

observatory, will be of incalculable value to science if they can be secured. To equip such an expedition as this requires a large sum of money, and there is an ever present possibility of failure at the last moment should atmospheric conditions at the time be such as to affect the visibility and to make the taking of the photographs an impossibility.

To compensate for possible loss of time and money, and to enable future expeditions to carry on the work with the same funds until they are rewarded with success, the Swarthmore expedition desires to go to Mexico armed with insurance against those conditions over which they have no control.

The policy, which is written under the rain insurance form, provides:

If by reason of weather conditions affecting visibility only, or by vibration of instruments caused by winds in the State of Durango, Mexico, on Sept. 10, 1923, between 2:34:17 P. M. and 2:37:16 P. M., or thereabouts, standard time, the insured is prevented from taking photographs of scientific value of the eclipse of the sun, then this company shall be liable for and shall pay the amount set forth in the schedule below.

The schedule sets forth the description of the cameras used and the number of plates to be exposed. The policy provides further that the determination of the scientific value of the pictures shall be left to Professor George H. Peters, of the United States Naval Observatory, Washington, D. C. His findings are to be conclusive and binding upon both parties.

THE LIVERPOOL MEETING OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION

THE ninety-first annual meeting of the British Association will be held at Liverpool from September 12 to 19. According to the *London Times* it promises to be larger than any of its predecessors, it being expected that between 3,000 and 3,500 persons will attend, of whom about 1,500 will be visitors. The last meeting in Liverpool was in 1896, when Sir Joseph Lister was the president. This year Sir E. Rutherford occupies that position, and the subject of his address will be the "Electrical structure of matter." There are thirteen sections, and five addresses by their presidents will be delivered on September 13, five on September 14 and three on September 17.

It has been the rule at many previous meetings for the British Association to devote particular attention to some branch of scientific study relevant to the town which it is visiting. Last year, at Hull, sea fisheries formed the subject for consideration; and this year geologists and geographers are making a special feature of subjects which are of local interest to Liverpool and district. Professor P. G. H. Boswell will open a discussion at the first meeting of the geological section on the "Geology of the Liverpool District," and Sir A. Strahan, ex-director of the Geological Sur-

vey, will discuss the "Geography of the Liverpool District from Pre-Glacial Times to the Present"; while in the geography section papers on "The Region around the Mersey and Dee Estuaries" will be submitted by Mr. W. Hewitt, Mr. H. King and Mr. K. C. Moore.

The association will be strong this year in the attendance of foreign representatives. Ten or a dozen leading Canadian scientists are going, and their presence may be regarded as having particular reference to the meeting of the association next year at Toronto and the arrangements that will be made by the general committee in relation thereto. There are altogether about thirty foreigners expected, mostly French and Danes. Among them are Professor Langevin, of Paris; Signor Conti, of Florence; Dr. Coster and Dr. Henesy, of Copenhagen; Dr. Roule, Paris; Professor Jespersen and Professor N. Bohr, of Copenhagen.

An addition to the program is an address by Dr. F. W. Aston, of Cambridge, who gave an "Atomic theory" lecture last year at Hull, on new matter which has been the result of his past year's work. In the Engineering and Psychology Sections discussions will take place on "Vocational tests for engineering trades." Afternoon meetings are said to be becoming a feature of increased importance. The committee has found that these fixtures are appreciated, and they have been fixed, therefore, for 5 o'clock, because people who cannot attend the meetings of the association during working hours can be present at that hour. These addresses will be given by Dr. G. H. Miles on "Vocational Guidance"; Dr. C. S. Grundy on "Teaching Music to Children," with an orchestral demonstration; Dr. Schmidt on "The Dana expeditions and their work on the life-history of the eel."

On Tuesday evening, the eighteenth, a scientific *soirée* will be given at the Liverpool University. This is a new feature, and is on the lines of the Royal Society's *soirées* in Burlington House, Piccadilly, with demonstrations and short lectures. Another feature is the scientific exhibition, which will be run by the Liverpool authorities, at which a large number of scientific instrument makers will be the exhibitors.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Pan-Pacific Scientific Congress, in which fourteen nations are represented, was opened at Melbourne on August 13, with the presidential address by Sir David O. Masson.

DR. EDGAR F. SMITH, provost emeritus of the University of Pennsylvania and past-president of the American Chemical Society, has been made an Officer of the Legion of Honor of France. The insignia

and brevet have been transmitted to him through the French Embassy at Washington.

