

University. He was made a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor in 1909.

The New York *Times* reports that Secretary Hoover, commenting on the resignation of Dr. Stratton, said:

The loss of Dr. Stratton as head of the Bureau of Standards is a real national loss. He has built up that service from a bureau devoted to scientific determination of weights and measurements to a great physical laboratory cooperating with American industry and commerce in the solution of many problems of enormous value in industry which the commercial laboratories of the country, from lack of equipment and personnel, have been unable to undertake.

While the Massachusetts Institute of Technology is to be congratulated on securing Dr. Stratton, one can not overlook the fact that the desperately poor pay which our government gives to great experts makes it impossible for us to retain men capable of performing the great responsibilities which are placed upon them.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology, an educational institution, finds no difficulty in paying a man of Dr. Stratton's calibre three times the salary the government is able to pay him.

Dr. Stratton has repeatedly refused large offers before, but the inability of the scientific men in the government to properly support themselves and their families under the living conditions in Washington, and to make any provision for old age, makes it impossible for any responsible department head to secure such men for public service at government salaries.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

ON October 5 the new biological building of McGill University, erected at a cost of over \$500,000, was formally opened. The exercises were presided over by the principal, Sir Arthur Currie. Sir Charles Sherrington, P.R.S., Waynfleet professor of physiology at Oxford University, gave the opening address. He was followed by Dr. Harvey Cushing, of Harvard University. Lectures were also given by Dr. H. J. Hamburger, professor of physiology, University of Groningen, Netherlands, who spoke on "A new form of correlation between organs," and by Dr. John M. Coulter, professor of botany of the University of Chicago, whose subject was "The botanical perspective."

THE Faraday Medal of the British Institution of Electrical Engineers, the first award of which was made by the council in the early part of the year to Mr. Oliver Heaviside, was personally presented to him by Mr. J. S. Highfield, president of the institution, at Torquay, on September 9.

THE University of Leeds has conferred the honorary degree of doctor of science on Sir Charles Scott Sherrington, the Duc de Broglie, Paris; Dr. C. G. Joh. Petersen, director of the Danish Biological Station, Copenhagen, and Professor P. Weiss, director of the Physical Laboratory, University of Strasbourg.

MR. GANO DUNN, president of the J. G. White Engineering Corporation of New York City, and second vice-chairman of the National Research Council, has been appointed a delegate from the Research Council to the Pan-Pacific Commercial Conference meeting in Honolulu from October 25 to November 7.

DR. MARTIN H. FISCHER, professor of physiology in the University of Cincinnati, has been elected a foreign member of the Leopoldinisch Carolinische Akademie of Halle, in the Division of Scientific Medicine.

DR. OLIVER BOWLES, of the United States Bureau of Mines, has been admitted as an honorary member of the Institution of Quarry Managers of Great Britain.

At a recent meeting of the Committee on Science and the Arts of the Franklin Institute, an award of the Howard N. Potts Medal was granted to Dr. Charles Raymond Downs and Mr. John Morris Weiss of New York "in consideration of their notable achievement in the scientific and commercial development of the catalytic vapor-phase oxidation of benzene to maleic acid and their pioneer work in developing a commercial process for changing aromatic to aliphatic compounds."

PROFESSOR HÜPPE, who was for many years director of the Hygienic Institute in Prague, celebrated, on Aug. 24, his seventieth birthday.

A MEYRICKE SCHOLARSHIP at Jesus College, Oxford, open to graduates of the University of Wales and of St. Davids College, Lampeter, has been awarded to Leon Rubinstein, of Uni-

versity College, Aberystwyth, with a view to research in chemistry.

DR. J. A. DETLEFSEN, who has leave of absence from the University of Illinois, will spend the coming year at the Wistar Institute of Anatomy and Biology, Philadelphia.

DR. JOSEPH SWAIN, former president of Swarthmore College and of Indiana University, previously professor of mathematics and a contributor to biological science, and Mrs. Swain, are spending a year in Japan and China.

DR. EDMUND OTIS HOVEY spent six weeks during the past summer in making a western tour partly in behalf of the American Museum of Natural History. His special object was to secure photographic and other data in the Pike's Peak region, the region of San Francisco Bay, and at Crater Lake, for use in the construction of relief models at the museum.

DR. R. C. FARMER has accepted the position of deputy director of explosives research at the British War Office Research Department.

WE learn from *Nature* that a committee has been appointed by the British secretary for mines to undertake research, under the general direction of the safety in mines research board, into the causes of, and the means of preventing, the ignition of firedamp and coal dust by the firing of explosives. The committee has been constituted as follows: Sir F. L. Nathan, Mr. W. Rintoul, Dr. G. Rotter, Mr. H. Walker, and Professor R. V. Wheeler. A grant has been made by the miners' welfare committee out of the miners' welfare fund to meet the cost of initiating the research.

THE Harvard College Observatory is being opened from 7:30 P.M. to 9 P.M. on the following dates: October 13, October 28, November 13, November 28, December 12. A short illustrated talk will be preceded, when the weather permits, by telescopic observations of celestial objects. Exhibits showing the work of the observatory will be explained by members of the staff. A limited number of tickets of admission for any one of the open nights is supplied on application but must be obtained in advance. There is no charge for admission.

