

THE ALDRICH COLLECTION OF DIPTERA

THE National Museum has recently received as a gift from Dr. J. M. Aldrich his private collection of Diptera. This collection was begun in 1890, and for 28 years received a good share of the owner's efforts; since he went to the National Museum in 1918 it has, however, received no additions. A recent inventory showed it to contain 44,610 pinned specimens and 4,145 species fully named; 534 of the latter were represented by type material. There are some hundreds of undescribed species; and as Dr. Aldrich collected for many years in the Pacific Coast and Rocky Mountain regions, his collection contains many named species not heretofore represented in the National collection.

Dr. Aldrich also donated to the museum his card index of the literature of North American Diptera, begun in 1898 and now extending to about 70,000 references as nearly as can be estimated. With the exception of about 20 hours' work, this is all by the hand of the owner himself, and represents to a large extent his own conclusions from the literature rather than a mere compilation.

In a letter to his chief presenting the collection and index, Dr. Aldrich states that he was deterred from taking this action sooner because the salaries paid by the museum are still on the scale established in 1882 (except for a temporary war bonus of \$240), and he did not feel sure that he could continue permanently as one of the curators. Recently, however, under the reclassification act passed by the last congress, the museum staff have been assured of a new pay schedule approximating the requirements of the present time.

HARVARD COLLEGE OBSERVATORY

THE Harvard College Observatory, entrances on Concord Avenue opposite Buckingham Street and on Garden Street opposite Linnaean Street, will be open to visitors from 7:30 P. M. to 9 P. M. on the dates given below.

A short talk, generally by a member of the observatory staff, will be preceded, when the weather permits, by telescopic observations of celestial objects. Exhibits showing the work of the observatory will be explained by members of the staff.

Tickets for the open nights must be obtained in advance by writing to the Harvard College Observatory, or telephoning University 0390 between 9 and 11 A. M. There is no charge for admission. Applicants will be assigned tickets for one night only.

The dates, titles of lectures and speakers are as follows:

Monday, October 29—"Eclipses of sun and moon," Professor H. T. Stetson, Harvard University.

Wednesday, November 14—"The variation of stars," Mr. Leon Campbell.

Tuesday, November 27—"Stellar motions," Dr. Willem J. Luyten.

Wednesday, December 5—"The origin of the earth," Professor Harlow Shapley.

Thursday, December 13—"Ancient and modern telescopes," Professor Edward S. King.

Friday, January 11—"Nebulae," Professor John C. Duncan, Wellesley College.

Thursday, January 31—"Harvard observatories in Chile and Peru," Professor Solon I. Bailey.

CELEBRATION IN HONOR OF PROFESSOR E. H. S. BAILEY

DR. EDGAR HENRY SUMMERFIELD BAILEY, professor of chemistry at the University of Kansas, was signally honored on September 21, when the University of Kansas, the Kansas Academy of Science and the Kansas City Section of the American Chemical Society joined with the Department of Chemistry of the University in an anniversary celebration which marked the completion of his fortieth year of service at the university. It was not only the unique distinction of having served one institution for four decades that inspired this celebration, but also the fact that during these four decades Professor Bailey has enriched the science of chemistry by the publication of some one hundred papers, largely the results of his own researches, and the publication of several books of recognized scientific value, and also as director of the chemical laboratories, has built up a strong department which has turned out many men who have attained distinction in their special fields. Many of these men returned on this occasion to honor Professor Bailey, and many who could not come sent congratulatory messages.

The afternoon program consisted of two addresses by former students of Professor Bailey: Dr. E. C. Franklin, president of the American Chemical Society, who spoke on "Systems of Acids, Bases and Salts," and Dr. E. V. McCollum, professor of biochemistry at Johns Hopkins University, whose topic was "The Present Status of our Knowledge of Nutrition."

