

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

NEW KEEPERS AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM<sup>1</sup>

IN view of the approaching retirement of Sir Ernest Budge, and Dr. A. Smith Woodward from their posts at the British Museum, the principal trustees have made the following appointments, to take effect from the dates of their retirement, respectively:

Dr. H. R. Hall, M.B.E., D.Litt., to be keeper of Egyptian and Assyrian antiquities.

Dr. F. A. Bather, F.R.S., D.Sc., to be keeper of geology.

Sir Ernest Budge will retire on April 9 and Dr. Smith Woodward on May 23.

Sir Ernest Budge, who will be 67 next July, was made keeper in 1893 when he was only 36. He has produced an enormous number of books on the languages and histories of the ancient nations of the nearer east, some of them the results of excavations at Nineveh, and in Mesopotamia, Egypt and the Sudan. His knowledge of Assyriology and Egyptology is the more remarkable as he was self-taught. A man of original personality and extraordinary energy and tenacity of purpose, he will be greatly missed at the museum, where he has made important additions to the national collection.

Dr. H. R. Hall, who succeeds Sir Ernest Budge as keeper, is the son of the late Mr. Sydney Hall, the painter. From Merchant Taylor's School he went up to St. John's, Oxford, and in 1896, being then 23, entered the Department of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities. He has excavated for the Egypt Exploration Fund, and directed the British Museum excavations in South Babylonia (Ur of the Chaldees, Tell el-Obeid, and Abu Shahrein), and has done other important work, notably with Mr. L. W. King. During the war he rendered valuable political service in Mesopotamia.

Dr. Arthur Smith Woodward, who will be 60 on May 23, entered the museum in 1882. He has been particularly concerned with extinct vertebrata, especially of South America. To the public he is perhaps best known for his work on the discovery and interpretation of the Piltdown skull. Dr. Woodward has taken an active part in congresses of geologists and paleontologists, and his contributions to scientific literature have been important. He has received medals and other honors from learned societies, including the Prix Cuvier from the Institut de France in 1918.

Dr. F. A. Bather has been deputy keeper of the Department of Geology since 1902. From Winchester he went up to New College, Oxford, and obtained the Rolleston Prize for research in biology. In 1887 he entered the museum, and he has established

his reputation as a geologist, and also as an expert on museum technique.

## THE SPRING MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ELECTROCHEMICAL SOCIETY

THE spring meeting of the American Electrochemical Society in Philadelphia on April 24, 25 and 26, promises to be one of interest to electrochemists. It would be difficult to select a more suitable city for a place of meeting than Philadelphia. Located amid beautiful surroundings and adjacent to enormous industrial establishments, it offers many features of personal appeal and interest, in addition to many interesting excursion trips.

The headquarters will be the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel. The technical meeting will be devoted to a symposium on "Organic Electrochemistry." Dr. C. J. Thatcher, chemical engineer, of New York City, will act as chairman. The discussion will cover the applications of electrochemistry in the preparation of organic chemicals, both in this country and abroad, and in particular, the future possibilities for the commercial production of such compounds.

The other symposium covers "Recent Progress in Electrodeposition." Mr. S. Skowronski, research chemist of the Raritan Copper Co., is chairman. A series of papers have been planned, covering "Electro-Refining of Metals," "Electro-Reduction of Metals," "Electro-Forming of Metals" and "Electro-Plating of Metals."

A large number of papers have been promised for the Electro-deposition symposium. There have been many important changes taking place within the last ten years in electrolytic refining of metals and electrolytic winning of metals from leaching solutions and we hope that at the Philadelphia meeting many of the innovations will be brought up for discussion, and a large attendance is expected at the symposium.

Another attraction of the technical program will be a round table discussion on "Electric Furnace Refractories." In addition to the round table discussion, there will be several interesting papers presented dealing with various phases of the subject.

In addition, two lectures, one by Dr. D. J. Barnett, at the Franklin Institute, the other by Mr. John Mills, will be delivered.

To those interested in excursion trips to industrial plants and places of interest, Philadelphia offers many attractions. Trips have already been arranged to visit the Philadelphia Mint, Disston Company, Dodge Steel Casting Company, Ajax Wyatt Company, Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company and an Airplane factory. Arrangements have also been made which will afford an opportunity to society members to visit Edgewood Arsenal on Saturday, April 26. The arsenal consists of eight main

<sup>1</sup> From the London *Times*.

divisions: administrative, chemical, mechanical, medical, research, troops, plants and production, property and chemical warfare school.

