

of tropical diseases and of preventive medicine.

No better place could have been selected than Panama City, the gateway between the Atlantic and the Pacific, where General Gorgas' well-planned and executed work made possible the building of the Panama Canal.

It is hardly necessary to call the attention of the medical profession to the far-reaching effects of General Gorgas' work on the welfare of the people of the whole world, especially in tropical and semitropical climates, and in all places subject to the inroads of infectious disease.

We of the medical profession remember him as our surgeon general during the early part of the World War. We remember his prompt recognition of the necessity of bringing into active service large numbers of physicians and surgeons from civilian life. We remember his genial and kindly nature, his high character, and his steadfast effort directed toward the organization and equipment of the medical corps of the Army. We remember the patriotic response. We remember him as a great sanitary officer, to whom we wish to pay a lasting tribute.

A central committee has been formed, with Admiral Braisted, retired, ex-president of the American Medical Association, as its president. The American Medical Association has appointed a committee of three to work in accord with the central committee, and through its members this appeal is made to the American medical profession.

The plan is to build at Panama an institute for the study of tropical and infectious diseases, with a hospital, laboratories, departments for research and all other facilities required in an institute of this character, erected and administered according to the most progressive, modern ideals. The Panamanian government, owing to the far-sighted, philanthropic vision of President Porras, has donated the great Santo Tomas Hospital, and also the ground on which it is proposed immediately to construct the buildings as they have been described. Dr. Strong has been appointed the scientific director.

In conjunction with this work in Panama, there will be established in Tuscaloosa, Ala., the Gorgas School of Sanitation for the purpose of training country health workers, sanitary engineers and public health nurses, especially educated to deal with the problems peculiar to the southern states.

An endowment of six and one half million dollars will be required to enable the institute to carry on the work according to the plans which have been formed.

The Republic of Panama has demonstrated its sympathetic and practical interest in this enterprise with splendid liberality. The physicians of our country, and especially the members of the American Medical Association, surely will not disregard the memory of a former president, and will seize the opportunity to make in this respect a contribution of which they will be proud.

The campaign for funds is to be international. A large response is expected from North, Central and South America, since the nations of these countries have been the chief beneficiaries of the labors of General Gorgas. It is fitting that his co-workers of the American medical profession should be requested to respond generously to this appeal. It is hoped that every member of the American Medical Association will make as liberal a subscription as possible. Any sum will be gratefully received. Checks should be drawn to the order of the "Gorgas Fund" and should be mailed to the American Medical Association, 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. E. T. WHITTAKER, professor of mathematics in the University of Edinburgh, has been elected a foreign member of the Accademia dei Lincei, Rome.

PROFESSOR W. ROUX, of Halle, has been elected honorary member of the Academy of Medicine at Turin. Professor Roux has presented to the Roux Foundation for research on the mechanics of development the 30,000 marks recently sent him by the St. Louis Emergency Relief Committee for German and Austrian Universities.

PROFESSOR A. N. WHITEHEAD, of Cambridge, has been elected president of the Aristotelian Society for the coming session. He will deliver his inaugural address on November 6.

DR. N. BISHOP HARMAN, of London, has been elected a corresponding member of the Cherbourg Scientific Society, in recognition of his researches into the origin of the facial musculature.

WILLIAM SCHAUS, of the Bureau of Entomology, has been elected an honorary member of the Entomological Society of Brazil in recognition of his extensive work on the butterflies and moths of Brazil.

POSTMASTER GENERAL HUBERT WORK, for-

merly president of the American Medical Association, was the guest of honor at a dinner on July 26, in Washington, given by the chargé d'affaires of the Panama legation, Señor Lefevre, in honor of the committee of the American Medical Association appointed to co-operate with the board of directors of the Gorgas Memorial.

MR. W. H. DINES has retired from the directorship of the Aerological Observatory of the British Meteorological Office at Benson.

DR. F. VON LUSCHAN, professor of anthropology at the University of Berlin, retires this year, having reached the age limit.

G. R. MANSFIELD has been appointed chief of the section of non-metalliferous deposits in the Geologic Branch of the U. S. Geological Survey.

DR. J. S. FLETT, director of the British Geological Survey, will act as one of the delegates of the Geological Society of London at the International Geological Congress at Brussels on August 21 to September 3. The other delegates nominated by this society are Professor E. J. Garwood, vice-president, and Dr. J. W. Evans, F.R.S.

THE Röntgen Society, London, has elected as president Sir Humphry Rolleston, and as vice-presidents Sir W. H. Bragg, Sir Ernest Rutherford and Dr. A. E. Barclay.