In the evening, at a banquet attended by two hundred, appreciation of Professor Bailey's kindly disposition, efficient service and lasting contributions was voiced by speakers representing the organizations in which he has been most active. Dr. Frank Strong, ex-chancellor of the University of Kansas, acted as toastmaster on this occasion. The Honorable D. O. McCray, representing the governor, spoke for the State of Kansas, Chancellor E. H. Lindley for the University, Dr. E. C. Franklin for the American Chemical Society, Dr. J. T. Willard for the Kansas Academy of Science, Dr. E. V. McCollum for the

Alumni, Dr. H. P. Cady for the Department of Chemistry, Professor Sidney Calvert for the University of Missouri, and Harold Greider, representing Director E. R. Weidlein, for the Mellon Institute. Professor Bailey spoke in response to the presentation of an appropriately engraved silver vase, which was made to him in the name of his colleagues and former students.

G. W. S.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE local committee for the meeting of the National Academy of Sciences, to be held at Cornell University from November 12 to 14, consists of Professors Edward L. Nichols, *chairman*; Ernest Merritt, L. H. Bailey and W. D. Bancroft. A business session of the academy will be held on Monday morning, November 12. An open meeting immediately afterwards will begin with a brief address of welcome by President Farrand. The afternoon has been left open for informal gatherings of the members, inspection of buildings, sightseeing or other recreation. It is proposed to arrange a public lecture for the evening. Meetings for the presentation of papers will be held in the morning and the afternoon of Tuesday. President and Mrs. Farrand will receive the visiting members and their friends at the president's house from 4:30 till 6 P. M. A dinner will be held in the evening. A morning session is planned for the presentation of papers on Wednesday.

ON the occasion of the dedication of the Jesse Laboratory of Chemistry at Brown University on October 10, the degree of doctor of science was conferred on Professor James W. McBain, of the University of Bristol, who made the principal address. The degree of doctor of laws was conferred on President James R. Angell, of Yale University. Secretary of State Charles E. Hughes made the chief address at the dinner.

A MEMORIAL service for the late Dr. Henry Marion Howe, the distinguished metallurgist, for many years professor at Columbia University, will be held at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine at 5 P. M. on October 25. Among the speakers will be Professor M. I. Pupin, of Columbia University.

IN addition to giving the Silliman lectures at Yale University, Dr. Niels Bohr, professor of physics in the University of Copenhagen, is giving the Simpson lectures at Amherst College.

G. F. LOUGHLIN has been made acting chief of the section of metalliferous deposits, division of geology, in the U. S. Geological Survey.

WILLIAM B. HILL has been elected president of the board of trustees of the Hoagland Laboratory of

Brooklyn, said to be "the first laboratory in this country to have been built and privately endowed for bacteriological research and the advancement of medical science."

COLONEL CHARLES KELLER, of the Corps of Engineers, has been retired from active duty in the army after more than thirty-seven years of service. He is now engaged in the solution of engineering problems in connection with waterpower development on the Pit River in California.

PROFESSOR EUGENE E. HASKELL, formerly dean of the College of Civil Engineering of Cornell University, who has more recently been emeritus professor of experimental hydraulics, left Ithaca on August 20, with Mrs. Haskell, for Hamburg, New York, where they will make their home. Dean Haskell has retired from active engineering duties, but will occupy himself in a consulting capacity in his profession with Buffalo associates.

WILLIAM B. PLUMMER, formerly research chemist for the Grasselli Chemical Company, is now associated in the same capacity with the Combustion Utilities Corporation, Long Island City, N. Y.

RICHARD FISHER, formerly of the chemistry department of the University of Illinois, has accepted a position as research chemist with the same company.

DR. L. EMMETT HOLT has been assigned as visiting professor of pediatrics to the Peking (China) Union Medical College, by the Rockefeller Foundation. Dr. Holt, who is on his way to the Orient, will conduct a three months' series of lectures. He will also make a survey of child health methods as practiced in various countries and plans to return to New York next summer.

DR. LEE DE FOREST returned from Europe on October 1, on board the French liner *Paris*. Dr. de Forest brought with him a device known as the oscillating audion which he said would greatly facilitate broadcasting.

PROFESSOR R. C. GIBBS, professor of physics at Cornell University, will spend the coming year on sabbatic leave as an associate in the research department at the California Institute of Technology at Pasadena.

AT the recent centenary of the Royal Asiatic Society held in London, Professor James H. Breasted represented the University of Chicago and Professor Albert T. Clay of Yale University.

DEAN R. L. SACKETT, of the school of engineering at the Pennsylvania State College, is visiting technical colleges and universities in Europe.