

being offered as a gift to the University by Mr. Lewis Evans, F.S.A. The new museums in Oxford have regretfully declined the offer, owing to lack of space. The upper rooms of the Old Ashmolean are standing empty. Mr. Evans's gift is conditional upon his instruments being properly displayed. Their acquisition, in addition to those instruments which are already in the possession of the colleges, would certainly put Oxford in a preeminent position.

When it is remembered that, in the fourteenth and again in the seventeenth centuries, Oxford was the principal home of British science, and that the Ashmolean was a child of the Scientific Renaissance, and for a century and a half the center of the scientific life of Oxford, there is a greater appropriateness in these Oxford collections of early scientific instruments and specimens going there than anywhere else in the world.

THE NATIONAL OFFICE OF EUGENICS IN BELGIUM

ACCORDING to the *Eugenical News*, there was inaugurated at Bruxelles a Belgian National Office of Eugenics. This occupies one of the small rooms of the Solvay Institute of Sociology, situated in the charming Parc Léopold of that city. The director of the new Eugenics Office is Dr. A. Govaerts, who is assisted by Mr. W. Schraenen, an anthropological assistant to Dr. L. Vervaeck, physician of the prison. It is understood that the Institute Solvay has made an appropriation of 10,000 fr. and that Mr. Armand Solvay will make a personal gift of 7,000 fr. Among those who have been instrumental in the establishment of the office may be mentioned, first of all, Dr. M. F. Boulenger, director of the School of the Feeble-Minded at Waterloo and president of the Société Belge d'Eugénique; M. Berryer, Minister of the Interior and of Hygiene; the surgeon general of the Belgian Army, Willemaerts; Col. Noterman, head of the Army Institute of Physical Military Training; H. Velghe, director general of hygiene in the Department of the Interior; M. Dom, director general of justice; M. Vandervelde, Minister of State; M. Wittemans, senator; M. Gheude, senator of the Province of Brabant; Dr. Bayet, member of the Royal Academy of Medicine; M. Brunet, president of the House of Representatives; Professor Demoor, delegate of the Academy of Medicine; M. Hostelet, director of the Sol-

vay Institute of Sociology. Others who participated in social affairs connected with the congress were Dr. and Mrs. Leclerc-Dandoy, of the University; Professor Ley; Dr. Péchère, Dr. R. Sand and the Rev. Père Fallon. At the meeting of the International Commission in Antwerp the mayor of the city announced that an appropriation had been made for a branch office of the National Office of Eugenics, to be located at Antwerp.

SIR EDWARD SHARPEY SCHAFFER, F.R.S.

SOME time ago the suggestion was made that the meeting of the British Association in Edinburgh in 1921 would form a fitting occasion for the presentation to Sir Edward Sharpey Schaffer of some token of their esteem from his present and past demonstrators and fellow research workers first in London and afterwards in Edinburgh.

As so many of those who had been trained under him now occupy posts in distant lands it was found impossible to make the necessary arrangements for the presentation at that early date, but Professor Halliburton made a statement at one of the largely attended meetings of the Physiology Section, expressing the desire of all who had been associated with their old master in the prosecution of physiological research to present him with some mark of their esteem and affection, and indicating the form it would probably take. It was appropriate that the announcement should be made in Edinburgh, for Sir Edward Sharpey Schaffer has been professor of physiology there since 1899.

It was decided that the presentation should consist of a life-size portrait plaque, and that a medal reproducing the portrait and inscription should be offered to each of the many subscribers. The plaque and the medal are the work of Mr. C. d'O. Pilkington Jackson, A.R.B.A., and the portrait is excellent. The obverse bears in bold relief the bust of Sir Edward Sharpey Schaffer and the reverse contains a dedicatory inscription. The plaque itself is of bronze and has been mounted on stone with the inscription shown on the reverse of the medal underneath it. At Sir Edward Sharpey Schaffer's desire it will eventually be placed within the University of Edinburgh, but at present it remains in the sculptor's

studio, as he wishes to exhibit it at the Royal Scottish Academy.

The long list of subscribers includes many of the leaders in physiology and other branches of medical science in this and other lands: a few of them may be named—Bayliss, Rose Bradford, Halliburton, L. Hill, MacWilliam, Mott, Starling, in Great Britain; and Hunter and Tait (Canada), Jolly (S. Africa), Malcolm and Mackenzie (New Zealand), Addis and S. Simpson (U. S. A.), Row (India), Itagaki and others (Japan). Among the original subscribers were two of great distinction who have unfortunately passed away—Augustus Waller and Benjamin Moore.

The profession will join in congratulating Sir Edward Sharpey Schafer on this spontaneous tribute from his old pupils and fellow workers to his eminence as a physiologist, and to the inspiration of his teaching, and also in the hope that he still has before him many years of successful work.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF SERUMS

DR. AUGUSTUS B. WADSWORTH, director of the division of laboratories and research of the New York State Department of Health, has returned to Albany from Paris, where he represented the Rockefeller Institute on the international committee appointed by the League of Nations to standardize serums for the treatment and prevention of pneumonia, meningitis, diphtheria and other diseases. Dr. Wadsworth makes the following statement in regard to the work of this committee:

The Second International Conference on the Standardization of Serums and Serological Tests of the Health Committee was held under the auspices of the League of Nations, November 20 to 26 inclusive, at the Pasteur Institute in Paris. Professor Theodore Madsen, president of the Health Section of the League of Nations, presided at the conference. Opening addresses were made by Dr. Roux, the discoverer of diphtheria toxin, and the French minister. It is noteworthy that the invitations were extended by the Pasteur Institute and that in the interests of science and humanity the representatives of nine different nations found common ground for this first meeting on French soil. We all shared and enjoyed alike the cordial hospitality of the French scientists.

Immediately after convening the members of the conference were assigned to committees to

facilitate the business. Professor Jules Bordet, director of the Pasteur Institute in Brussels, was appointed chairman of the sub-committee on serological tests; Professor Louis Martin of the Pasteur Institute, of the sub-committee on the standardization of tetanus and diphtheria antitoxin; Professor Cantacuzene, of Bucharest, of the sub-committee on antidyentery serum; Professor Neufeld, director of the Robert Koch Institute in Berlin, of the sub-committee on antipneumococcus serum. I was assigned to three of the sub-committees and served as chairman of the sub-committee on the standardization of anti-meningococcus serum.

Progress toward international standardization of serums and serological tests is necessarily a slow one because of the differences in the methods that are used in the several countries, but for this reason the importance and practical value of the work is all the more apparent. Despite the many different points of view, the practical results from the free discussion were most encouraging. If such conferences can be repeated it is not difficult to understand that the ultimate results in improvement of methods used throughout the civilized world will be of the greatest significance for humanity.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. W. W. CAMPBELL, director of the Lick Observatory, Mount Hamilton, California, on January 4 was unanimously named president of the University of California by the University Board of Regents. He succeeds Dr. Davis Prescott Barrows at the end of the present college semester. The regents agreed to a proposal by Dr. Campbell that he remain as a director of the Lick Observatory as a "dollar a year" man. He will take office on July 1, when Dr. Barrows will become professor of political science.

DR. SAMUEL WESLEY STRATTON, director of the Bureau of Standards, was the guest of honor at a farewell reception at the bureau on December 14. The program included an exhibit of the work of the bureau and a visit to a number of the industrial laboratories. Dr. Stratton was presented with a silver service from the members of the staff.

PROFESSOR G. A. MILLER of the University of Illinois was reelected a member of the council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science at the Boston meeting,