

MEDALS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY

At the anniversary meeting of the Royal Society on November 30 the medals were awarded in accordance with the announcement already made. The citations of several of the medalists were as follows:

The Rumford medal is awarded to Lord Rayleigh, who is distinguished for his researches into the properties of gases at high vacua, and whose work has opened the way to many valuable investigations. Some years ago Lord Rayleigh made a number of interesting observations on the afterglow in various gases noticeable after the cessation of an electric discharge, and these led in 1911 to his Bakerian lecture on "The Afterglow of Nitrogen." The investigation thus started has proved the subject of much of his recent work, and in a series of most valuable papers he has studied the properties of the gas in which this afterglow is visible.

A Royal medal is awarded to Dr. William Bateson, who is universally recognized as a leading authority on genetics, and has done more than anyone else to put that branch of inquiry on a scientific basis. The work that stands to his name is, however, but a fraction of that which he has inspired wherever biological research is prosecuted. In conjunction with Professor Punnett he worked out in detail one of the earliest cases of sex-linked inheritance. Peculiar association of genetic factors in gameto-genesis had previously been discovered by the same authors and described under the terms "coupling" and "repulsion." In 1911 they published two papers which proved that these phenomena are part of a more general phenomenon of linkage, the orderly nature of which was pointed out. Since these papers appeared the phenomenon has been shown by various workers to be widespread in both animals and plants. Three papers by Bateson and C. Pellew record a discovery of high interest and importance, viz., that the germ-cells of the same plant may vary in their genetic properties. It is further pointed out that the variation proceeds in an orderly way from the base of the plant to the apex. The conception is a novel one, and is bound to have great influence on the development of genetical theory.

The Darwin medal is awarded to Professor Roland Harry Biffen, who has worked out the inheritance of practically all the obvious characters of wheat and barley. Perhaps his best-known work is that on the inheritance of strength in wheat and

on the inheritance of susceptibility and resistance to yellow rust in wheat. Biffen's activity is not by any means to be measured by his published work. Two of his new wheats—Little Joss, which owes its value to its immunity from rust, and Yeoman, which combines high yield with first-class baking quality—are among the most popular wheats in the country, and together account for something like a third, or even a half, of the wheat crop of England.

The Hughes medal is awarded to Professor Owen Williams Richardson for his researches on the passage of electricity through gases, and especially for those relating to the emission of electrons from hot bodies—a subject which Professor Richardson has made his own and christened "thermionics." The subject is of great industrial as well as of scientific importance.

THE PHILADELPHIA ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES

At the annual meeting of The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, held December 21, 1920, the following officers, councillors and members of the committee on accounts were elected to serve during 1921.

President: John Cadwalader, LL.D.

Vice-Presidents: Edwin G. Conklin, Ph.D.; Henry Skinner, M.D.

Recording Secretary: James A. G. Rehn.

Corresponding Secretary: J. Percy Moore, Ph.D.

Treasurer: George Vaux, Jr.

Librarian: Edward J. Nolan, M.D.

Curators: Witmer Stone, A.M., Sc.D.; Henry A. Pilsbry, Sc.D.; Henry Tucker, M.D.; Spencer Trotter, M.D.

Councillors to Serve Three Years: Charles B. Penrose, M.D.; Charles Morris; William E. Hughes, M.D.; Roswell C. Williams, Jr.

Councillor to Fill an Unexpired Term—1921 to 1922: Milton J. Greenman, M.D.

Committee on Accounts: Charles Morris; Samuel N. Rhodes; John G. Rothermel; Thomas S. Stewart, M.D.; Walter Horstmann.

At the meeting of the academy held November 16, 1920, the following was adopted:

Resolved: That in recognition of the exceptionally long period (covering 58 years) of his service to the academy, of his undeviating loyalty to its interests, and of the geniality of manner that endeared him to members and visitors alike, Dr. Edward J. Nolan be, upon the election of his suc-

cessor, given the honorary title for life of recording secretary emeritus, and that he be so designated in all official lists of the officers of the academy.

THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

THE annual meeting of the academy for the election of officers, fellows and honorary members, the presentation of reports and the transaction of other business was held at the Delta Kappa Epsilon Club, 30 West 44th Street, on the evening of Monday, December 20.

The report of the corresponding secretary showed that there are now upon the rolls of the Academy 31 Honorary Members and 102 Corresponding Members. The death of the following Honorary and Corresponding Members was recorded with regret:

Sir Norman Lockyer, honorary member since 1880.
Professor Wilhelm Pfeffer, honorary member since 1898.

Professor Wilhelm Wundt, honorary member since 1904.

Professor George Macloskie, corresponding member since 1876.

Professor Joseph Paxon Iddings, corresponding member since 1896.

There have been held during the year 7 business meetings and 26 sectional meetings at which 40 stated papers were presented. The membership of the academy is 575, which includes 415 active members, 24 associate members, 109 life members, 8 patrons, 1 benefactor and 18 non-resident members, of whom 148 are fellows.

Record was made of the loss by death of 15 members.

The treasurer reported that the receipts for the fiscal year were \$7,962.86, and the expenditures were \$7,386.98. The investments of the academy amount to \$53,198.88, held to cover the various funds. The details of the treasurer's report will be published in the *Annals*.

The academy elected Baron Gerard De Geer of Stockholm, Sweden, an Honorary Member. Fifteen members of the academy were elected to fellowship.

The following officers for 1921 were elected:

President: Edward L. Thorndike.

Vice-Presidents: William J. Gies, Charles L. Bristol, James F. Kemp, Robert S. Woodworth.

Recording Secretary: Ralph W. Tower.

Corresponding Secretary: Henry E. Crampton.

Treasurer: John Tatlock.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THERE is printed in the present issue of *SCIENCE* the presidential address before the American Association for the Advancement of Science given this week by Dr. Simon Flexner. We hope to print next week an account of the meeting and that the succeeding issues of *SCIENCE* will contain the official addresses given at Chicago and accounts of the meetings of the sections and of the affiliated societies.

DR. WILLIAM W. COBLENTZ, of the Bureau of Standards, has been awarded the Janssen Medal of the Paris Academy of Sciences for his work on measuring the heat of the stars.

DURING the past month Dr. Franz Boas, professor of anthropology at Columbia University, has been elected an honorary member of the Société des Américanistes of Paris and of the Folklore Society of London. He has also been elected corresponding member of the Prussian Academy of Sciences, Berlin, and has received the gold medal of the Anthropological Society of Berlin.

DR. RALPH S. LILLIE has resigned the professorship of biology at Clark University to accept the position of biologist, department of pure science, Nela Research Laboratories, National Lamp Works of the General Electric Company, Nela Park, Cleveland, Ohio. Dr. Lillie will retain his connection with the Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, and will carry on his work there in the summers as usual.

PAUL M. REA, president of The American Association of Museums, who has now become director of the new Cleveland Museum of Natural History, will be succeeded by Miss Laura M. Bragg in the directorship of The Charleston Museum, South Carolina.