

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