member of the teaching staff who is entitled to a Carnegie retiring allowance and who forfeits such retiring allowance because of any voluntary act by which the same is forfeited under the Carnegie rules, may be deprived of his retiring allowance from the university.

The university will provide life insurance that shall assure to each member of the teaching staff the payment of $5,000 on his death before his retirement, payable to his wife if he leaves one, otherwise to his children, or, if he leaves none, then to such person as he may, with the approval of the president, designate.

"An alternative" plan" submitted by the committee on pensions and also approved covers the cases of members of the faculty who hold deferred annuity policies issued by the Teachers' Insurance and Annuity Association of America or other companies approved by the university finance committee. The university will, on the request of a member of the faculty and his relinquishment of all benefits under the insurance and pension plan, contribute toward the payment of the premiums on such annuity policies a sum not exceeding five per cent. of his annual salary, nor a maximum of $300.

GIFTS TO THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

GIFTS of $1,000,000 by Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and $250,000 by Mr. George F. Baker to the American Museum of Natural History were announced by President Henry Fairfield Osborn at a meeting of the executive committee of the board of trustees last week, when the following resolutions were passed:

Resolved, That the trustees accept with grateful thanks the splendid gift of $1,000,000 presented to the museum by Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., for its corporate purposes and hereby take pleasure in applying it to the permanent endowment fund, the principal to be kept invested and the income only to be expended for the work of the institution.

This munificent gift, valued at more than a million dollars, is the more appreciated because it is received at a time when the increase of the permanent endowment by at least $2,000,000 stands as the paramount need of the museum, in order that its scientific exploration and research may not be curtailed and in order that it may continue to render to public education, especially through the school system of the city and country, a service which is increasing in importance and is receiving universal approval of educators.

Mr. Rockefeller's attitude in his generous terms of gift and in his liberal-mindedness with respect to the use of this fund is a further source of deep satisfaction and encouragement to the trustees because it indicates his hearty endorsement of the aims and purposes of the museum and of the trustees' policy in its development and expresses his belief in the present and future service which it can render to science and education for all the people.

In recognition of Mr. Rockefeller's interest in the museum, the trustees take pleasure in hereby electing him a benefactor.

Resolved, That the trustees desire to record their deep sense of gratitude to Mr. Baker for his generous gift of $250,000, which constitutes the initial contribution to the much needed enlarged endowment for the growth and development of the museum. The trustees deeply appreciate not only the intrinsic value of the gift, but especially the generous attitude of the donor in permitting the unrestricted use of the income of this fund—an action which is indicative of his confidence in the administration of the museum and the aims and purposes of the institution. In recognition of Mr. Baker's earlier contributions, the trustees had previously elected him a benefactor, and can therefore merely express their gratitude to him by extending their heartfelt thanks and best wishes for continued good health and happiness.

THE INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION AT ROME

AT the meeting of the International Astronomical Union at Rome from May 2 to 10, according to a report in *The Observatory,* the adherent countries represented were Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czecho-Slovakia, Denmark, France, Great Britain, Holland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Poland and the United States. Greece and South Africa, though adhering to the union, were not represented, while Roumania and Spain were represented, although the formalities connected with adhesion to the union had not been completed.

The list of committees for the coming three years drawn up by the executive committee was adopted. They were as follows, the name of the chairman being given in each case:

Relativity, Levi-Civita (Italy); Notations, Stroobant (Belgium); Ephemerides, Eichelberger (U. S. A.); Bibliography, B. Baillaud (France); Telegrams, Strömgren (Denmark); Dynamical Astronomy, Andoyer (France); Instruments, Hamy (France); Solar Physics, Hale(U. S. A.); Wave-lengths, St. John (U. S. A.); Solar Rotation, Newall (Great Britain); Physical Observations of Planets, Comets and Satellites, Phillips (Great Britain); Lunar Nomenclature, Turner (Great Britain); Wireless Determination of Longitude, Ferrié (France); Variation of Latitude, Kimura (Japan); Positions of Planets, Comets and Satellites, Leuschner (U. S. A.); Shooting Stars, Denning (Great Britain); Carte du Ciel, Turner (Great Britain); Stellar Parallaxes, Schlesinger (U. S. A.); Photometry, Seares (U. S. A.); Double Stars, Aitken (U. S. A.); Variable Stars, Shapley (U. S. A.); Nebulæ and Clusters, V. M. Slipher (U. S. A.); Spectral Classification, Adams (U. S. A.); Radial Velocities, Campbell (U. S. A.); Time, Sampson (Great Britain).

Sir Frank Dyson gave, on behalf of the delegates of Great Britain and, more particularly, on behalf of Professor Newall, an invitation to the union to meet in Cambridge in 1925, and also to be present at the celebration of the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich. This invitation was seconded by Mr. Stratton, and was accepted after invitations from Poland and eastern center in the United States had been noted for 1928. The following were elected to act as officers and executive of the union for the coming three years:

President: Professor W. W. Campbell (U. S. A.).

Vice-presidents: Professor Cerulli (Italy), M. Deslandres (France), Professor Hirayama (Japan), Mr. Hough (Great Britain), Professor de Sitter (Holland).

Secretary: Professor Fowler (Great Britain).

HONORARY DEGREES CONFERRED BY YALE UNIVERSITY ON SCIENTIFIC MEN

AT the commencement exercises of Yale University on June 21, President James Rowland Angell conferred the honorary doctorate of science upon Dr. John C. Merriam and Mr. J. J. Carty and the doctorate of laws on Dr. Russell H. Chittenden. In presenting the candidates for the degrees Professor William Lyon Phelps spoke as follows:

JOHN CAMPBELL MERRIAM: President of the Carnegie Institution, paleontologist and educator. Born in Iowa, where he took his first degree at Lenox College in 1887. Doctor of philosophy of the University of Munich. He began his professional career as an instructor in paleontology and historical geology at the University of California in 1894, and since that date he has become a leading authority in fossil reptiles and fossil mammals of western North America, and of general historical geology of the Pacific coast region. He is a member of many learned societies and his publications are numerous and important. He was for years professor of geology and dean of the faculties at the University of California. He was largely instrumental in establishing the Pacific exploration project which has taken on large dimensions, involved wide ranges of science and large numbers of scientists. During the late stages of the war, he acted as chairman of the National Research Council. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and widely regarded by scientific men as one of the half dozen conspicuous representatives of American science. He combines to an extraordinary degree ability as an investigator with ability as a teacher.

JOHN JOSEPH CARTY: Vice-president of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, A pioneer in the development of telephone science since 1879. He designed and constructed the first metallic circuit multiple telephone switchboard. A high authority states that his original researches published in 1889 demonstrate the preponderating effect of electrostaic induction in producing cross-talk on adjacent telephone circuits. Cross-talk is presumably used only in a technical sense. He invented the method of common battery work now in general use throughout the world. The bridging telephone was designed by him; this forms the basis of all farmers' party-lines, thus adding social knowledge and delight to the existence of farmers' wives. He is a leader in the movement to encourage research in pure science at the universities. During the war he was chairman of the executive board of the National Research Council. He rendered invaluable service in preventing the interruption by the enemy of our trans-Atlantic cable communications. He designed the telephone and telegraph system for the American Army in France. He served as colonel in the United States Army as a staff officer, and is now brigadier-general of the Officers' Reserve Corps. For his services in establishing