

their copper only from their plant food. In view of this fact about a dozen species of plants were incinerated. In all cases, whether the portion incinerated was taken from the stem, or the leaves, or fruit, the ash reacted positively.

In general, copper was present only in traces in plants, not at all in amounts comparable to that present in insects. It is probable that the copper ion is inactive in plants, that its presence is due to mechanical storage, and that it plays no active rôle in the physiology of the plant.

It is evident, however, from the experiments performed, that copper is widely distributed in both the plant and animal world. In the former it is present only in traces, and probably inactive, while in the latter it is present in measurable quantities and its rôle appears to be active.

A more detailed account of these investigations will be published in the near future.

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### SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

#### DIRECTORS OF RESEARCH AND SCIENTIFIC QUALIFICATIONS

THE RIGHT HON. F. D. ACLAND recently asked in the House of Commons, as we learn from *Nature*, whether the lord president of the council "is aware that dissatisfaction is being expressed by scientific workers with the appointment of a man without scientific qualifications as director of research to the Glass Research Association; whether, as the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research provides four fifths of the funds of the association, the department was consulted before the appointment was made; and does he approve of the appointment as giving a guarantee that state funds devoted to scientific research will be wisely expended?" Mr. Fisher replied to the question, and his answer included the following statements, which concerned a director for the work called from the United States: (1) The successful candidate has a wide and successful experience of scientific

research into the problems of the glass industry, and is considered by the association to be the man best suited for organizing and directing the research needed by it. (2) The responsibility for the selection of a director of research rests in each case with the research association concerned, and not with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, which has no power to approve or disapprove the appointment of any individual. (3) The department guarantees three quarters of the expenditure of the research association up to a certain limit, but payment of the grant is conditional, among other things, on the approval by the department of the program of research and of the estimate of expenditure thereon. (4) The advisory council of the department, after considering all the relevant circumstances with great care, recommended the approval of the expenditure involved in this director's appointment.

#### ELECTIONS BY THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

THE scientific program of the meeting of the National Academy of Sciences, held in Washington on April 25, 26 and 27, has been printed in *SCIENCE*, and other information concerning the meeting will be published later.

At the business session of April 27, the president of the academy, Dr. Charles D. Walcott, presented his resignation, but at the earnest request of the academy, he consented to serve the remaining two years of his term. The resignation of the foreign secretary, Dr. George E. Hale, was accepted with regret, and with the expression of high appreciation of his able work in that office. Dr. R. A. Millikan was elected foreign secretary, to complete the unexpired term of Dr. Hale. Dr. Hale was elected a member of the council, and Dr. Raymond Pearl was reelected.

The following were elected to membership:

Frank Michler Chapman, American Museum of Natural History.  
William LeRoy Emmet, General Electric Company, Schenectady, N. Y.  
William Draper Harkins, University of Chicago.  
Ales Hrdlicka, United States National Museum.

Arthur Edwin Kennelly, Harvard University.  
 William George MacCallum, Johns Hopkins University.  
 Dayton Clarence Miller, Case School of Applied Science.  
 George Abram Miller, University of Illinois.  
 Benjamin Lincoln Robinson, Harvard University.  
 Vesto Melvin Slipper, Lowell Observatory.  
 Lewis Buckley Stillwell, 100 Broadway, New York.  
 Thomas Wayland Vaughan, United States Geological Survey.  
 Donald Dexter Van Slyke, Rockefeller Institute.  
 Henry Stephens Washington, Geophysical Laboratory.  
 Robert Sessions Woodworth, Columbia University.

*Foreign Associates*

William Bateson, John Innes Horticultural Institution, Merton Park, Surrey, England.  
 C. Eijkman, University of Utrecht, Holland.

#### THE PRINTERS' STRIKE AND THE PUBLICATION OF "SCIENCE"

SCIENCE has been issued weekly from the same press without intermission for over twenty-six years, but it is possible that the present number may be delayed. The widespread strike of compositors for a forty-four hour week affects the offices at Lancaster, Easton and Baltimore, in which a large part of the scientific journals of the United States are printed. The printing office will do all in its power to bring out the number at the regular time, and at present the pressmen are at work. In order to get the number through the press articles in type are being used with the exception of a few news notes. This unfortunately requires the postponement of the publication of accounts of the recent meetings of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Chemical Society, the Executive Committee of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Joint Committee on Conservation and other material of current interest. It may be noted that the advertisements are in type, and advertisers have been requested to continue to use the same copy, so that no sacrifice of reading matter is made for the advertisements. The number is, however, reduced by eight pages to facilitate its publication.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

At the recent meeting of the American Chemical Society at Rochester, Professor Charles F. Chandler and Dr. William H. Nichols were unanimously elected honorary members of the society.

DR. SIMON FLEXNER, director of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, has been elected an honorary fellow of The Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene of London at a meeting of the council of that society, held on April 8, 1921.

THE William H. Nichols medal of the New York section of the American Chemical Society was presented to Professor Gilbert M. Lewis, dean of the department of chemistry of the University of California on May 6. The program was: "The man and his work," remarks by Arthur B. Lamb, John Johnston; presentation of medal by John E. Teeple; acceptance and address, "Color and molecular structure," by Professor Lewis.

THE Royal Geographical Society of Great Britain, with the approval of the King, has awarded to Vilhjalmur Stefansson their Founder's Medal for his "distinguished services to the Dominion of Canada in the exploration of the Arctic ocean." The medal is to be presented at the anniversary meeting of the society in London on May 30. Mr. Stefansson will then be on a lecture tour in the western United States and consequently unable to attend, and it is expected that the High Commissioner for Canada will receive the medal on his behalf, as the Stefansson Arctic expedition of 1913-1918, of which this award is a recognition, was a Canadian naval expedition.

DR. STEPHEN SMITH, first president of the American Public Health Association, now ninety-eight years old, will welcome members of the association at the fiftieth annual meeting next November.

DON JOSÉ RODRIGUEZ CARRACIDO, rector of the University of Madrid, has been elected president of the Spanish Association for the Advancement of Science.