PROFESSOR THOMAS F. HOLGATE, of Northwestern University, has returned home after a year's leave of absence in China, during which time, though nominally on a vacation, he assisted in the mathematical and administrative work of the University of Nanking.

ATHERTON SEIDELL, of the Hygienic Laboratory, U. S. Public Health Service, is in Europe to study methods and progress of work on vitamins.

DR. F. W. PENNELL, curator of botany in the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, accompanied by Mrs. Pennell and by Mr. E. P. Killip, of the National Museum, have gone to Colombia, where about six months will be spent in botanical exploration in the central and western Cordillera.

It is announced in *Nature* that Dr. Michael Grabham has gone to Porto Santo, the northern island of the Madeira group, to study the conditions under which the local race of Portuguese inhabitants are said to enjoy complete immunity from dental caries. These people possess huge, ugly, yellow, but sound teeth, and Dr. Grabham proposes to bring specimens to London.

A. E. FATH has taken furlough from the Geological Survey to do private geological work abroad.

WE learn from the *Journal* of the Washington Academy of Sciences that at the call of Secretary Walcott, a meeting of the scientific staff of the Smithsonian Institution and its branches was held on May 23 to discuss the promotion of research. Several research problems which could be advantageously taken up were suggested, together with means for carrying them out. A committee on research was then appointed by the secretary, consisting of Dr. Merrill, *chairman*, Dr. Coville, Dr. Fewkes, Mr. Fowle, Dr. Hough, Mr. Nelson and Dr. Stejneger. The committee will hear reports by individuals on proposed research projects and consider means for taking them up, and it is hoped that by fall a definite plan of action will be formulated.

PARK BENJAMIN, the well-known patent lawyer, formerly editor of *The Scientific American* and of Appleton's "Cyclopædia of Applied Mechanics," died on August 21, in his seventy-fourth year.

DR. ARTHUR RANSOME, F.R.S., known for his contributions to the study of tuberculosis and public health, died on July 25 at the age of ninety-two years.

A COMMITTEE has been organized, as has already been reported in *SCIENCE*, to collect subscriptions for the monument to the memory of Professor Yves Delage which it is proposed to erect near the marine laboratory at Roscoff, Finisterre. Several Americans have worked at this laboratory and all biologists are indebted to Delage not only for his discoveries in marine biology but also for his organization of zoological science, his book on protoplasm and heredity and "L'Année Biologique." Sub-

scriptions to the memorial may be sent direct to Mlle. L. Dehorne, treasurer of the committee, at the Laboratory of Zoology, Sorbonne, 1, rue Victor-Cousin, Paris, 5^e, or through any one of the American members of the committee, F. R. Lillie, T. H. Morgan and C. B. Davenport.

WE learn from the *Journal* of the American Medical Association that Professor E. Marchiafava, having reached the age of seventy-five, retired, June 5, from the chair of pathological anatomy at the University of Rome after forty-eight years of continuous incumbency. A fund has been endowed in his name by contributions from royalty, the city of Rome, the Italian Red Cross, the public health service, the hospitals and banks, and others, to found scholarships at the University of Rome. A number of addresses were made by delegates from various scientific societies and Marchiafava's numerous contributions to science were enumerated, his initial research on malaria and his leadership in the campaign against malaria in Italy, his discovery of the estivo-autumnal parasite, of the cause of melanemia, and his studies in syphilis, tuberculosis, alcoholism, etc. The city of Rome has always regarded him as the one responsible for having freed it from malaria. One of his latest works was the foundation of the Asilo Antimalarico Comunale as a home in Rome for the children of families living in the malaria infested marshy districts in the region. A tablet was placed on this building by the community when it was inaugurated last year, paying tribute to Marchiafava as the originator of the project.

THE tariff bill as passed by the Senate provides for the continuation of the policy that scientific instruments and apparatus which are imported by educational institutions and used solely for educational purposes shall be admitted free of tariff duty. The provision was adopted by a vote of 30 to 26.

