pathological Conference, which was peripatetic, ending at Lancaster, Ohio. By means of a sketch-map Mr. Brierley showed a complicated personal itinerary, from Quebec as a point of arrival, reaching to the southern limits of the United States, and including all the principal universities and biological stations. He then indicated the most striking and individual feature of American agriculture, which he described as the main source of wealth of the country. This was the almost complete concentration in wide areas of a single crop, so that there were 500 miles together of maize, of cotton, or of rice, and not much smaller areas of fruit or vegetables for preserving. One consequence of this was that plant disease ran riot through a whole area, and the field problems confronting the American agricultural biologist were so vast and menacing as almost to destroy the possibility of academic research, except in the eastern industrial regions, and to force the whole available scientific personnel into the field to stem a tide of disaster. In the industrial area, containing the older universities, the biological work approximated closely to that done in this country in subject and mode of attack, but in the state universities in the newer agricultural regions—each with its own single crop presenting urgent problems for solution—certain feaures were noticeable: (1) An early and extreme specialization, subjects which were here studied after a degree course in botany (such as plant pathology), being themselves degree courses, and the graduates, almost all of whom, from economic pressure on individuals and the crying need in the field, were unable to take post-graduate training, immediately devoting themselves exclusively to the study of a single type of disease. (2) There was almost no gradation between the academic biologist of real eminence and national or international reputation and the ordinary worker dealing with a limited field of applied science. For this reason the science on which their specialized practise was founded was apt to be too much in the background. Coming back, he felt Europe and England to be somewhat old, sophisticated, and contemptuous of youth. America is young, and has all the boundless energy of adolescence and its unique fervor.

Sir D. Hall, before opening the discussion, pointed out that America was not a country of farmers, but of industrialists working upon the land. Consequently they were less tied by tradition, and more ready to look to science for help. On the other hand, the state legislatures, which supported the biological work, were very apt to demand immediate results, and some promising work was spoiled by premature publication. England should take warning of the danger of allowing the legislature to get direct control of scientific research. He wecomed such a visit as Mr. Brierley's as a help towards counteracting the tendency in all civilized countries to erect quarantine walls against the entry of plants from abroad, for fear of disease. This fear was easily exploited by commercial firms for their own ends. The only way to get over the difficulty was to establish such mutual confidence between biologists in different countries as to render a guarantee of health given by the experts in any country absolutely trustworthy.

THE RETIREMENT OF DR. W. H. JORDAN

The faculty of Cornell University has adopted the following resolutions:

On the occasion of the retirement of Dr. Whitman Howard Jordan from the professorship of animal nutrition in Cornell University and from the directorship of the New York Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva, the members of this faculty desire to record their appreciation of the inestimable service which Professor Jordan has rendered to science and to the scientific agriculture of the state and of the nation.

Professor Jordan assumed the directorship of the experiment station in 1896, a critical time for agriculture and for the new experiment stations. He brought to his work true scientific training, gained as an undergraduate student at the University of Maine, as a postgraduate student at Cornell University under the guidance of Professor Caldwell, and as an assistant to Dr. Atwater at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station; and long experience as a teacher of agriculture and agricultural chemistry at the University of Maine

and at the Pennsylvania State College, and as director of the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station. With this wealth of training and experience, in addition to his high scientific ideals, his indomitable courage, his unflagging zeal for truth, his sound judgment in the selection of associates, and his unswerving loyalty to the best interests of agriculture, he has made a profound and lasting impression on the agriculture of this state.

The outstanding feature of his long service in the interest of agriculture has been his strict adherence to the dictates of science without regard to popular esteem or favor. Strong as the temptation has been for an administrator to popularize the work of his institution at the expense of its research, Professor Jordan, in his administration of the station, has held strictly to the original purpose and object of the institution uninfluenced by considerations of popular favor. Under his wise and capable administration, the New York Agricultural Experiment Station has attained a leading position among the agricultural experiment stations of the world.

Professor Jordan's connection with this college as professor of animal nutrition dates only from June 22, 1920, but his interest in the institution and his hearty and cordial cooperation have extended through all the twenty-five years that he has been director of the experiment station at Geneva. Accordingly there has always existed between these two institutions such close and gratifying cooperation in the prosecution of investigation and research that their work has ever been supplementary and unnecessary duplication of effort has been avoided.

In spite of all the multiplicity of duties which naturally come to an outstanding figure in agriculture, Professor Jordan has always found time to continue his own scholarly work in animal nutrition and to advise critically with members of his staff on a wide variety of highly technical subjects. His keenly analytical mind, his sound judgment, his unusual administrative ability, and, above all, his lofty personal ideals and breadth of vision, have endeared him to his colleagues and associates. He has richly earned the relief which retirement from active service brings, and we, his colleagues, wish him many years in which to enjoy the privileges of the contemplative life which is now his.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

AT the recent Montreal meeting of the Society of Chemical Industry, Dr. Robert F. Ruttan, MacDonald professor of chemistry at McGill University, was elected president in succession to Sir William Pope.

THE University of Edinburgh has conferred the degree of doctor of laws on Dr. Irving Langmuir, of the research laboratory of the General Electric Company, Schenectady, who at the meeting of the British Association in that city opened the discussion on "The Structure of Molecules."

PROFESSOR EDWARD W. BERRY, of the Johns Hopkins University, has been elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

DR. JAMES M. ANDERS has been elected president of the American Therapeutic Society for the ensuing year. Dr. Anders was also recently elected president of the American College of Physicans.

BARON R. VON HÜGEL has resigned the curatorship of the Museum of Archeology and Ethnology of the University of Cambridge and Dr. A. C. Haddon, Christ's College, has been appointed deputy curator.

THOMAS FORSYTH HUNT, dean of the college of agriculture, University of California, has resumed his office after a year's stay in Europe, spent in part at Rome as the delegate of the United States to the International Institute of Agriculture.

HARRY D. KITSON, professor of psychology at Indiana University, has returned from Europe where he conferred with investigators in industrial psychology in England, France, Germany and Switzerland.

PROFESSOR WILLIAM S. COOPER, of the University of Minnesota, is making a study of the recession of the Muir Glacier at Glacier Bay, Alaska.

MR. MONTAGUE FREE, horticulturist and head gardener of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, returned recently from England where he visited Kew and various other public and private gardens. In the course of the trip,