DR. ARTHUR A. NOYES, director of the Gates Chemical Laboratory of the California Institute of Technology, has been elected an honorary fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. There are fifty-seven honorary fellows of the society, seven of whom are Americans, of these a majority are from the Pacific coast, namely, in addition to Dr. Noyes, William Wallace Campbell, president of the University of California and honorary director of the Lick Observatory; George Ellery Hale, honorary director of the Mt. Wilson Observatory; Douglas H. Campbell, professor of botany, Stanford University. One of the other three members, Dr. Albert A. Michelson, professor of physics at the University of Chicago, is also research associate of the Mt. Wilson Observatory and the California Institute of Technology.

THE delegates to the forty-seventh meeting of the French Association for the Advancement of Science included Dr. Gerson, from the British Association; Sir William Pope, from the University of Cambridge; Dr. Aleš Hrdlička, of the U. S. National Museum; M. Carracido, rector of the University of Madrid; Professor Pittiard, of Geneva, and M. Boccardi, director of the observatory at Turin.

PROFESSOR EHLERS, of Copenhagen, the authority on leprosy, has been nominated honorary professor of Strasbourg University.

THE title of professor has been conferred by the faculty of science of the University of Paris on MM. Julia, mathematics; Maugain, mineralogy; Blaringhem, botany, and Michel-Levy, petrography.

At the meeting of the council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England on July 12, Sir John Bland-Sutton was elected president in succession to Sir Anthony Bowlby, who had held that office for three years. Sir Berkeley Moynihan, Bt., professor of clinical surgery in the University of Leeds, and Mr. H. J. Waring, surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Hospital and vice-chancellor of the University of London, were elected vice-presidents.

DR. RAOUL GAUTIER, director of the Observatory and professor in the University of Geneva, Switzerland, has been elected to honorary membership in the Washington Academy of Sciences in recognition of his prominence in geodesy and his intimate connection with scientific work in Washington.

M. JEAN BOSLER, assistant astronomer at the Paris Observatory, has been appointed director of the observatory at Marseilles in the place of the late M. Bourget.

DR. C. ROBERT MOULTON, previously head of the

department of agricultural chemistry in the University of Missouri, has been appointed director of the bureau of nutrition of the American Meat Packers Association. Miss Gudrum Carlson, formerly of Teachers College, assumes direction of the bureau of home economics.

C. J. ALBRECHT, curator of zoological exhibits at the University of Washington, has been appointed first assistant to the chief of museum exhibits at the American Museum of Natural History of New York City.

DR. V. L. BOHNSON has resigned as assistant professor of chemistry at the University of Wisconsin, to join the staff of the Oldbury Electrochemical Company, Niagara Falls, N. Y.

THE American Public Health Association will make an annual award to the city of one hundred thousand population or over that can show the most nearly adequate community health service by January, 1924, and the most progress after that date, according to statements made in the daily papers. The committee, consisting of Professor C. E.-A. Winslow, of Yale; Dr. Donald B. Armstrong, Professors Freeman and Frost, of Johns Hopkins, and Dr. L. R. Thompson, of the U. S. Public Health Service, will have the matter in charge in cooperation with the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company.

DR. ALLER G. ELLIS, formerly associate professor of pathology at Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, has sailed for Bangkok, Siam, where he will take charge of the pathological department of the Royal Medical College, Bangkok, under the auspices of the Rockefeller Foundation of New York.

WE learn from the *Journal* of the Washington Academy of Sciences that Mr. W. E. Myer, of the Smithsonian Institution, has returned from Tennessee where he has been excavating the Great Mound Group in Cheatham County. He found traces of an important ancient town covering 500 acres in two adjoining bends of Harpeth River. Many earth-lodge sites were excavated which yielded a considerable amount of information as to the life of the former inhabitants.

STEPHEN PASCHALL SHARPLES, consulting chemist, died at Deer Island, Maine, on August 20, at the age of eighty-one years. Mr. Sharples was known for his research on the adulteration of foods and on rubber. He was a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

DR. JAMES LEONARD CORNING, the neurologist, known for the discovery in 1885 of spinal anaesthesia, died on August 25 at Morristown, N. J.

DR. MICHAEL P. C. POTVLIET, chief chemist of the Dominion Sugar Company, died on August 3, aged fifty-seven years.

