

who has laid aside research problems, one after another, but also to promote the advancement of our science.

Effective November 16, W. C. Mendenhall, for more than ten years the geologist in charge of the Lang Classification Board, will be chief geologist. Mr. Mendenhall's twenty-eight years service in the Survey as assistant geologist and geologist, with field experience extending from the Southern Appalachians to Alaska, is a promise of his broad sympathy with all the problems that will come under his direction, and his notable success in using the data contributed by the field branches in the classification of the public lands is equally a promise of effective administration.

Mr. Mendenhall will be succeeded as chief of the Land Classification Board by Herman Stabler, his close associate in that branch during the past decade. Mr. Stabler's demonstrated capacity both in research and in administration assures the continuance of the successful application of geologic and engineering facts and principles to public land administration.

The return of Mr. White to productive research suggests anew the sacrifice involved in the administration of scientific work. Administration by scientists is the key-note of the Survey's policy, yet the intellectual cost item involved in this drafting of our best investigators must be kept down to a minimum. Had I been free from other demands on my time this past summer, I should have taken this occasion to start a somewhat radical reorganization of the Geologic Branch, the chief purpose of which would be to reduce its administrative overhead—too many geologists are giving valuable time to work for which they were not trained. Necessarily now, this task of simplifying the organization must be left to the new chief geologist and the acting director, but I ask for them a sympathetic acceptance of the proposal for a less elaborate but more elastic grouping of the activities of the branch. Not machinery but product is the measure of efficiency in a government scientific bureau.

GEO. OTIS SMITH,
Director

THE NEW BUILDING OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

ON the afternoon of Monday, October 30, the cornerstone was laid of the new building of the National Academy of Sciences and of the National Research Council at Washington, D. C. This building, construction of which has now been carried above the main floor, occupies a desirable location upon an entire block of land north of the Lincoln Memorial at the western end of the Mall, commanding an excellent and permanent view of the Memorial, the Riverside Park and the bank of the Potomac beyond. The land for this building was purchased through contributions from a group of twenty friends of science.

The building is designed for two main purposes: To house the offices of the two organizations for which it is erected, and to provide space for the exhibition of materials representing certain of the great achievements of science in the past and especially of recent contributions of particular significance in the progress of science. The building presents a façade to the southward 260 feet in length, and will rise to a height of 60 feet above the first floor. In this section there will be three floors for offices, library and special exhibits rooms. Behind this will be a rotunda for general exhibition purposes which will be convertible at need into a lecture room accommodating, with its galleries, over 400 people. The plans permit the addition of other units similar to the southern façade, to complete a quadrangle around the rotunda. The building is being faced with white Dover marble of fine quality and color which makes it in keeping with the other monumental buildings of the city. The cost of the unit at present under construction will be over \$1,000,000. The funds for the erection of the building were provided by the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

The laying of the cornerstone was a ceremony of the simplest kind without the presentation of any addresses. It was attended by officers and members of the academy and of the Research Council, among whom was the Honorable Herbert Hoover, secretary of commerce.

The stone, itself, bearing the date "1922" and the initials "N. A. S." and "N. R. C.," occupies a position high in the wall of the first story at the southwestern corner of the building. Within a copper box in the stone were placed significant documents connected with the founding of the National Academy and of the Research Council and lists of the members of both organizations. It is expected that the building will be ready for occupancy in the fall of 1923.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE National Academy of Sciences will hold its autumn meeting in New York on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, November 14-16, 1922. The meetings on Tuesday will be at Columbia University, and, so far as possible, papers from the sections of astronomy, chemistry, geology and paleontology will be assigned to this day. On Wednesday the meetings will be at the Rockefeller Institute, with papers from the sections of botany, zoology and animal morphology, physiology and pathology, and anthropology and psychology. On Thursday the meetings will be in the auditorium of the United Engineering Societies Building with papers from the sections of mathematics, physics and engineering. The local committee for the meeting consists of J. F. Kemp, *chairman*, T. H. Morgan, Simon Flexner, J. J. Carty, F. B. Jewett and F. M. Chapman.

THE Henry Jacob Bigelow medal of the Boston Surgical Society was presented to Dr. William W. Keen, of Philadelphia "for conspicuous contributions to the advancement of surgery," on the evening of October 25, when Dr. Keen addressed the society on "Sixty years of surgery, 1862-1922."

MEMBERS of the faculty and alumni of the University of Chicago recently contributed a fund for a portrait of Professor A. A. Michelson, who for thirty years has been head of the department of physics in the university. The portrait has been completed by Ralph Clarkson.

ON the occasion of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Dutch Zoological Society there were admitted as honorary mem-

bers: Professor O. Abel, Vienna; Professor M. Caullery, Paris; Professor L. Dollo, Brussels; Professor B. Grassi, Rome; Professor V. Häcker, Halle; Professor S. J. Hickson, Manchester; Professor N. Holmgren, Stockholm; Professor T. H. Morgan, New York; Dr. F. Sarasin, Basle, and Dr. J. Schmidt, Copenhagen.

THE British Institution of Mining and Metallurgy has awarded its gold medal to Sir Alfred Keogh, "on the occasion of his retirement from the rectorship of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, in recognition of his great services in the advancement of technological education."

DR. GEORGE OTIS SMITH has resigned the directorship of the United States Geological Survey, in order that he may qualify legally as a member of the United States Coal Commission. It is understood that the President hopes that Dr. Smith will be willing to resume his work as director of the survey when his service as member of the coal commission comes to an end.

WE learn from *Nature* that Mr. E. Leonard Gill has been appointed to fill the vacant assistantship in the Natural History Department of the Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh. Mr. Gill has already had museum experience in Leicester and Manchester, and for almost twenty years has been in charge of the Hancock Museum at Newcastle-on-Tyne.

MR. T. RUSSELL GODDARD, assistant curator at the Sunderland Museum, has been appointed curator of the Hancock Museum, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

DR. C. R. ORTON, plant pathologist at the Pennsylvania State College, has been appointed a member of the division of biology and agriculture of the National Research Council.

THE board of managers of the Wistar Institute has elected Dr. J. A. Detlefsen to a professorship for the duration of his sabbatical year as a courtesy and to make possible the continuation of investigations carried on at the College of Agriculture of the University of Illinois.