

ing Division of the National Research Council, endorses Dr. Stepanek's suggestions "that at an early date there should be an international conference of engineers, rather than of politicians and of statesmen, bound by tradition and self-seeking nationalism—a conference of constructively-minded men who could take fresh views of the world's condition, deal scientifically with fundamental causes, and suggest impartial, far-sighted plans for continuing progress."

In appealing for the establishment of an American university in Central Europe, Minister Stepanek said that it would constitute a center from which could be given out the best products of American culture, a source of correct information about America and American ideas. Through a world alliance of engineers, the minister said, a constructive type of mind could be brought more effectively into the service of the nations.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

JACOBUS CORNELIUS KAPTEYN, professor of astronomy and theoretical mechanics at the University of Groningen since 1888, has died at the age of seventy-one years.

WILLIAM WISLICENUS, director of the chemical laboratory of the University of Tübingen, died on May 8, at the age of sixty-one years.

DR. EDWIN E. SLOSSON, editor of *Science Service*, received the honorary degree of LL.D. at the recent commencement of the University of Kentucky.

DR. W. S. THAYER, formerly professor of medicine in the Johns Hopkins Medical School, has been elected an overseer of Harvard University.

DR. OTTO KLOTZ has been elected an honorary overseas member of the Norman Lockyer Observatory in England.

M. HENRI LESBEGUE has been elected a member of the Paris Academy of Sciences in the section of mathematics to succeed the late M. C. Jourdan. M. Lesbegues has recently been elected professor at the Collège de France.

At the meeting of the Royal Society of Edinburgh on June 19, the Keith Prize (1919-

1921) was presented to Professor R. A. Sampson for his astronomical researches, and the Neill Prize (1919-1921) to Sir Edward Sharpey Schafer, for his contributions to our knowledge of physiology.

At a special meeting of the directing board of the National University of Mexico, it was voted to grant an honorary diploma to Dr. S. Ramón y Cajal. The Mexican Academy of Medicine has appointed him an honorary member.

THE second year's work of the American School in France for Prehistoric Studies began the first week in July at La Quina, Charente, under the directorship of Dr. Charles Peabody. The retiring director, Professor George Grant MacCurdy, will visit Switzerland, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Belgium and England before returning to Yale University in September.

DR. JOHN L. STENQUIST, who has been assistant to the director of reference and research in the Department of Education of New York City, has been appointed director of the new Bureau of Educational Measurements, Statistics and Research for the city of Baltimore, where he will assume his duties about September 1.

DR. EDWARD A. SPITZKA has been appointed district medical officer, Second District, U. S. Veterans' Bureau. The Second District embraces the state of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

HUGH M. HENTON, formerly instructor in metallurgy at Case School of Applied Science, has opened an office as consulting engineer in Cleveland.

PROFESSOR HERBERT H. WHETZEL, who has been head of the department of plant pathology since its organization in the State College of Agriculture at Cornell University, has been relieved from the leadership at his own urgent solicitation in order that he may devote his time exclusively to teaching and research.

PROFESSOR JOEL STEBBINS, of the University of Illinois, who, as was reported early in the spring, has been appointed professor of astronomy and director of the Washburn Observatory

at the University of Wisconsin, succeeding Professor G. C. Comstock, retired, took up his new work July 1. Professor Comstock has been director of the observatory since 1889 and has reached the age of retirement. He has been on the faculty since 1887, and was dean of the Graduate School from 1906 to 1920.

PROFESSOR TRACY E. HAZEN, of Barnard College, Columbia University, sailed from New York on June 21 for Buenaventura, Columbia. Early in July he expects to join the expedition of Dr. Francis W. Pennell and Mr. Ellsworth Killip for botanical exploration of the Cordillera Central of the Andes, returning to New York in September.

PROFESSOR J. A. DETLEFSEN, of the University of Illinois, will take a year's leave of absence during which he will devote himself to the study of the inheritance of disturbances of orientation.

PROFESSOR JUNE E. DOWNEY, head of the department of psychology of the University of Wyoming, has been granted leave of absence for the next academic year and will spend the year in study and travel, part of the time abroad. Miss Louisa C. Wagoner will serve as chairman of the department during Professor Downey's absence and will be assisted by Donald A. Laird of the University of Iowa.

