

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<sup>1</sup>

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 Vladimir 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.

<sup>1</sup> From the New York Times.