

- Dec. 6. "Some new factor relations in barley," Professor J. B. Park.
 "Effect of environment on expression of characters in hybrid oats," D. M. Lutz.
 Jan. 10. "The vegetation of the Lake Okoboji (Iowa) region" (lantern slides), Professor A. E. Waller.
 Feb. 14. "The inferior vena cava of man and mammals—its abnormalities and their interpretation from the standpoint of their development," Professor C. F. McClure, Princeton University. (Joint meeting with the Omega Chapter of the Society of the Sigma Xi.)
 Mar. 7. "The origin and development of the prairie," Professor H. C. Sampson.
 Apr. 11. "Some measurements of emotional states," Professor H. E. Burtt.
 "Parasites on aphids," E. A. Hartley.
 May 2. "Some recent applications of physics to biological problems," Professor Alphaeus W. Smith.
 "Experimental work with mealy bugs," W. S. Hough.

The president of the club for the year was Dr. C. H. Kennedy, of the department of zoology and entomology; the vice-president, Dr. J. W. Bridges, of the department of psychology, and the secretary, Dr. L. H. Tiffany, of the department of botany.

DR. CARL L. ALSBERG AND THE BUREAU OF CHEMISTRY

IN formally accepting the resignation of Dr. Carl L. Alsberg as Chief of the Bureau of Chemistry, Secretary Wallace wrote him as follows:

Permit me, in formally accepting your resignation, once more to express my sincere regret that the government and this department will no longer have the benefit of your services.

Your nine years in the department have been fruitful years. You have attained a leadership in scientific work not alone in this department, but in the larger field seldom reached by men of your years. The tender of the important position which you have accepted is evidence of this.

Your administration of the food and drugs act has been characterized by tactfulness, fearlessness, justice, and common sense, and you have, therefore, commanded the confidence and respect both of those who have come under the law and of the great public whose health you have so zealously protected. Your work in this field has been an inspiration which I hope will continue with us.

It is not often that one attains such outstanding eminence in both research and administrative work.

We shall all miss you here; especially I shall

miss your wise and sane counsel from which I have profited very much in the rather trying task of undertaking to qualify for a difficult and important work. I wish that you might still be within call.

Notwithstanding our regret that you are leaving the department, all of us here rejoice in the opportunity that has opened for you to pursue important research in a field in which you have such a great heart interest. We are expecting much of you; we are confident that you will make large and valuable contributions to the national welfare.

I know that I express the feelings of every one in this department when I say that our very best wishes go with you, and if at times you find that we can be of help in the work you are now undertaking, we shall expect you to call upon us with full assurance of a prompt and sympathetic response.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE American Chemical Society held last week its sixty-second meeting at Columbia University, New York City, under the presidency of Dr. Edgar Fahs Smith, provost emeritus of the University of Pennsylvania. The principal events of the program have already been recorded in *SCIENCE* and we hope to print in subsequent numbers accounts of the business transacted and abstracts of the papers before the sections.

THE Second International Eugenics Congress meets at the American Museum of History, New York City, next week under the presidency of Dr. Henry Fairfield Osborn, with Dr. Alexander Graham Bell as honorary president. The opening meeting will be held in the Hall of the Age of Man on September 22, when addresses will be made by Dr. Osborn, Dr. Charles B. Davenport and Major Leonard Darwin.

At the meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, held at Edinburgh from September 7 to 14, a joint discussion before the sections of mathematical and physical science and of chemistry on "The structure of molecules" was opened by Dr. Irving Langmuir, of the research laboratory of the General Electric Company. Others taking part in the discussion were Profes-

sor A. Smithells, Professor W. L. Bragg, Professor J. R. Partington, Professor A. O. Rankine, and Dr. S. H. C. Briggs.

THE quinquennial prize for the best work in the medical sciences, offered by the Brussels Academy of Medicine, has been awarded to Professor A. Brachet of the chair of anatomy and embryology of the University of Brussels.

FROM exchanges we learn that the University of Vienna has created an honorary title to express its gratitude to those who have aided in relieving the material distress of the university during the last few years. The honorary title has been conferred on Dr. Ferrière, the president of the International Red Cross, and Dr. Franz Boas of Columbia University besides the ambassadors of Great Britain and Sweden, Mr. Herbert Hoover, the president and ambassador of Argentina and an English woman, Lady Mary Murray.

MR. J. P. BONARDI, who has been with the Bureau of Mines Experiment Station at Denver for the past five years, has accepted a position as manager of the assay and chemical department of the Mines and Smelter Supply Co., of Denver, Colo.