DURING the week of July 24 to 28, Professor H. S. Jennings, of the Johns Hopkins University, will give before the summer session of the Colorado State Normal School at Gunnison, Colorado, a series of five lectures on "Adventures in research on development and evolution."

THE following popular lectures in physics are being given this summer at the University of Illinois:

June 22, Production of sound by the application of heat: Professor C. T. Knipp.

June 29, Relativity: Discussion of phenomena: Associate Professor J. Kunz.

July 6, Recording of sound on photographic films and its application to talking motion pictures: Professor J. Tykociner.

July 13, Wireless telegraph: H. A. Brown.

July 20, Fatigue of metals: Professor H. F. Moore.

July 27, Theories of magnetism: Assistant Professor E. H. Williams.

August 3, The tones from bells: Professor F. R. Watson.

THE second lecture of the series on physics in industry, arranged by the London Institute of Physics, was given on July 4 in the hall of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, by Sir J. Alfred Ewing, whose subject was "The physicist in engineering practice, with special reference to applications of thermodynamics."

ON June 7 a lecture was given by Professor A. F. Holleman, of Amsterdam, at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, under the auspices of the University of London, entitled "Recent researches on substitution in the benzene nucleus."

THE fifth international Neo-Malthusian and Birth Control Conference was held in London on July 11-14, under the presidency of Dr. C. V. Drysdale. Many delegates from abroad were present and the discussions were arranged to take place in several sections. A visit to Dorking was arranged to the birthplace of the Reverend T. R. Malthus.

WE learn from *Nature* that the formal opening of the newly established Metallografiska Institutet of Stockholm has recently taken place. The new institute is under the direction of Dr. Carl Benedicks, whose work on the physical chemistry of metals is well known. An inaugural address was delivered by Professor Arrhenius, who referred to the international character of scientific research, as shown by the presence of foreign representatives at the ceremony, and by the review of the history of metallography contained in the address of Dr. Benedicks.

THE Italian Royal Committee for Scientific Marine Investigations has assumed charge of the Zoological Station at Rovigno, Istria, which was formerly under German administration, and the station is now in active work, under Professor Raffaele Issel as director.

THE Honorary Advisory Council for Scientific and Industrial Research of Canada has made a grant to the department of chemistry of Macdonald College for an investigation of soil acidity. The various methods proposed for the measurement of soil acidity will be

compared, surveys in Quebec will be carried on, and the relation of acidity to crop growth will be studied with a view to deciding whether full or partial correction of acidity should be attempted in soils devoted to specific crops or crop rotations.

THE Public Health Institute of Chicago has undertaken to finance the cooperative research between the University of Wisconsin Medical School and the Chemical Department of Northwestern University, which in the past has been supported by appropriations from the United States Interdepartmental Social Hygiene Board. This research which has been devoted to attempts to improve the treatment of syphilis of the central nervous system has been directed by Dr. W. Lee Lewis and Dr. Frank C. Whitmore, of Northwestern University, and Dr. A. S. Loevenhart and Dr. W. F. Lorenz, of the University of Wisconsin. The Public Health Institute has appropriated \$21,600 to both universities for the coming year.

A PARTY from the department of zoology of the Louisiana State University at Baton Rouge spent several days during the latter part of June in an exploring and collecting trip in the waters of the gulf east and south of the Mississippi River delta. Through the courtesy of the Honorable M. L. Alexander, state commissioner of conservation, the party had the use of the yacht of the commission, the *Alexandria*, and her crew. The course followed was from New Orleans through Lakes Pontchartrain and Borgne and Mississippi Sound to the Chandeleur Islands; and a number of the islands *en route*, including several of the federal game preserves, were visited and explored. It is hoped that this may be the first of a series of annual trips for the purpose of studying at first hand not only the bird life but the rich coelenterate, arthropod, molluscan and fish fauna of this fertile region. The members of the party were Mr. Robert Glenk, curator of the Louisiana State Museum at New Orleans, who initiated the trip; Mr. Percy Viosca, Jr., the biologist of the Fisheries Division of the Conservation Commission; Dr. E. H. Behre, Miss A. M. Fuller, W. H. Browning, J. R.

Fowler and Miss Jessie Chambers, all of the department of zoology of the State University.

