenics Education Society has arranged for the holding of a summer school of eugenics and civics at Herne Bay College on July 31-August 14. The inaugural address will be delivered by Professor A. Dendy on "Evolution in Human Progress."

It is proposed by the Swedish Linnean Society to restore the old botanic garden at Upsala, together with the house in it, the former residence of Carl von Linné.

TRIBUTE to Wilbur Wright was paid by France on July 17, when a stone column supporting the undraped figure of a man was unveiled in the Place Jacobins at Le Mans.

THE Journal of the American Medical Association announces the deaths of the following men known for their contributions to medical science: Dr. Demons, formerly professor of surgery at the University of Bordeaux; Dr. T. Barrois, professor of parasitology at the University of Lille; Dr. R. Kretz, privat-docent of pathologic anatomy at the University of Vienna; Dr. T. Debaisieux, former professor of surgery at the University of Louvain, at one time president of the Belgian Academy of Medicine and of the Belgian Surgical Association, and Dr. F. Schatz, former professor of gynecology and obstetrics at the University of Rostock.

THE death is also announced of Professor Max Fürbringer, the well known comparative anatomist of Heidelberg.

M. EUGENE AUBOURG DE BOURY died on April 17, in France, at the age of sixty-three years. A correspondent writes that M. de Boury, though a long-time invalid, had devoted himself with ardor to the study and collection of mollusks of the genus *Scalaria*. He gathered in the last ten years an extraordinary collection of these beautiful and rare shells for the Paris Museum of Natural History, increasing their series from 300 sets to 3,000, exclusive of photographs and illustrations of inaccessible species to the numbers of 1,800 more. This series far surpasses any other extant. He published numerous papers on the genus and indicated many new subdivisions of it, but the great monograph which was his ideal must remain for other hands to prepare.

UNDER the able guidance of Mr. Jasper E. Crane, a cellulose symposium was organized as a part of the program of the Division of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry at the St. Louis meeting of the American Chemical Society last April. One of the objects of this symposium was to ascertain whether a cellulose section, if formed, would secure the interest and support of a sufficiently large number of chemists. The object of such a section would be to promote intercourse and cooperation between the chemists in the various cellulose industries. This group constitutes one of the largest and most important of American industries; all branches of it are intimately concerned in the problems of cellulose, and it seems highly desirable to promote technical activity in this country along these lines. The proposed section would serve as a clearing-house for papers and information on cellulose technology, and should also play an important part in promoting research on the chemistry of cellulose. The symposium at St. Louis was distinctly successful, and it was voted to hold a second cellulose symposium under the auspices of the Industrial Section at the Chicago meeting during the

week of September 6. At this time, the advisability of forming a permanent cellulose section will be considered. An interesting program is being arranged, and a large attendance of those interested in cellulose is anticipated. Titles of papers or suggestions for the symposium should be sent to G. J. Esselen, Jr., 30 Charles River Road, Cambridge, 39, Massachusetts.

The British Medical Journal states that the University of Paris has come to an understanding with the French government, through the minister of health, and buildings have been found in Paris which can be converted into a large institute of hygiene. It will be under the general direction of the professor of hygiene, Dr. Léon Bernard, but there will be five sections, each with its director. It will have sections of epidemiology, of social hygiene, food, of industrial hygiene, and of sanitary technology; and a series of laboratories—of bacteriology, chemistry, physics, and physiology—a museum, a library and lecture rooms. Courses of lectures of two standards will be given, the one elementary, for ordinary students of medicine, and the other advanced, for doctors proposing to specialize in hygiene. Instruction will also be given to persons employed in disinfection and as health and school visitors. It is hoped eventually to extend the opportunities for study by establishing courses for architects, engineers and statisticians. The food section will comprise three departments, the first dealing with the chemistry of foods and of adulteration, the second with the damage done by parasites and microbes, the third with the physiology of food and nutrition. An institute of hygiene on similar lines is also being established in the University of Strasbourg.

WE learn from *Nature* that the bequests of the late Rr. Rudolf Messel include: £5,000 to the Royal Institution of Great Britain; £1,000 to the Chemical Society; £2,000 and his platinum still, "in which I carried out with W. S. Squire my experiments in connection with the decomposition of sulphuric acid," to Mr. Squire, requesting him on his death to leave it to the Society of Chemical Industry; his platinum

crucible to the Society of Chemical Industry; and his electric telephone by Reis to the Institution of Electrical Engineers. The residue of the property is to be divided into five parts, four of which are to go to the Royal Society and one to the Society of Chemical Industry, the wish being expressed that the fund shall be kept separate from the funds of the society the capital to be kept intact, and the whole of the income expended in the furtherance of scientific research and other scientific objects, and that no part thereof shall be applied for charitable objects, as the granting of pensions and the like.

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association states that what is reported as the largest medical conference ever assembled in the capital of China was held February 21-28, of the present year. Over 300 delegates were present, including 210 medical missionaries. A message from the minister of education of China was read which stated the following as the educational policy for the immediate future in that country: (1) To establish new medical schools as soon as conditions will allow on the basis of one medical school for each province. (2) To improve and extend such schools as were already established. (3) To encourage the study of medicine and to maintain for the scientifically trained doctors a high social status aiming at a sufficient number for this important profession. (4) To cause to be organized at proper localities such institutions or facilities of investigation as will aid specialists in their own research work. (5) To regulate the practise of doctors trained in the traditional way with a view to the unification of standards required of medical practitioners.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

It is planned to establish eight new professorships at Cornell University to commemorate the war services of 7,800 Cornell men.

DR. H. R. KRAYBILL, of the Bureau of Plant Industry, has been appointed professor of agri-

cultural chemistry and head of the department of chemistry of the New Hampshire State College.

P. W. WHITING, in charge of biology at Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pa., has resigned to accept a position at St. Stephen's College, Annandale-on-Hudson, N. Y.

PROFESSOR C. F. CURTIS RILEY has been promoted to a full professorship in the department of forest zoology, Syracuse University.

JOHN T. METCALF, Ph.D. (Yale, '13), psychological examiner with the Illinois Department of Public Welfare, has been appointed assistant professor of psychology in George Washington University.

DR. L. V. KING has been appointed Macdonald professor of physics at the Macdonald Physics Building, McGill University, from which he received his bachelor's degree in 1905. The chair to which Dr. King has been promoted has been held in succession by Professor H. L. Callendar, Professor, now Sir Ernest Rutherford, Dr. H. T. Barnes, Professor H. A. Wilson, and by the present director, Dr. A. S. Eve.

At the University of Sheffield, Dr. W. E. S. Turner has been appointed professor of glass technology, Mr. J. Husband professor of civil engineering, Dr. Mellanby professor of pharmacology.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

GENERA AND SUPERGENERA

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: I sympathize with Dr. Witmer Stone (*SCIENCE*, N. S., 51: 427, 1920) in his wish to preserve in generic names an expression of taxonomic relationships. Dr. Stone advocates the adoption of "an arbitrary set of genera *de conveniencie* so far as nomenclature is concerned and use subgeneric terms when we desire to call attention to more refined phylogenetic groups." I would call attention to the results of a practical application of this system. If I understand the proposed system correctly the genera for general use would stand toward the genera for technical use (since the latter