Dr. Arthur E. Gibbs, of the Pennsylvania Salt Manufacturing Company, is chairman of the local entertainment committee. One of the several entertainment features will be a boat ride and shad dinner.

### THE BANTING RESEARCH FOUNDATION

THE discovery and development of insulin by Dr. F. G. Banting, Mr. C. H. Best and other cooperating investigators has brought relief to a multitude of sufferers from diabetes throughout the world. At a low price this boon has been placed within reach of all. But it is well known that only a beginning has been made in alleviation even of this one malady. Notwithstanding the magnificent advances that have been effected in arresting or averting many of the most grievous attacks of disease on human life, mankind is beset by enemies. Their strategy must be discovered and circumvented. This can be done only by patient research conducted in the main by skilled investigators who devote their lives to scientific enquiry. For these investigators the public at large must provide the means of support, for they it is who benefit immensely thereby. Such work has been going on quietly all over the world. Laboratories in the universities have groups of investigators working in co-operation under the direction of competent scientists. But only now and then does a result such as Dr. Banting achieved strike the imagination of the world. It is therefore but appropriate that advantage should be taken of it to appeal to the grateful public for support in making possible the continuance and prosecution of this work and of other investigations in medical science. To effect this and to signalize the discovery and the development of insulin, the Banting Research Foundation has been created.

The purposes of this foundation have been defined to be:

(a) To provide, in the first instance, further funds for the support of the Banting and Best chair of Medical Research at the University of Toronto.

(b) To establish a fund for the adequate financial support of such scientific workers as may have proposed definite problems of medical research, and for whom funds are not otherwise available. Such assistance may be given to persons working in the University of Toronto or elsewhere.

All financial arrangements in connection with the collection and reception of the principal and subsequent expenditure of the income of the fund have been vested in a board of trustees, the members of which are appointed for a term of three years subject to re-appointment at the end of their respective terms of office. Trustees have now been appointed as follows:

Sir Robert A. Falconer, chairman, president of the University of Toronto.

Lieutenant Colonel R. W. Leonard, honorary treasurer, member of the Board of Governors of the University of Toronto.

The Reverend Canon H. J. Cody, chairman, Board of Governors, University of Toronto.

C. S. Macdonald, general manager, Confederation Life Association.

W. E. Gallie, surgeon-in-chief, Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto.

Professor J. G. FitzGerald, professor of hygiene and preventive medicine, director of the Connaught Laboratories of the University of Toronto.

Professor V. E. Henderson, professor of pharmacology, University of Toronto.

Mr. John W. Rogers.

Subscriptions to the fund will be welcome at any time and should be made payable to the Banting Research Foundation, Toronto, Canada.

F. LORNE HUTCHISON,  
*Honorary Secretary*

### PRESIDENT ELIOT'S NINETIETH BIRTHDAY

UNDER the auspices of the Harvard Alumni Association, the Associated Harvard Clubs and a Committee of Citizens, of which President Coolidge was chairman, a meeting was held in Sanders Theater on Thursday, March 20, to celebrate the ninetieth birthday of Charles W. Eliot, president emeritus of Harvard University.

The program of addresses included greetings from President Lowell on behalf of the Corporation; George Wigglesworth, '74, on behalf of the Board of Overseers; Dean L. B. R. Briggs on behalf of the faculties of the university; Charles T. Greve, '84, on behalf of the Associated Harvard Clubs; Charlton MacVeagh, '24, senior class orator, on behalf of the undergraduates; President James R. Angell, of Yale University on behalf of the colleges, universities and learned societies of the United States; Governor Cox on behalf of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and Chief Justice Taft on behalf of the American public.

Dean Briggs's address included the presentation of congratulatory messages from each of the faculties of the university. Mr. Greve's address included the presentation of congratulatory messages from Harvard Clubs in all parts of the world. President Angell's address included the presentation of congratulatory messages from other colleges, universities and learned societies.

At the conclusion of the congratulatory addresses, President Eliot made a response, after which accompanied by the other speakers, he proceeded to the yard, where, in front of University Hall, he received the greetings of the assembled students of the university.