THE Paris correspondent of the *Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry* writes that the French Senate is now considering a first draft of a law organizing an "Office national des recherches scientifiques, industrielles et agricoles." This organization is modeled on the National Research Council of the United States. This plan is said to have been fought from the first by the chamber, which sees in it a duplication of the laboratories of the teaching establishments of the state. It has been decided that the part of the new office would be one of coordination of the different laboratories, not only of the state but also of private industry. There have been established in France some laboratories analogous to the Mellon Institute, and these organizations would cooperate in the work of this office.

ON the occasion of the annual inspection by the General Board of the British National Physical Laboratory on June 29, as we learn from the *London Times*, some eight hundred guests were invited to Teddington, where they had the opportunity of seeing some of the work that is being done. All the various departments were open to view, and the attention of the visitors was drawn to many exhibits with features of special interest. In the aerodynamics department one of the wind channels was engaged in measuring the distribution of pressure over the wings of a model aeroplane, and in another the discontinuous flow of air was rendered visible by a smoke cloud. In the new extension that has been added to the engineering department machines were at work for testing the efficiency of spur gears and of the transmission gears and driving chains of motor-cars. In another new building devoted to the testing of concrete a steel column cased in concrete, which had failed in the testing machine under a load of fifty-five tons, was to be seen side by side with an exactly similar column not so cased, which had not been able to sustain more than four tons. Close to this building is a new underground range in which a small projectile is made by an arrangement

of electrical contacts to photograph itself at regular intervals during its flight to the target.

THE British commissioners of 1851 announce the following appointments to senior studentships for 1922:

J. Sybrandt Buck, B.Sc. (Liverpool), research student in chemistry, of the University of Liverpool.

Geoffrey T. R. Hill, B.Sc. (London), research student in aeronautics, of the University of London, University College, late experimental engineer and pilot to Handley Page, Limited.

Albert Edward Ingham, B.A. (Cambridge), research student in mathematics, of the University of Cambridge.

John Edward Jones, M.Sc. (Victoria), lecturer in mathematics, of the University of Manchester.

Cecil Edgar Tilley, B.Sc. (Adelaide and Sydney), research student in geology, of the University of Cambridge.

The senior studentships are intended to give a few selected students of exceptional promise and proved capacity for original work the opportunity of devoting their whole time for a period of not less than two years to the prosecution of scientific research. The studentships are of the value of £400 per annum (with additional allowances. The awards are made by selection from among candidates under thirty years of age who are recommended to the commissioners through the executive authorities of institutions invited to make recommendations. The student is required to devote himself to research in some branch of pure or applied science.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

DR. LEON L. SOLOMON, New Orleans, has announced that he will give the University of Louisville the sum of \$500 annually, for use in the medical research laboratory of the university. This fund will be known as the Solomon Fund.

THE resignation of J. C. Jones, president of the University of Missouri, has been accepted by the curators of the institution, effective at the close of the college year. Dr. Jones has been a member of the faculty for thirty-eight years and desired to be relieved of the responsibility, as he is now sixty-six years old.

PROFESSOR MILO S. KETCHUM, professor of civil engineering at the University of Pennsylvania, has been appointed dean of the engineering school of the University of Illinois and director of its extension work.

PROFESSOR EARL B. MILLARD, professor of materials of engineering, and Professor Harrison W. Hayward, associate professor of theoretical chemistry, have been appointed assistant directors of the division of industrial cooperation and research of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

DR. E. S. CONKLIN, head of the department of psychology of the University of Oregon, has been made acting dean of the Graduate School for the session of 1922-1923, in the absence of Dean George Rebec, who will devote the year to travel and study in Europe.

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. STONE, of the department of chemistry of Trinity College, Hartford, Conn., who has been on leave of absence during the past year, has resigned, and Dr. Charles B. Hurd, of Colby College, Waterville, Me., has been appointed his successor.

MR. H. J. WARING, dean of the faculty of medicine of the University of London, has been elected vice-chancellor of the university for 1922-1923, in succession to Sir Sydney Russell-Wells.

DR. HUGO OBERMAIER has been appointed to the new professorship of prehistoric archeology at the University of Madrid.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

WHICH IS THE HIGHEST WATER FALL IN THE WORLD?

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Mr. Hardy's recent note concerning the reputed height of the Kaieteur Falls in British Guiana raises the moot question as to which really is the highest water fall on earth.

My physiographic studies in the Yosemite region of California, which is *par excellence* the land of water falls have led me to collect data on water falls in different part of the world for purposes of comparison. My information still is far from complete—as necessarily