THE bodies of Sir Henry Hubert Hayden, director of the Geological Survey of India, and his two guides, who left Lauterbrunnen, August 10, for an excursion up the Jungfrau, were found on August 30 on the west base of the precipice on the Finisterraarhorn.

THE centenary of the death of Brégnet will be commemorated at the Congress of Chronometry to be held at the observatory of the Sorbonne. There will be an exhibit of his works and of instruments designed by Brégnet and his son Antoine in the gallery of the museum from October 25 to November 24. An international exhibit of chronometers will be organized in September at Neuchâtel.

PROFESSOR GOLDSCHMIDT writes from Berlin under date of July 25: "The readers of SCIENCE might be interested in the following item: To-day the Prussian Academy of Science voted this year's research grants. I have added to each its value in gold at today's rate of exchange: Professor Guthnick for thermo-electric measurements of stars, 100,000 marks = 22 cents; Professor Pompecky for his work on the Tendaguru fossils, 80,000 marks = 18 cents; Dr. F. Leng for his work on the physiology of cell-division, 20,000 marks = 4 cents. The highest award is for work on Egyptian texts, 500,000 marks = \$1.11. Further comment seems unnecessary."

THE Rockefeller Foundation has arranged to present to the German universities five copies each of the principal British and American medical journals. One copy will be given to the State Library of Berlin or Munich and the other four will be distributed among four groups in the north, south, east and west of Germany, each of which contains five or six universities. A journal will remain in the library of each university for two months.

THE Insulin Committee, recently organized to provide free insulin treatment for diabetics of New York City unable to pay for treatment, has announced the receipt of \$2,500 from the New York Foundation; \$2,500 each from the Hofheimer Foundation and Felix M. Warburg; \$1,000 each from Marshall Field III, J. J. Wyle and Mrs. J. J. Wyle; \$500 each from Frederick Strauss and Mrs. Jacob H. Schiff, and \$250 each from Ellen C. Auchmuty, Jules S. Bache, Norman Goldman, John L. Wilkie and E. F. Albee. The treatment at present approximates \$1.20 per day for each patient.

THE Intellectual Cooperation Commission of the League of Nations decided on July 29 to submit to the Council and to the Assembly of the League, a draft Convention for the Protection of Scientific Discov-

eries, drawn up by Professor Ruffini. In submitting this draft convention the commission is asking the governments to establish for scientific discoveries a copyright similar to that granted for literary and artistic work. With a view to helping towards the organization of intellectual societies, the commission advocates the creation of national commissions of intellectual cooperation, similar to those which already exist in various countries.

DELEGATES from the French Confederation and from five foreign countries (Belgium, Bulgaria, Finland, Great Britain and Switzerland) met recently in Paris and established the International Confederation of Intellectual Workers. The secretary has been empowered to draw up a constitution and by-laws, which will be sent for examination to the national confederations and will be submitted at the December session of the international body. The principal subjects for discussion at this session are: intellectual property (recognition of such property in all countries in which it is not yet recognized; its protection), and the creation of scientific property.

THE British Minister of Health has appointed a committee to inquire into the use of preservatives and coloring matters in food and to report (1) whether the use of such material or any of them for the preservation and coloring of food is injurious to health, and, if so, in what quantities does their use become injurious; (2) whether it should be required that the presence of such materials and the quantities present in food offered for sale should be declared. The committee is constituted as follows: Sir H. G. Monro, Professor W. E. Dixon, Sir A. D. Hall, Dr. J. M. Hamill, Mr. O. Hehner, Professor F. G. Hopkins, Dr. G. R. Leighton, Dr. A. P. Luff, Dr. C. Porter and Mr. G. Stubbs. The secretary of the committee is Mr. A. M. Legge, of the Ministry of Health.

THE Belgian government has granted a subvention to Professor M. Stuyvaert, of the University of Ghent, for the publication of his *Méthodologie mathématique*.

THE British Medical Research Council announced that it has awarded Rockefeller Medical Fellowships, tenable in the United States of America during the academic year 1923-1924, to the following: John Crichton Bramwell, medical registrar and registrar to the cardiographic department, Manchester Royal Infirmary. Norman McOmish Dott, assistant in the physiological department, University of Edinburgh. Helen Ingleby, assistant physician, Victoria Hospital for Children and South London Hospital for Women. Hugh Kingsley Ward, member of the scientific staff of the Medical Research Council, and working in the department of Pathology, University of Oxford. It is understood that further awards may be made during the coming academic year.