

After an informal dinner, Dr. D. T. MacDougal, director of botanical research in the Carnegie Institution, delivered an illustrated lecture on "The physical basis of life." The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: *President*, Dr. Willett L. Hardin; *vice-president*, Dr. LeRoy S. Weatherby; *secretary*, Catherine V. Beers; *treasurer*, Dr. Elbert E. Chandler.

PROFESSOR HARLOW SHAPLEY, director of the Harvard College Observatory, will lecture at Brown University in the Marshall Woods Series on January 15 on "The Origin of the World."

DR. GEORGE D. BIRKHOFF, professor of mathematics at Harvard University, will give at the Lowell Institute, Boston, during the month of December, a series of six lectures on "The origin, nature and influence of relativity." The dates and titles of the individual lectures are:

Tuesday, Dec. 4—"Euclid, Newton, Faraday, Einstein."

Friday, Dec. 7—"The nature of space and time."

Tuesday, Dec. 11—"The old and new theories of gravitation."

Friday, Dec. 14—"The experimental tests of relativity."

Tuesday, Dec. 18—"Some relative paradoxes and their explanation."

Friday, Dec. 21—"The philosophical influence of relativity."

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association writes: "Dr. Ludvig Hektoen, Chicago, is chairman of a large committee which has made an appeal to American physicians to come to the aid of practitioners, research workers and medical students of Germany who face a winter of great distress and privation. As alumni of America's universities and professional schools, the committee says, we can not afford to stand idly by while scientific and medical Germany disappears. We have shared in the benefit of antitoxins, of chemotherapy, of the Roentgen ray. We shall not want the future to record that we were indifferent when the science of a Ludwig, a Virchow, a Helmholtz, a Koch or a Fischer was in dire need. Now is the time of greatest need. The old men of the profession in Germany are in most instances absolute paupers, their life's accumulation not sufficing to buy a slice of bread. Every effort will be made to safeguard the transmission of contributions to this fund, which, if expedient, will be made through American government channels. Make your check payable to 'American Aid for German Medical Science,' and mail to Dr. Hektoen at 637 South Wood Street, Chicago."

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

DR. FRANKLIN CHAMBERS McLEAN, the newly elected professor of medicine at the University of Chicago, will take part in the work of organizing the Medical School at the University. Dr. McLean has had the experience of organizing the Peking Union Medical College, upon whose buildings and equipment \$9,000,000 have already been expended.

W. L. SLATE, Jr., professor of agronomy in the Connecticut Agricultural College and vice director of the stations, has been appointed director to succeed Dr. E. H. Jenkins, who recently retired.

PROFESSOR C. W. PARMELEE has been made head of the department of Ceramic Engineering at the University of Illinois. He has been connected with the institution since 1916 as professor of ceramic engineering and during the past year has served as acting head.

DR. FRANK W. CHAMBERLAIN, who for five years has been acting dean of the division of veterinary science in the Michigan Agricultural College, has resigned in order to devote his full time to the department of anatomy.

THE chair of biology and pharmacognosy at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, recently vacated by Professor Heber W. Youngken, who accepted an offer to occupy a similar chair at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy, has been filled by the appointment of Dr. Arno Viehovever, who has had charge of the laboratory of pharmacognosy of the Bureau of Chemistry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, since 1914.

H. C. HOWARD has been appointed assistant professor of chemistry at the University of Missouri. Dr. Howard has been research chemist on the staff of the B. F. Goodrich Company.

J. S. BROWN, assistant geologist in the Geological Survey, has accepted a position for one year in the department of geology, Missouri School of Mines, Rolla, Missouri.

DR. GRUBER, formerly prosecutor at the municipal hospital in Mainz, has been called to Innsbruck as director of the Anatomical Institute, to succeed Professor Pommer.

PROFESSOR KUZYNski, a department head of the Berlin Pathological Institute, has accepted a call to the West Siberian University of Omsk, where he will serve as a pathologist, being entrusted more particularly with epidemiological research.