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TESTIMONIAL BANQUET TO DOCTOR GEORGE H. SIMMONS

IN recognition of the long and valuable service to scientific medicine of Dr. George H. Simmons, for twenty-five years editor of *The Journal* of the American Medical Association, the undersigned committee of physicians is arranging for the painting of his portrait and a testimonial presentation banquet to be held in the Congress Hotel, Chicago, Monday evening, June 9, at six-thirty o'clock. Special invitations have been issued to the officers of leading medical organizations, etc. It is desired to invite also all fellows of the American Medical Association, educators and scientists who may wish to join in this recognition of Dr. Simmons's service. In order to provide adequately for those expecting to attend, reservations should be made promptly. The cost will be \$10.00 per plate and checks should be sent to Dr. Ludvig Hektoen not later than June 5, at 37 S. Wood Street, Chicago.

COMMITTEE

George Blumer, New Haven.
Hugh Smith Cumming, Washington, D. C.
Harvey Cushing, Boston.
John Blair Deaver, Philadelphia.
George Dock, Pasadena.
Charles Phillips Emerson, Indianapolis.
Seale Harris, Birmingham.
Ludvig Hektoen, Chicago.
Charles Franklin Hoover, Cleveland.
Merritt Weber Ireland, Washington, D. C.
Donald Macrae, Jr., Council Bluffs.
Rudolph Matas, New Orleans.
Charles Horace Mayo, Rochester, Minn.
Harvey Gilmer Mudd, St. Louis.
Henry Sewall, Denver.
George David Stewart, New York.
Edward Rhodes Stitt, Washington, D. C.
Holman Taylor, Ft. Worth.
William Sidney Thayer, Baltimore.
Victor Clarence Vaughan, Ann Arbor.
John Alexander Witherspoon, Nashville.

PRIZE OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

IT will be remembered by all readers of *SCIENCE* that a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science provided \$1,000 for a prize for a notable contribution to science presented at the meeting in Cincinnati celebrating the seventy-fifth anniversary of the association. The same member, who wishes to withhold his name for the present, has undertaken to provide for a similar prize to be awarded

each year for a term of five years beginning with the Washington meeting next December. It is the preference of the donor that the prize be not given in two successive years in the same major division of science, but there is no restriction on the council of the association in regard to the manner in which it shall be awarded. The prize for last year was awarded at Cincinnati to Professor Roland B. Dixon, of the University of Chicago, for papers presented before the section of mathematics and the American Mathematical Society by a committee of which Professor Nevin E. Fenneman, professor of geology in the University of Cincinnati as chairman. Further announcements concerning the prize to be awarded for a paper presented at the Washington meeting will appear in *SCIENCE* and in the preliminary announcement of the Washington meeting.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

At a stated meeting of the Franklin Institute of Philadelphia, held on May 21, a Franklin medal and certificate of honorary membership were awarded to Sir Ernest Rutherford, Cavendish professor of physics in the University of Cambridge. A statement concerning the work of Sir Ernest was made by Dr. Joseph S. Ames, of the Johns Hopkins University, and the medal was received by H. G. Chilton, counsellor of the British Embassy. A second Franklin medal and certificate of honorary membership were awarded to Dr. Edward Weston, president of the Weston Electrical Instrument Company, the statement in regard to whose work was made by Dr. Frank J. Sprague, of New York City. Following the presentation of the medals a paper by Sir Ernest Rutherford entitled "Early days in radio-activity" was read by Professor Ames, and Dr. Weston read a paper entitled "Some electrical reminiscences."

THE Pulitzer prize of Columbia University for the best American biography teaching patriotic and unselfish services to the people, illustrated by an eminent example, excluding, as too obvious, the names of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, \$1,000 was awarded to "From immigrant to inventor," by Professor Michael Pupin, of Columbia University, published by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1923. The prize for the best example of a reporter's work during the year, the test being strict accuracy, terseness, the accomplishment of some public good commanding public attention and respect, \$1,000 has been awarded to Magner White for his story on the eclipse of the sun, published in the *San Diego Sun*, on September 10, 1923.

