# SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

## CHEMICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY OF BIBLIOGRAPHIES

A RÉSUMÉ of the literature of the problem in which he is interested is the first need of every research worker in the field of chemistry and chemical technology, as well as in other fields of science. To meet this need it is necessary either to find or compile a bibliography of the subject. Unless the problem is very specialized, or of very recent interest, the chances are that somewhere is a list of references, more or less complete, bearing directly or indirectly upon the topic. To believe that it is *somewhere* is an incentive to the search, but to know *where* it is, is to eliminate the search and arrive at the goal.

Books or articles which are primarily bibliographic are so noted in various abstract journals and indexes and are, therefore, easy to find, but a list of references appended to an article or a book, however valuable or complete, is seldom mentioned in the abstract of the article or the index of the journal, and may be entirely lost as a bibliographic aid.

About two years ago the Research Information Service of the National Research Council enlisted the help of several men in the preparation of a key to scientific bibliographies, each man undertaking to prepare the work in his respective science. The bibliography of bibliographies on geology is now in press and active work is under way in those for chemistry and chemical technology, astronomy and physics.

In the field of chemistry and chemical technology about 6,000 references have already been collected, including separate bibliographies, lists of references appended to articles or books and comprehensive reviews of the literature. This field is so wide and the subjects covered so numerous that the cooperation of the specialists in the various branches would be very desirable. If you, the reader, have references to bibliographies in your special field you will facilitate the completion of this work by sending such references to the compiler of the Bibliography of Bibliographies in Chemistry and Chemical Technology at the National Research Council. Any annotation which you may make on the completeness or value of the refcrences will be appreciated.

Work is being pushed toward the early publication of this bibliography at which time notices will appear in all the scientific and technical journals so that those interested may secure copies.

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## THE WALTER RATHBONE BACON SCHOLARSHIP

UNDER the terms of the will of the late Virginia Purdy Bacon, of New York, the Smithsonian Institution was bequeathed the sum of $50,000 to establish a traveling scholarship as a memorial to her husband, Walter Rathbone Bacon.

The secretary of the Smithsonian Institution has recently approved the rules which are to regulate the award of the Walter Rathbone Bacon scholarship for the study of the fauna of countries other than the United States of America. The amount available is the interest on the capital invested (about $2,500 a year), the incumbent to hold the scholarship not less than two years.

Applications for this scholarship, addressed to the secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, should be submitted not later than October 1, 1923. The application should contain a detailed plan for the proposed study, including a statement as to the faunal problems involved; the reasons why it should be undertaken; the benefits that are expected to accrue; the length of time considered necessary for the carrying out of the project; the estimated cost; and the scientific and physical qualifications of the applicant to undertake the project.

The scholarship will be awarded for a term of two years. If at the expiration of the term it is desired to extend the time, the incumbent shall make application a sufficient time in advance, accompanied by a statement as to the necessity for such extension.

All collections, photographs, records and equipment become the property of the institution.

The incumbent shall not engage in work for remuneration or receive salary from other sources than the institution or its branches during the period of occupancy of the scholarship.

W. DEC. RAVENEL,
*Acting Secretary*
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

## A PROPOSED AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF OCEANOGRAPHY

AT the meeting of the Regents of the University of California, held on June 19, Dr. T. Wayland Vaughan was appointed director of the Scripps Institution for Biological Research. Although the new director's incumbency dates from July 1, 1923, his work as a member of the United States Geological Survey makes it impossible for him to move to La Jolla and assume actual charge of the institution's affairs until January or February, 1924.

Dr. F. B. Sumner, of the staff of the institution, was at the same time appointed to act as director in Dr. Vaughan's absence.

As bearing on the significance of the selection of a director for the institution, the following from the last annual report of the retiring director, Dr. Wm. E. Ritter, submitted to the president of the university some weeks before the action of the regents, may interest readers of SCIENCE:

An important change of policy to accompany the change of administration has been recommended by the retiring director and favored by the outgoing and incoming presidents of the university.

