

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. A. A. NOYES, director of chemical research in the California Institute of Technology; Dr. T. W. Richards, professor of chemistry in Harvard University, and Dr. E. B. Wilson, professor of zoology in Columbia University, have been elected foreign honorary fellows of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

DR. C. F. CHANDLER, professor emeritus in Columbia University, has been elected an honorary member of the Society of Chemical Industry, of which he is a past president.

PROFESSOR JOHN MERLE COULTER, head of the Department of Botany at the University of Chicago, has been elected an honorary fellow of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh.

THE University of Strasbourg has conferred on Dr. Jacques Loeb, member of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, the title of doctor *honoris causa* of the university.

PROFESSOR A. EINSTEIN has been elected a member of the Prussian order "Pour le mérite."

DR. L. H. BAEKELAND, of Yonkers, N. Y., honorary professor of chemical engineering in Columbia University, has been made "Officier de la Legion d'Honneur" by the French Republic. Dr. Baekeland is president of the Bakelite Corporation and of the General Bakelite Company and past-president of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and of the American Electrochemical Society.

PROFESSOR PITRES, neurologist and former dean of the Bordeaux faculty of medicine, has been elected a member of the Paris Academy of Moral and Political Sciences.

DR. R. H. TODD and Dr. W. T. Hayward are the first recipients of a gold medal instituted by the British Medical Association in Australia for "distinguished service." It is to be presented at the congress of the association to be held in Melbourne in November.

DR. EMMANUEL DE MARGERIE, director of the geological map service of Alsace and Lorraine, who has spent several months in the United States, returned to France on the steamship *Paris*, which sailed on July 7.

THE twenty-fifth anniversary of the graduation of Professor F. A. H. Schreinemakers in the University of Leyden on July 7 is being marked by the issue of a special number of the *Recueil des travaux chimiques des Pays-Bas* which will contain more than sixty articles in English, French, German and Italian by colleagues, pupils and friends.

DR. MELVILLE T. COOK, professor of plant pathology at Rutgers College, has accepted an appointment as expert on diseases of sugar-cane at the Insular Experiment Station at Rio Piedras, Porto Rico. Dr. Cook was plant pathologist for the Cuban government from 1904 to 1906.

DR. LELAND E. COFER, of New York City, has been appointed director of the division of industrial hygiene of the State Department of Labor. Dr. Cofer has been an officer in the United States Public Health Service for over thirty years and has served two terms as assistant surgeon general of the United States, a position he was filling when he was assigned by the United States Public Health Service as health officer of the port of New York.

DR. HAROLD HIBBERT, associate professor of applied chemistry at Yale University, is in England and expects to visit cellulose chemists in Europe.

PROFESSOR LESTER W. SHARP, who has been granted sabbatic leave of absence from the department of botany at Cornell University for the first semester of the coming academic year, will spend the late summer and autumn in northern Europe, chiefly at the Universities of Stockholm, Copenhagen and Louvain. He left Ithaca late in July and will return in November.

DR. JOHN A. MILLER, vice-president of Swarthmore College and head of the Sproul Observatory, left on July 13 with several other scientists to observe a total eclipse of the sun on September 10 from a mountain station in Yerbaniz, Mexico. Other members of the expedition include Professor R. W. Merriott and Professor W. R. Wright, of Swarthmore College.

DR. B. KERKJARTS, formerly of the University of Budapest and last year a lecturer at Göttingen, will be a lecturer in mathematics at Princeton University during the next academic year.

WE learn from *Nature* that at a meeting of the Royal Society of New South Wales, on May 2, the following officers for 1923-24 were elected: *President*, Mr. R. H. Cabbage; *Vice-Presidents*, Professor C. E. Fawsitt, Mr. J. Nangle, Mr. E. C. Andrews and Mr. C. A. Susmilch; *Hon. Treasurer*, Professor H. G. Chapman; *Hon. Secretaries*, Professor O. U. Vonwiller and Mr. G. A. Waterhouse; *Members of Council*, Dr. C. Anderson, Sir Edgeworth David, Mr. W. S. Dun, Dr. R. Greig Smith, Mr. Charles Hedley, Rev. E. F. Pigot, Mr. W. Poole, Mr. H. G. Smith, Professor J. Douglas Stewart and Professor R. D. Watt.