The titles include: "Astronomical tests of the relativity theory," "The Harvard Observatory Station in Peru," "The large observatories of the west," "Scientific work for the amateur astronomer."

DR. WALTER B. CANNON, professor of physiology in the Harvard Medical School, gave an address before the Richmond Academy of Medicine and Surgery, September 26.

DR. RUDOLPH MATAS, head of the department of surgery at Tulane University, New Orleans, recently sailed for France where he attended the annual congress of French surgeons on October 2 and addressed the congress on "The surgery of blood vessels."

THE New York Academy of Medicine has organized a celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Louis Pasteur, which is to consist of a public exhibition, in the building of the academy, commencing on December 27, the anniversary date, and culminating at the end of a fortnight in an evening of public addresses by distinguished members of the medical profession. The exhibition will consist of a collection of Pasteur memorabilia, such as books, manuscripts, photographs, engravings, medals, etc., illustrating the life work of Pasteur.

F. T. TROUTON, F.R.S., emeritus professor of physics in the University of London, died on September 21, at the age of fifty-eight years.

THE death is announced of Mr. Louis Heathcote Walter, who had been editor of *Science Abstracts* since 1903.

DR. J. K. A. WERTHEIM SALOMONSON, professor of neurology and radiology at Amsterdam University, died on September 16 at the age of fifty-eight years.

THE spring meeting of the American Chemical Society will be held at New Haven, Conn., from April 3 to 7, 1923, inclusive.

THE General Hospital Society of Connecticut is residuary legatee of the estate, believed to be considerably in excess of \$1,000,000, of Mrs. Sarah L. Winchester, after certain bequests and life estates are taken from it. Mr. Winchester established a tuberculosis annex to a hospital at New Haven, where the Winchester

Arms Company's plant is located, and it was to continue that work that funds were bequeathed to the General Hospital Society.

THE annual meeting of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists will be held in the Field Museum, Chicago, on Friday, October 27, immediately following the meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union. All persons interested in any line of investigation relating to fishes, amphibians or reptiles are cordially invited to be present and take part in the meeting. Those desiring to present papers should communicate with the committee on arrangements, Karl P. Schmidt or Alfred C. Weed, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago.

ACCORDING to the September issue of the *Decimal Educator*, the official organ of the Decimal Association, as abstracted in *Nature*, the metric system has been or is soon to be adopted in Greece, Poland, Haiti and Japan, while the Russian government is rapidly introducing it into its administrative departments. The British Chamber of Commerce in the Argentine and the consul for Bolivia again warn British exporters of the futility of quoting in pounds, shillings and pence for amounts specified in imperial weights and measures. Mr. W. A. Appleton, secretary of the General Federation of Trade Unions, states that "these weights and measures of ours cheat the home buyer and arouse the suspicion of the foreigner," and asks how many buyers know the difference in weight of a peck of potatoes and a peck of peas. The Lancashire cotton market has ceased to quote cotton in sixty-fourths of a penny and now gives the price in hundredths, but we still appear likely to fulfil the prediction of Augustus de Morgan and "adopt the metric system when every other country has done so." Sir Richard Gregory, president of the association, recommends in an introductory article that the metric system should be made the sole legal system in all departments of state, and the nation thus prepared for its general introduction, which is bound to come in its time, as it is foolish to expect the world to adopt the imperial as an international system.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

A TRUST agreement made by Mrs. Lydia C. Chamberlain, formerly of Des Moines, Iowa, who lived for many years in New York City, giving \$419,000 to Columbia University for fellowships, has been upheld in the Supreme Court, but an attempt by Mrs. Chamberlain in her will to distribute the rest of her estate to Columbia also under the trust agreement, has been set aside. Mrs. Chamberlain directs that the income from the gift be used to establish "graduate" and "traveling" fellowships, to be restricted to men or women who were born in Iowa, graduated from Iowa institutions, and who return to live in Iowa. The amount payable yearly is limited to \$850.

A CAMPAIGN is being conducted to raise \$10,000,000 for the University of Southern California, Los Angeles. Plans provide for a medical school and teaching hospital which will cost, on completion, approximately \$3,500,000.

THE Prudential Insurance Company of America has made a presentation of its entire sections on geological and geographical science to the library of Wellesley College. The collection includes over 3,000 volumes, publications and maps.

DR. ELMER PIKE has been appointed medical director of the University of Vermont, to succeed Dr. David Marvin.

DR. ARTHUR HOLMES, recently president of Drake University, has been elected professor of psychology in the University of Pennsylvania, where he will have charge of the welfare of men students.

MR. ALBERT J. WALCOTT, a graduate of the University of Michigan, and for the last three years carrying on research work in optical glass with the Bausch & Lomb Optical Company, has been appointed lecturer in mineralogy at Northwestern University.

RAYMOND M. DEMING, formerly instructor in mathematics at the Case School of Applied Science, has been appointed professor and head of the mathematics department at Upper Iowa University, Fayette.