

O. Jordan, University of Chicago; George C. Whipple, Harvard University; Gary N. Calkins, Columbia University, and Charles-E. A. Winslow, Yale University. The first William Thompson Sedgwick Memorial Lecture will be given in Huntington Hall, 491 Boylston Street, Boston, on Friday, December 29, at five o'clock, by Dr. Edmund Beecher Wilson, Da Costa professor of zoology at Columbia University, on "The physical basis of life." The lecture will form part of the program of the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Society of Naturalists and other societies during convocation week.

It is announced from Stockholm that since it has been decided not to award the Nobel Prize for Medicine for 1921, the prize will be added to the Special Medical Fund. The 1922 prize is reserved for next year.

THE Méthane Association, organized in 1916 with the object of advancing industrial chemistry in Poland, has been reorganized as an Institute of Research, and Professor Moscicki has been appointed director. The government of Poland has made a grant of land in the neighborhood of Warsaw, where buildings for the institute will be erected.

WILLIAM EASTMAN STANDOW, a graduate of the University of Denver and a graduate student at Columbia University, was killed by an explosion in the chemical laboratory on November 17, through the explosion of a chamber containing aniline hydrochloride.

PROFESSOR JEREMIAH GEORGE MOSIER, for twenty years in charge of the work in soil physics at the University of Illinois, died on November 10, 1922, at the age of sixty years. A correspondent writes: Professor Mosier graduated from the University of Illinois in 1893. He then became an assistant in geology in the same institution, in which position he served for three years. After a period spent in high-school teaching he reentered the service of his university in 1902 to take up the work in soil physics, a subject which at that time was largely undeveloped. Professor Mosier was an unusually inspiring teacher and he has won the love and respect of the hundreds of students who have come under his instruction. In

his field of investigation his interest was broad; but some of the problems which engaged his especial attention were the prevention of soil washing on hilly land, the effect of cultivation, climatological observations, and the soil survey of Illinois, upon all of which topics he made notable published contributions. Professor Mosier's chief interest lay, perhaps, in the soil survey of Illinois, he having been in direct charge of the mapping since the beginning of the survey. Under his direction about four fifths of the state have been mapped. Through his long experience in this connection, he acquired an expert knowledge of soil types that made of him a widely recognized authority in soil classification.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

THE \$1,600,000 financial development project for Dickinson College and Pennington Seminary has been brought to a successful conclusion. Of this amount, Dickinson, it is reported, will receive \$1,250,000 and Pennington \$350,000. The money will be used for buildings, betterment, liquidation and endowment.

GROUND has been broken for the new laboratory of the department of hygiene and bacteriology of the University of Chicago, which when completed will be devoted to bacteriology and chemical research. It will be erected at a cost of \$50,000.

UNDER the will of the late Sir William Dunn a further sum of £45,000 now accrues to the School of Biochemistry of the University of Cambridge, making a total gift for the purpose of the school of £210,000.

PAUL MARTYN LINCOLN, of Cleveland, Ohio, has been elected professor of electrical engineering and director of the School of Electrical Engineering in Cornell University. Professor Lincoln, who is a practicing engineer, was professor of electrical engineering at the University of Pittsburgh from 1911 to 1915. He was president of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers in 1914.

CHARLES HARLAN ABBOTT, PH. D. has resigned his position at the Massachusetts Agricultural College to accept the professorship of

zoology at the University of Redlands, California.

DR. J. R. CURRIE, a senior medical officer of the Scottish Board of Health, has been appointed to the chair of preventive medicine in Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario.

DR. H. STANLEY ALLEN, of the University of Edinburgh, has been appointed to the chair of natural philosophy in the United College, St. Andrews, which has become vacant by the retirement of Professor Butler.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF TECHNICAL JOURNALS

It is a not uncommon practice for members of the faculties of our colleges, universities, and other schools to enrich the libraries of these institutions by donating copies of technical journals received by the individual either by subscription or by virtue of membership in some scientific society. This loyalty to the local institution is natural and laudable from the standpoint of the institution, but it may, perhaps, not be realized that if every one of our colleges and universities were to depend upon such gifts for their files of scientific periodicals there would shortly, in the case of many such publications, not be any journal to donate, so inadequate is the financial support of scientific publications.

With the exception of those journals, such, for example, as the chemical journals, which have a large and financially profitable circulation among practical workers outside of libraries and faculties, many of our journals devoted to pure science are barely, or not at all, able to exist except for generous subsidies. Outside of members of societies of which the publications may be the official organ, paid subscriptions may be expected only from a very few individuals not members, from a very small number of public libraries in our larger cities, and from educational institutions.

It is a matter of record that many of our journals devoted to publishing the results of research do not have subscriptions from more than a small fraction of American institutions

maintaining a department in the given science, and in many cases this results because some member of the departmental staff contributes his personal copy to the library.

One of our biological journals recently faced the necessity of either securing a generous additional subsidy, or of increasing its subscription rate by one dollar a year, or of suspending publication. The subsidy was not forthcoming and so the subscription price was advanced. Notice to this effect was followed by cancellation of subscription, not by one of our private, struggling, small colleges, but by one of the largest of our state universities. The letter of cancellation stated that the institution would hereafter depend upon a donated copy.

The existence of all of the journals of the class referred to is a matter of vital importance to the colleges and universities. None of them is maintained for its own sake as a business venture. Practically all of them were established because of the impossibility of securing the publication of the results of research with any degree of promptness—often not within a year or eighteen months, or even longer, after the completion of the manuscript.

Our colleges and universities should regard practically all of these journals as established primarily for their advantage, and the journals in turn are justified in expecting support from these institutions to the extent of at least one subscription. The donation of personal copies by professors to the library of their institution may help the library to the extent of a few dollars, but the present extent of this practice is depriving journals, indispensable to donor and benefactor alike, of hundreds of dollars each of support annually.

It is an interesting but regrettable fact that, while it is comparatively easy to obtain money for research, nothing is much more difficult to secure funds for than the publication of the results of research.

C. STUART GAGER

ACOUSTICAL RESEARCH

THE quotation from the London *Times* on the subject of Acoustical Research (November 3, 1922) conveys an impression which seems to need correction.