THE *British Medical Journal* reports that a president's gold chain and badge have been presented to the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene by the retiring president, Sir James Cantlie, who was

one of its founders. The chain consists of a number of plaques held together by ornamental links. Each plaque bears, or will bear, the name of a former president. The center link is formed by the initials of the donor surrounded by a laurel wreath. The badge shows a sketch of a mosquito on a shield, with the motto *Zonae torridae tutamen*. The incoming president, Sir Percy Bassett-Smith, was formally invested with the chain by the retiring president at the last meeting of the society.

PROFESSOR F. GOWLAND HOPKINS, Cameron prizeman for 1922 at the University of Edinburgh, delivered two lectures on June 27 and 28, respectively, on the present position of the vitamin question. The Cameron prize, which was founded in 1878, is awarded annually to an investigator who in the course of the five years immediately preceding has made an important addition to practical therapeutics.

DR. STEPHEN SHELDON COLVIN, professor of education at Teachers College, Columbia University, a leader in educational psychology, died suddenly on June 15 at the age of fifty-four years.

THE Board of Estimate of the City of New York has unanimously voted to erect a school service building four stories in height, which is to be placed in the west courtyard of the American Museum of Natural History, at an estimated cost of \$733,000. It will include a basement, fully equipped for the distribution of educational material to schools and will be connected by a subway with all other sections of the museum. The basement is also planned to take care of visiting classes that come from a distance from out of town schools. The first floor is designed for the general subject of the natural history of man, showing the relation of man to his environment; also for public health and food exhibitions, including a memorial alcove to Louis Pasteur. The center of this floor is designed for normal school work. The third and fourth floors are designed for practical normal school and college instruction in smaller rooms and for the preparation of the photographic and museum materials which make the round of the schools. The city was moved to make this appropriation by the rapid increase in the use of the museum by the schools, which now reaches four million pupils annually, a figure equivalent to five contacts with each of the 900,000 children now enrolled in the schools of Greater New York.

ACCORDING to the London *Times* the British Medical Association has purchased the premises in Tavistock Square, Bloomsbury, known as the Theosophical College. It is a modern building, designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, whose plans were never fully completed, as the building was taken over by the govern-

ment at one time. It is understood to be the intention of the British Medical Association, for whom Mr. J. A. Phillips (Oxford street) acted as agent, to enlarge and adapt the building as their headquarters. Tavistock Square, on the east side of Gordon Square, has changed in character, like all the Bloomsbury squares in recent years, from being purely residential, and in its early days it had many distinguished literary and other residents, among them Charles Dickens. The neighboring Russell Square has become mainly a center of professional and other organizations, one of the first to settle in that square having been the Auctioneers' and Estate Agents' Institute, now about to transfer its headquarters to a new building in Lincoln's Inn fields. If the project for placing the headquarters of the University of London on "the land behind the British Museum" matures there will be a further aggregation of societies in that district.

THE *Geographical Journal* writes: "An undertaking of considerable interest has been organized by the newly founded Scientific Expeditionary Research Association in the form of a scientific expedition to the Pacific, which will leave Plymouth towards the end of September. Free passages will be provided for students of the various branches of science in which investigations are desirable, their expenses being covered in large part by receipts from paying guests, for about twenty of whom there will be room in the vessel chartered—the *St. George*, a three-masted barquentine fitted on the lines of a yacht, with 800 h.p. auxiliary steam engines. It is proposed to use the Panama Canal route both going and returning, and to include in the itinerary the Galapagos, Easter and Pitcairn islands, the Austral and Cook groups, Tahiti and the Marquesas, with various intermediate islands. Although the scientific objects of the expedition may perhaps be hampered to some extent by the need to consider the requirements of the non-scientific members, the project seems to offer an excellent opportunity to young men who have just qualified in the various branches of science to acquire experience and first-hand knowledge of remote parts of the world, otherwise not easily accessible to study.

