

medical school in Shanghai was planned by the foundation, the Harvard Medical School of China was purchased by the Chinese Medical Board, and the Pennsylvania Medical School at Shanghai consented to step aside in favor of the larger institution. A few months ago, however, after the foundation withdrew from the field, the Pennsylvania Medical School began pushing forward its plans to enlarge its plant. The erection of a science laboratory building, to cost \$100,000, was promptly begun. This will house departments of physics, chemistry and biology and, temporarily, the medical laboratories also, but the latter will be removed to other buildings which will be erected later. The institution will provide a premedical course covering three years, and a medical course of four years similar to those established by the Peking Union Medical College.

#### THE FOREST SERVICE

ACCORDING to the annual report of Chief Forester W. B. Greeley, the receipts of the National Forests have increased 93 per cent. from 1915 to 1920, while the total appropriations for the Forest Service, exclusive of deficiency fire-fighting funds, has increased only 8 per cent. The receipts for 1920 were 10 per cent. greater than for 1919, and an equal increase for the current fiscal year may be expected, unless too much new business has to be rejected on account of lack of funds and trained employees. The appropriations for the current fiscal year were increased only 3 per cent.

In addition to the actual revenue, according to the report, there is an enormous return to the public through the protection of the 500,000,000,000-odd feet of timber for future use, the protection of the headwaters of innumerable feeders of navigation, irrigation and hydroelectric power and the recreational facilities made available to hundreds of thousands of people. "There will always be national resources not measurable in dollars which in public benefit exceed the receipts paid into the Treasury," the report says.

The purchases aggregated at the close of the

fiscal year 1,420,208 acres in the White Mountains and the Southern Appalachians and 12,094 acres in the Ozark Mountains of Arkansas. The original program of acquisition contemplated the purchase of about 1,000,000 acres in the White Mountains and not less than 5,000,000 acres in the Southern Appalachians. Nearly one half the proposed White Mountain area has been acquired, but slower progress has been made in the southern areas.

Further appropriations to carry on the purchase work within the areas have been recommended by the National Forest Reservation Commission. "To leave these Eastern forests in their present half finished condition would subject them to formidable fire hazards and other difficulties of management."

There is need also for some action to reduce the danger to the National Forests from the 24,267,723 acres of private lands that are intermingled with land belonging to the government. Most of this land is forested and its misuse, mismanagement and neglect jeopardize the government's holdings. General legislation is urged to acquire the private land by purchase or exchange.

The 1919 fire season was unusually severe and long drawn out, the report states. It was the third successive year of severe drought in the northwest, and the worst of the three. Fires began to occur before much of the customary work of preparation had been done, and this imposed a further handicap upon the forest force, which had been depleted by the loss of many experienced men. The total number of forest fires in the National Forests was 6,800, or 1,227 greater than in the previous year. The area of National Forest lands burned over was 2,000,034 acres, the estimated damage was \$4,919,769, and the total cost of fire fighting was \$3,039,615.

#### GYPSUM FELLOWSHIPS

At the recent annual meeting of the Gypsum Industries Association, they provided for six to eight fellowships, each bearing a stipend of \$1,000 to \$1,500 a year, depending on the training and ability of the holder.

These fellowships are to be located at various agricultural colleges in the eastern part of the United States for the purpose of investigating the use of gypsum in crop production and for making a fundamental study of the relation of sulphur to crop nutrition and growth.

The revival of interest in gypsum and other sulphur fertilizers has largely grown out of the remarkable results that agricultural scientists and farmers of Oregon and Washington are obtaining from the use of sulphur sources on alfalfa and clover, and other legumes. In many of the soils of these states a leguminous crop can not be successfully grown without an addition of a sulphur source, and such additions give increases in yield ranging from 25 to 500 per cent.

Two of these are to be used in continuing the fellowships that have already been in operation for considerably more than a year at the University of Chicago and at Iowa State College. The others will be strategically distributed at state agricultural colleges and experiment stations in central and eastern United States.

#### THE NATIONAL MUSEUM AND DR. JORDAN

ON the occasion of the seventieth birthday of David Starr Jordan, chancellor emeritus of Stanford University, which occurred on January 19, the following letter was addressed to him by Dr. Charles D. Walcott, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution:

On the occasion of your seventieth birthday, permit me, on behalf of the Smithsonian Institution and the National Museum, to offer my congratulations as well as thanks for your faithful cooperation during half a century.

For fully fifty years you have labored for the high ideals expressed by the founder of this institution in the words "increase and diffusion of knowledge among men," and for nearly the same period your work has been in close association with the institution and its staff.

Your work has also been intimately connected with the National Museum since its organization as such, and your scientific papers are among the most valued contributions to the museum's publications from its very first volume to the latest.

Your early associations were with Baird, Gill, Brown, Goode and Tarleton Bean, and your name will go down in the museum's history linked with theirs. No wonder we have always regarded you as one of us, and we know that this sentiment is being reciprocated by you.

As a slight token of my appreciation of your services to science and to the museum, may I not ask you to accept the designation as honorary associate in zoology?

I trust that you may be spared for many more years to continue your work.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

WILLIAM THOMPSON SEDGWICK, professor of biology in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology since 1883, died on January 25, aged sixty-five years.

AT a meeting of the Société belge de Médecine of Brussels, Belgium, held on December 27, 1920, Dr. William H. Welch, director of the school of hygiene and public health of the Johns Hopkins University, and Dr. Simon Flexner, the director of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, were made honorary members of that organization.

THE dinner and reception given by the medical profession of Philadelphia to Dr. William W. Keen, at the Bellevue Stratford Hotel, on January 20, in honor of his eighty-fourth birthday, was attended by 600 physicians and friends. Dr. George de Schweinitz was the toastmaster, and the speakers included Dr. William H. Welch, Baltimore; Dr. J. Chalmers DaCosta, Philadelphia, and Mr. David Jayne Hill. Major-General Merritte W. Ireland, surgeon-general, U. S. Army, presented a specially bound volume containing addresses and letters as a tribute to Dr. Keen, and Dr. William J. Taylor, of the College of Physicians, presented a life size bust of Dr. Keen in army uniform, by Samuel Murray. Dr. Keen in responding made an address that will be printed in SCIENCE.

A PORTRAIT of Dr. Samuel W. Lambert, dean emeritus of the college of physicians and surgeons, Columbia University, was presented to the college on January 28. The presentation