MAJOR GENERAL W. L. SIBERT, head of the Chemical Warfare Service during the war, is now on his farm in Warren County, Kentucky, where some twenty oil wells are being developed.

MR. CHARLES K. WEAD, for over twenty years an examiner in the U. S. Patent Office in the Class of Music, has resigned and gone to Ann Arbor, Mich, to live.

PROFESSOR EDWARD A. WHITE, of Cornell University, has sailed for England to spend several months in study at the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew; he will also study commercial floriculture in other parts of England and Scotland, and in Holland and Belgium.

THE advisory committee provided for by the Importation of Plumage (Prohibition) Act recently enacted by the British Parliament has been constituted as follows: Lord Crewe (chairman), Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker and Dr. W. Eagle Clarke (representing ornithology), Mr. C. F. Downham, Mr. W. G. Dunstall, and

Mr. L. Joseph (representing the feather trade), Lord Buxton, Capt. E. G. Fairholme, Mrs. Reginald McKenna, and Mr. H. J. Massingham.

A MEMORIAL tablet was recently placed on the house at Enghien-les-Bains, formerly occupied by the radiologist, A. Leray, who succumbed last spring to the effects of roentgen-ray injury acquired during his work for the wounded during the war.

WE learn from *Nature* that on July 21, a memorial was unveiled in the public gardens at Dartmouth to the memory of Thomas Newcomen, the pioneer of the steam engine. Newcomen was born in Dartmouth in 1663; he followed the trade of blacksmith there, and was also a Baptist preacher.

THE Royal Photographic Society is collecting funds for a memorial at Lacock to W. H. Fox Talbot, distinguished for his work in scientific photography.

Nature announces the death, at the age of eighty-nine years, of Samuel Alfred Varley, known for his work on the applications of electricity.

JULES CARPENTIER, known for his work on the designing and manufacture of electrical and scientific apparatus, member of the Paris Academy of Sciences, has died at the age of seventy years.

PROFESSOR OSWALD SCHMIEDEBERG, formerly professor of experimental pharmacology in Strasbourg, died in Baden-Baden on July 12, at the age of 82.

PROFESSOR N. A. CHOLODKOVSKY, author of works on entomology and helminthology, professor emeritus in the Academy of Medicine and at the Institute of Forestry, has died in Petrograd at sixty-one years of age. Professor Cholodkovsky was also a distinguished poet.

A REUTERS dispatch from Christiania dated August 13 states that a telegram to the *Aftenpost* from Hammerfest says that the expedition sent to Siberia to search for Tessem and Knudsen, the missing members of the Amundsen expedition, failed to find any trace of the

men at Cape Wild, where they were supposed to be. Two members of the relief expedition will continue the search in Northwest Siberia.

THE Lange Koch expedition which left Denmark last year and wintered in Melville Bay started for Peary Land on March 15. There has been some difficulty in the transport across Melville Bay as the Cape York Eskimos hired for this task had not arrived, but it is hoped that everything was got across safely.

DR. J. CHARCOT, the French polar explorer, sailing in the North Atlantic in his exploring vessel, the *Pourquoi Pas*, has succeeded in landing upon the islet of Rockall, which lies some 260 miles west of the Hebrides and 185 miles from St. Kilda.

THE Antarctic expedition by Sir Ernest Shackleton planned to leave England on September 12. The steamer *Quest* was found to give inadequate accommodations for the increased personnel necessary after the program to be followed was increased, and alterations made on the ship delayed the work of fitting out the expedition.

THE British Iron and Steel Institute met in Paris under the presidency of Dr. J. E. Stead on September 5 and 6.

THE *Scientific American*, long the leading weekly American journal of industry, invention and science, will hereafter be published monthly in combination with *The American Scientific Monthly*.

SEVERAL hundred American engineers will meet with representatives of the principal engineering societies of Great Britain and France at a dinner to be given at the Engineers' Club in New York City on the evening of October 10. The dinner, while formally celebrating the homecoming of the mission of American engineers who went abroad to confer the John Fritz Medal upon Sir Robert Hadfield of London and Eugene Schneider of Paris, will mark the launching of a new movement to bring English and American engineers together. The guests at the dinner will include the twelve members of the deputation

which represented the John Fritz Medal Board and representatives of the British and French societies by which they were received. Invitations have been extended to many men prominent in public life, including Mr. Herbert Hoover, Secretary of Commerce; Viscount Bryce and Mr. Charles E. Hughes, Secretary of State. Others who will attend are the governing boards of the four national engineering societies, the John Fritz Medal Board of Award, the Library Board of the Engineering Societies and of the Engineers Club; the trustees of the United Engineering Society, and the officers of the Federated American Engineering Societies.