FROM a report in the *Journal* of the American Medical Association we learn that at the sixth session of the League of Nations health committee, at Paris, May 26, the development of inter-governmental co-operation in public health matters was discussed as regards epidemiologic intelligence and public health statistics, a regular and rapid method for distributing information has been installed. Three committees were formed: the first, to investigate the prevalence of epidemic (lethargic) encephalitis and tuberculosis in tropical Africa since the World War; the second, to investigate the quantity of opium and other habit-

forming drugs required annually by the various nations for legitimate purposes, and the third to collect information for a conference among various European states having navigable inland waterways, for the purpose of coordinating and strengthening sanitary control, without interfering with the normal functions of the waterways. A report was made of research work conducted in laboratories scattered all over the world during the last eighteen months, aiming at an international standardization of serums. A similar program was proposed in regard to insulin, digitalis and pituitary extract. Public health courses are being conducted for public health officials in Warsaw, Kharkov and Moscow under the auspices of the health organization of the league, and, by an arrangement with the Soviet Russian delegation at the Genoa conference, the members of the health committee, together with a delegate from the central health authorities of Soviet Russia, constitute a special international commission for discussing the anti-epidemic campaign as it affects Russia.

THE Hancock Life Insurance Company, Boston, has made an additional gift of \$20,000 to the Harvard Cancer Commission; \$5,000 to be used for purchase and installation of a diagnostic apparatus and \$15,000 to be placed in the permanent fund. The insurance company previously gave \$30,000 toward the building of the Huntington Hospital, which is devoted exclusively to cancer cases. The new gift will be used in the biophysical laboratory, which is also under the direction of the commission.

THE Langenbeck-Virchow Haus, built for the headquarters of the German Surgical Society and the Berlin Medical Society, has been rented to the Siemens and Halske firm for a period of ten years, with the provision that the societies shall continue to have the use of the building for meetings.

DR. KLEIWEG DE ZWAAN, of the University of Amsterdam, has instituted a triennial prize of 2,500 francs to be awarded for research in anthropology.

### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

MRS. NORMAN BRIDGE, wife of Dr. Norman Bridge, professor emeritus of Rush Medical College, has subscribed \$100,000 to the fund provided by Mr. Frederick H. Rawson for the Rawson Memorial Laboratory to be built in connection with the medical work of the University of Chicago on the West Side of Chicago. The fund donated by Mrs. Bridge will be used to provide the Norman Bridge Pathological Laboratories which are to occupy the fifth floor of the Rawson Memorial Laboratory.

DR. GEORGE SCATCHARD, associate professor of chemistry at Amherst College, has resigned, being the tenth Amherst college teacher and the fourth alumnus of the college to withdraw from the faculty because of the dismissal of Dr. Meiklejohn. Professor Scatchard explains his resignation in the following statement to President Olds: "After the loss which the college has sustained, it no longer seems possible to accomplish here the purposes for which I came to Amherst."

AT the University of Chicago, Dr. Harvey Carr has been promoted to a professorship of psychology; Dr. Arno Benedict Luckhardt to a professorship in physiology, and Dr. Fred Conrad Koch to a professorship in physiological chemistry.

DR. JOSEPH W. ELLIS, formerly of the University of California at Berkeley, has been appointed instructor in physics in the University of California, Southern Branch.

PROFESSOR JOHN SMITH DEXTER has been appointed associate professor of biology at the University of Porto Rico.

DR. THOMAS JONES MACKIE, professor of bacteriology at the University of Capetown, has been appointed Robert Irvine professor of bacteriology in succession to the late Professor James Ritchie.

DR. P. J. DANIELL has been appointed to the Town Trust chair of mathematics at the University of Sheffield.

### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE NOTE REGARDING THE ANNUAL VARIATION OF ATMOSPHERIC POTENTIAL-GRADIENT

My attention has been called to Dr. Sanford's article in *SCIENCE* of May 25, 1923, pages 616-618, in which he attempts to account theoretically for the annual variation of the atmospheric potential-gradient. Every student of atmospheric electricity will welcome any suggestion for the solution of some of the outstanding questions of atmospheric electricity, but evidently Dr. Sanford did not have before him the latest observational facts, and so his theory is based on erroneous premises.

In connection with various studies during the past two years on the interrelations of terrestrial magnetism and atmospheric electricity, I have had occasion to examine every available series of observations concerning the atmospheric potential-gradient, made during the past 40 years, from the Arctic to the Antarctic regions. A different type of annual variation is found than that premised by Dr. Sanford. The