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association notes that in the final passage of the tariff bill, the Senate reversed its position on the importation of dyes and synthetic medicines, and placed extremely high duties on all such articles. There was read to the Senate a

letter from Secretary of War John W. Weeks urging that the American dye industry and synthetic medicine industry be protected in the interest of national defense and public health. While the Senate did not vote that there should be an embargo on these products, the tariff duties are of such nature that they will in effect be a conservative check on the importation of dyes and synthetic medicines derived therefrom. The new duties fix the duty on coal-tar dye intermediates at 10.5 cents a pound and an additional 75 per cent. ad valorem, and on finished dyes and coal-tar products, 90 per cent. ad valorem. In urging the adoption by the Senate of these rates, Senator Wadsworth, of New York, showed that England, France and Italy have placed an embargo against the importation of dyestuffs. He said that as a people we have paid little attention and given small encouragement to scientific research. He asserted that chemical laboratories can not be maintained unless there is a chemical industry, and that research in the laboratory and chemical industry go hand in hand. As a result of the action taken by the Senate on this legislation, it is said that approximately 200 laboratories and plants manufacturing medicinals and coal-tar products which have been built up in this country since the war will be enabled to continue operations.

THE American Dietetic Association will hold its fifth annual meeting in Washington, D. C., October 16 to 18, with headquarters at the New Willard Hotel. Speakers of national reputation will discuss recent developments in dietetics, as well as administrative and other practical problems of the dietitian. Trips to Walter Reed Hospital and the scientific laboratories of the government will give opportunities to observe the research work now carried on in Washington. An exhibit of equipment, food materials, charts and other illustrative matter will be a feature of the convention.

UNDER the auspices of the New England Section of the American Society of Agronomy, and in cooperation with the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station and Aroostook County Farm Bureau, some thirty agronomists, pathologists and others interested in problems

of potato production spent three days from August 8 to 10 in Aroostook County, Maine, inspecting potato fields and discussing problems of certification and production. A formal program was rendered.

STEPS were taken recently by the Boston Chamber of Commerce to organize a New England Research Council to study the food supply and marketing problems of the region. President K. L. Butterfield, of the Massachusetts College, was elected chairman of the groups of agricultural colleges and the federal and state departments of agriculture and other agencies interested in the formation of the council.

WE learn from the *Journal* of the American Medical Association that members of the British Medical Association have been asked to contribute five shillings each in answer to the appeal for help from Russian medical men and their families. Up to July 3 \$3,500 had been received.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

THE will of the late William Sloane makes bequests to public institutions amounting to about \$600,000, including Yale University, \$100,000; the Presbyterian Hospital, \$100,000; New York Public Library, \$50,000; Metropolitan Museum of Art, \$50,000; American Museum of Natural History, \$50,000; Robert College of Constantinople, \$10,000, and Yale Foreign Missionary Society for the institution known as "Yale in China" at Changshau, \$10,000.

By the will of the late Rollin D. Salisbury, of the University of Chicago, his estate, amounting to \$125,000, is left in trust to his two sisters, on whose death one third goes to the University of Chicago for the endowment of scientific fellowships and \$2,500 to Beloit College. Two former associates of Dr. Salisbury in geological research, Dr. Wallace W. Atwood, now president of Clark University, and Dr. Harlan H. Barrows, head of the University of Chicago department of geography, will share in the division of Dr. Salisbury's library.

DR. J. SCHNEIDER, of Milwaukee, has been elected "honorary senator" by the University of Würzburg in recognition of his donation of 3,000,000 marks to the university on the recent anniversary of its foundation, 340 years ago.

DR. R. FITZ, professor of medicine in the Mayo Foundation and chief of a medical section, has become associate professor of medicine at Harvard University and visiting physician at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Boston.

DR. WILLIAM C. ROSE, professor of biological chemistry at the medical school of the University of Texas, has been appointed associate professor of physiological chemistry at the University of Illinois.

DR. WILBUR C. SMITH, since 1916 professor of anatomy in Tulane University, has been appointed director of athletics.

DR. CHARLES B. MCGILMURPHY has been appointed assistant professor of pathology at Northwestern University Medical School. He has been working in Vienna for the past two years.

MR. R. M. WILSON, at present principal of the East Anglian Institute of Agriculture, Chelmsford, has been appointed principal of the South-Eastern Agricultural College, Wye.

DR. J. S. DUNN has been appointed to the Procter chair of pathology and pathological anatomy at Manchester in succession to Professor H. R. Dean.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

METEORITE HUNTING

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: The experience of the writer in "meteor chasing" fully corroborates those of Dr. Merrill as related in SCIENCE for June 23. The general inability of the observers to furnish reliable data of the event can scarcely be exaggerated. Despite this, however, the writer has in two instances succeeded in "running to earth" the meteorite and securing a large portion if not all of it.

He also has to announce the recent obtaining of two pieces of meteoric iron (siderites) which were plowed up by a farmer in making