The recommendation is that the new director be selected with sole reference to the work upon the ocean and its life and that as rapidly as may be without harm to any of the investigations now in progress, the program be made exclusively oceanographic, the understanding to be that both the biology and the physics (physics being understood to include every aspect of the ocean as such) be included in the program on an equal footing. The suggestion is that an Institute of Oceanography be aimed at that shall finally have a scope and character worthy of the Pacific, the greatest of the oceans; and worthy also of the greatness of the United States as a nation and of the State of California. Cognizance is taken of the fact that although the United States fronts extensively upon the two main oceans of the earth on both of which she is vitally dependent, there is not within her domain a single institution devoted to the science of the ocean.

It is recognized that the carrying out of so ambitious a plan would have to be a matter of years so extensive and expensive would be the manning and physical appliances necessary. But when viewed in the light of what has already been accomplished in this domain by the institution during the brief period of its existence, and with the small means at its command; and especially when the whole matter is viewed in the light of what has been accomplished in the same general domain by other instrumentalities in other parts of the world, it is not felt that the plan is unreasonably ambitious. It is confidently believed that under the right leadership something approximating what is suggested can be brought about.

The proposal, it may be said, has been widely discussed with scientific men of the country whose interests are kindred to those here involved, and also with Mr. E. W. Scripps and Miss Ellen B. Scripps, all of whom have endorsed it.

## AWARD TO DR. SVEDBERG

IN recognition of his leadership as an international authority on colloid chemistry and his success in the direction of research work at the University of Wisconsin during the past semester, the University of Wisconsin has conferred the honorary degree of doctor of science upon The. Svedberg, of the University of Upsala, at the June Commencement. On presentation of Dr. Svedberg to the president, for the degree, Professor F. L. Paxson, chairman of the Committee on Award of Honorary Degrees, said:

The. Svedberg received his doctor's degree only sixteen years ago, yet to-day his laboratories in the ancient University of Upsala are recognized as the world's most active spot for the study of the formation and properties of colloids. Chemical science has advanced in those sixteen years. It has nearly revolutionized the arts of war; and the needs of war in turn have brought profound changes in the approach to chemistry. From the interactions of the two there is promise that the quiet life of mankind will forever be improved.

During the past semester, as a resident in the University of Wisconsin, Professor Svedberg has brought to his department a fresh scholarship and a new technique. He has continued here that peaceful conquest of his colleagues that has marked his career in Sweden. And the results of his inspiring teaching are already to be seen in a growing disposition to look to this university as a center for the study of the special field that he has mastered and illuminated.

## PROFESSOR PAVLOV'S VISIT TO AMERICA[1]

THE three weeks spent in America by Dr. Ivan Petrovitch Pavlov, winner of the Nobel Prize for medicine in 1904, and one of the most distinguished physiologists in the world, have not been pleasant. He was robbed of $2,000 in a train in the Grand Central Terminal, was forced to become the guest of the Rockefeller Institute because of his predicament and then was refused a British visé to his passport because he was a Russian.

As a result, Dr. Pavlov, who will sail to-day on the White Star liner *Majestic,* will not be able to attend the Edinburgh Congress of Physiologists, where his presence was desired by his fellow scientists. With his son, Professor Vladmir Pavlov, he will leave the *Majestic* at Cherbourg under a French visé which was readily granted to him, and after a short stay in France will return to Russia.

Dr. Pavlov is a tall, distinguished looking man, straight despite his 75 years. He left Russia, where he conducts laboratories in Petrograd, to attend the Pasteur anniversary celebration in Paris. He came to this country three weeks ago and after a few days started for New Haven to visit friends. Few persons knew that he was in the country, for if they had he would have been welcomed by scientists here as a celebrated physiologist.

He and his son had hardly taken their seats on a train in the Grand Central Station when three men set upon the old man and snatched from him his pocketbook, containing all their funds, $2,000. The porter and the son attempted to catch them, but were unsuccessful, and the old man and his son left the train, perplexed as to what they should do in their predicament. They finally got in touch with Dr. P. A.

[1] From the New York *Times.*