

Tata has withdrawn his offer, which was contingent on the government founding a school of tropical medicine at Bombay. As will be seen, matters had gone very far before the government of Bombay repudiated the undertaking it had given. They had gone even further than we have so far indicated, for rather more than a year ago the Royal Society was asked to select professors for the chairs of clinical medicine and therapy and of protozoology in the school. The Royal Society, acting through its Tropical Diseases Committee, issued advertisements widely—in this country, in the dominions and in America. From among the applicants it selected two, one for each chair. The protozoologist selected was an American, but he, we understand, subsequently, on private grounds, withdrew his acceptance. The successful applicant for the other chair, an Australian (Professor N. Hamilton Fairley), resigned his appointment in Australia to become Tata professor of clinical medicine in the Bombay School. The government of Bombay has now given him notice that it will dispenze with his services on October 31. The situation thus brought about is obviously most unsatisfactory, and the matter can not be allowed to rest where it is. When the Royal Society acts for the Indian government and invites applications for positions on definite terms, the candidates selected assume that a written contract is superfluous. Clearly the Royal Society has been placed in a very false position. At the request of the government of India it undertook to select suitable persons to occupy the two chairs. With the authority of the government of Bombay the Royal Society, through its committee, issued advertisements inviting candidates to come forward and stating the terms and conditions of the appointment, which was to be in each case for a term of five years in the first instance, "but may be extended by the government." It is now left in the lurch by the government of Bombay, which professes to find that it has miscalculated its resources and is not in a financial position to carry out its bargain. The Royal Society will, we feel sure, have the support of public opinion in any action it may take, and the medical profession in particular will be anxious to see

that justice is done to Professor Fairley, if not by the government of Bombay, then by the government of India, which can not absolve itself from responsibility for the acts of the provincial government. We understand that a new central research institute for India may shortly be established, probably at Delhi; this may afford the government of India a way out of the false position in which it has been placed by the government of Bombay.

THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF BELGIUM¹

THE Royal Academy of Belgium celebrated the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of its foundation on May 23 and 24 in the presence of a large number of its members and of delegates from other academies and learned institutions. On the Wednesday afternoon, May 24, numerous congratulatory addresses were presented at the Palais des Académies, and the members and visitors were afterwards received at the Hôtel de Ville by the Mayor of Brussels, M. Adolf Max, and his aldermen, MM. Steens, Vande Meulebrouck and Coelst; a reception was held at the Palais des Académies in the evening, where an exhibition of medals and portraits connected with the history of the academy had been arranged. The anniversary celebration itself was held in the large hall of the academy on the afternoon of May 25 in the presence of the king, the minister of arts and science, M. Hubert, formerly rector of the University of Liège, Cardinal Mercier, and the English, French, Dutch, Spanish and Japanese ambassadors. The president, M. Vauthier, in an address of welcome, briefly sketched the history of the academy and its influence on the intellectual development of Belgium. The minister of justice, M. Masson, tendered the congratulations of the Belgian government, and Monseigneur Baudrillart spoke in the name of the Institut de France. Sir William B. Leishman, as vice-president of the Royal Society, represented the British universities and learned societies; he referred to the activities of Belgian bacteriologists and paid a high tribute to the work of M. Jules Bordet. MM. Lameere, Pirenne and Verlant, representing respectively

¹ From *Nature*.

the classes of science, of letters, and moral and political sciences and of fine arts, contributed summaries of the activities of their several sections of the academy. Later the visitors were received by the king and the queen at the Palace of Laeken, and in the evening a banquet was held at the Hôtel Astoria.

THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

At the annual meeting of the Royal Geographical Society on May 29 Lord Ronaldshay was elected president of the society in succession to Sir Francis Younghusband, and the following were elected vice-presidents: Sir Francis Younghusband, Colonel Sir Charles Close, Mr. D. W. Freshfield, Lord Edward Gleichen, Sir T. H. Holdich, and Sir J. Scott Keltie.

The royal medals were presented, the founder's medal being awarded to Lieutenant Colonel C. K. Howard-Bury for his distinguished services in command of the Mount Everest Expedition, 1921, and the patrons' medal to Mr. Ernest de K. Leffingwell, Los Angeles, California, for his surveys and investigations on the coast of northern Alaska. Mr. Oliver B. Harriman, first secretary at the American embassy, on behalf of Mr. Leffingwell, who could not attend, accepted the patrons' medal.

The other awards of the council were made as follows: The Victoria medal to Mr. J. F. Baddeley, for work on the historical geography of Central Asia; the Murchison grant to Mr. Charles Camsell, deputy minister of mines, Canada, for explorations and surveys in northern Canada (accepted, on Mr. Camsell's behalf, by Mr. Peter Larkin, high commissioner for Canada); the Baek grant to Khan Bahadur Sher Jang, for surveys on the Indian frontier and in adjacent countries; the Cuthbert Peek grant to Mr. F. H. Melland, for explorations in Northern Rhodesia; and the Gill Memorial to Mr. A. R. R. Boyce, of the Sudan Survey, for triangulations in the Sudan.

The address of the retiring president was chiefly concerned with the Mount Everest Expedition.

SIGMA XI AT UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

THE thirty-seventh chapter of Sigma Xi to be known as the Kentucky Chapter was

installed at the University of Kentucky on May 5. The petitioning group numbered seventeen. These were already active members of the society, having been elected to such while connected with other educational institutions.

The installation exercises were conducted by Dr. Henry B. Ward and Dr. Edward Ellery, president and secretary of the national organization. The charge to the chapter was delivered by Dr. Ellery and the symposium was conducted by Dr. Ward.

The following officers were elected:

President: Dr. Paul P. Boyd

Vice-president: Dr. W. D. Funkhouser.

Secretary: Professor E. S. Good.

Treasurer: Professor E. N. Fergus.

A banquet was held in the evening at the Phoenix Hotel, Lexington. The chapter had as its guests Dr. Ward, Dr. Ellery, Judge R. C. Stoll, chairman of the executive committee, University of Kentucky, Dr. Glanville Terrell, chairman of the Graduate School, Professor W. S. Anderson, president of the Research Club, Dr. Thomas B. McCartney, acting-president of Transylvania College, Dr. Robert C. Hinton, of Georgetown College, and Dr. Frank L. Rainey, of Center College.

Besides those of the Kentucky Chapter present at the banquet were the following members of the society resident in Lexington: Dr. A. F. Hemmingway, Dr. J. A. Gunton, Professor Mary Brown, Dr. J. A. Herring and Dr. Philip P. Blumenthal.

Dean P. P. Boyd acted as toastmaster and toasts were responded to by Judge Stoll, Dr. Ward, Dr. Ellery and Dr. McCartney.

DEAN OF THE SHEFFIELD SCIENTIFIC SCHOOL

THE Yale Corporation has elected as dean of the Sheffield Scientific School in succession to Director Russell H. Chittenden, Professor Charles Hyde Warren, since 1900 a member of the faculty of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he has been professor of mineralogy since 1915.

The dean-elect of the Sheffield Scientific School served as an assistant in chemistry and mineralogy in that school from 1896 to 1900, studying in the Graduate School during this period and receiving the degree of doctor of