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association states that according to an agreement to improve their equipment and co-ordinate their personnel, the several public health agencies operating laboratories in Memphis on September 1 moved into their new quarters in the university laboratory. Dr. William Krauss, professor of preventive medicine and hygiene in the college of medicine for many years, has been made director of the laboratories, and his salary will be paid jointly by the agencies interested, which include the malarial research laboratory of the U. S. Public Health Service, the West Tennessee laboratory of the State Board of Health, the department of bacteriology of the University of Tennessee College of Medicine, and the laboratories of the Memphis department of health. The plan of coordination has received the endorsement of Dr. Frederick F. Russell, director of laboratories for the International Health Board.

Under the auspices of the Yale Medical School, the state of Connecticut and the Rockefeller Foundation will unite to finance the proposed Connecticut Psychopathic Hospital. The Rockefeller Foundation will provide \$500,000, the state probably the same amount, while the share and part of Yale in the transaction is not determined. The hospital building will be erected by the state grant, the Rockefeller Foundation will supply the salaries for the teaching staff, while Yale may

supply the clinical quarters and other costs. As the New Haven General Hospital is now a part of the Yale Medical School, the Psychopathic Hospital is expected to supply the cases under observation. There will be a close connection between the new psychopathic hospital and the New Haven General Hospital. Details of arranging for the gift will come before the Yale Corporation at its next meeting. Governor Lake of Connecticut recently appointed a commission to take charge of the plans for expenditure of the state fund of \$500,000 for the hospital. Dr. Paul Waterman, of Hartford, is chairman of the commission, and Dean Winternitz, of the Yale Medical School, is a member.

Nature says: "The classical experimental plots which Lawes and Gilbert started at Rothamsted have been of the greatest service to agricultural science, and their importance is constantly increasing. Fundamental questions in the physics, chemistry, and biology of agriculture can be attacked with more confidence in the light of results obtained from long-continued field experiments carried out on a systematic plan. Further, the results are capable of statistical examination. The importance of the Rothamsted experiments led to the institution of a parallel series at Woburn in 1876 by the Royal Agricultural Society. The Woburn soil is light and sandy, but that at Rothamsted is a heavy loam. The two series of experiments enable instructive comparisons to be made between these two soil types. All interested in agricultural science received with concern the decision of the council of the Royal Agricultural Society to relinquish—owing to economic conditions—the Woburn experiments. Fortunately the danger has been averted. Arrangements have been made for the experiments to be continued under the auspices of, but legally distinct from, the Rothamsted Experimental Station. The general portion of the Woburn farm will continue under the direct control of Dr. A. J. Voelcker, who for many years has carried out the duties on behalf of the Royal Agricultural Society. The new arrangement will not

only ensure the continuance of the valuable work already done, but will also lead to a closer contact with the work of Rothamsted."

THE Directoria de Meteorologia e Astronomia of the Brazilian Department of Agriculture has been divided into two separate services "Directoria de Meteorologia 2" and "Observatorio Nacional." The division for meteorology has been placed under the direction of Dr. Sampaio Ferraz. It will continue the climatological work established in 1909, unifying methods of meteorological research and publishing all available data for the past ten years. It is planned to issue nine bulletins by the end of the year. The division will establish a forecast service for central and southern Brazil; an aerological service for aviators and kite and pilot balloon stations; a special coast service for navigation; an agricultural meteorological service; a marine meteorological service; a special service of rains and floods, and the usual investigations in every department of meteorology with especial reference to longer ranges in weather forecasting. Rio Grande do Sul, Minas Geraes and São Paulo continue their state services, but under the supervision of the Directoria. The Reclamation Service of semi-arid northeastern Brazil will maintain its rain organization.

STATISTICS relating to the growth of the population of France show that last year the excess of births over deaths was 159,790, as against 58,914 in 1913, while the number of marriages has doubled. It is the first time since the war that statistics have been available for the whole of France, including the three departments of Alsace-Lorraine. The births were 834,411 last year, compared with 790,355 in 1913—an increase of 44,056. The deaths were 674,621 against 731,441 in 1913—a decrease of 56,820. The marriages were 623,869 last year against 312,036 in 1913.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

By the will of the late John McMullen, president of the Atlantic, Gulf and Pacific Dredging Company, Cornell University will