PROFESSOR GEORGE EDMUND DE SCHWEINITZ, of Philadelphia, was presented with a plaque in recog-

dition of his eminent services to science, after a lecture before the Congress of the French Ophthalmologic Society on May 13. Dr. de Schweinitz was received by Dr. Henri Roger, dean of the faculty of medicine of the University of Paris, and was introduced by Dr. Dor, of Lyons, president of the congress.

THE Rosenberger Medal of the University of Chicago, "conferred for benefit to humanity," will this year be awarded to Dr. F. G. Banting for the discovery of insulin.

FOR distinguished work in the field of plant introduction, Dr. David Fairchild, agricultural explorer in charge of foreign plant introduction of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, has been awarded, through the Société Nationale d'Acclimatation de France, the silver-gilt medal of the French Ministry of Agriculture.

HOWARD C. PARMELEE, for the past seven years editor of *Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering*, a McGraw-Hill publication, was elected president of the American Electrochemical Society at its recent meeting in Philadelphia.

M. L. CROSSLEY was elected president of the American Institute of Chemists at the second annual meeting held in New York on April 28.

SIR GEORGE LEVESON GOWER, for sixteen years British commissioner of woods and forests, retired on May 18, and is succeeded by Mr. A. S. Gaye, secretary of the department.

JOSEPH BURTT DAVY, research student at Christ's College, who was assistant in the U. S. Department of Agriculture in 1902, and later government agrostologist and botanist of the Department of Agriculture of the Union of South Africa, has been approved for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the University of Cambridge. He submitted a dissertation entitled "The vegetation and flora of the Transvaal and Swaziland."

PROFESSOR VITO VOLTERRA, professor of mathematics and physics at the Royal University, Rome (Italy), will represent the Società Italiana per il Progresso delle Scienze at the meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science to be held in Toronto during August 1924. Professor J. Playfair McMurrich, professor of anatomy and dean of the graduate school in the University of Toronto, will represent the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

DR. OTTO C. GLASER, professor of biology at Amherst College, will be absent on leave during the coming year. He plans to go to Monaco and later

to the Marine Biological Laboratory at Naples, and to Plymouth.

PROFESSOR W. S. COOPER, of the department of botany of the University of Minnesota, will be on leave during the academic year 1924-25, which he will spend in ecological research on the Pacific Coast.

AN expedition organized by the American Museum of Natural History under the leadership of Dr. G. Clyde Fisher, curator of visual instruction, sailed on May 10 for Gothenburg, to make a study of the educational institutions of Sweden. Dr. Fisher will be accompanied by Carveth Wells, explorer and lecturer. After studying the schools and universities of Sweden, the expedition will visit Lapland where a pictorial record of the life of the Lapps will be taken with still and motion-picture cameras. A record of plant and animal life also will be made.

THE National Geographic Society has resumed its explorations in prehistoric Pueblo Bonito, Chaco Canyon National Monument, New Mexico. Pueblo Bonito is one of the most important and perhaps the most famous ruin north of Mexico. The society's explorations began in 1921 and it is hoped to conclude them during the excavation season of 1925. As heretofore, the work will be under the direction of Neil M. Judd, curator of American archeology, U. S. National Museum.

DR. GEORGE OTIS SMITH, director of the Geological Survey, on May 15 testified before the Senate Oil Committee that he had a prominent part in initiating the program adopted during the Taft Administration, of setting aside oil lands to insure a future fuel supply for the navy, and that he was not consulted about the Sinclair and Doheny leases before they were executed by Secretary Fall.

DR. GEORGE F. SWAIN, professor of civil engineering at Harvard, will be the chief speaker at the graduation exercises of the Worcester Polytechnic Institute on June 6. Professor Swain will speak on "How to become a successful engineer."

DR. J. McKEEN CATTELL will give the commencement address at the University of Arizona on May 28, and will in June attend the meeting at Stanford University of the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

DR. G. H. SMITH, professor of bacteriology at Yale University Medical School, spoke on May 19 before a large group of members of the Central New York Branch of the Society of American Bacteriologists, at Geneva, N. Y. Dr. Smith's subject was "The history of the bacteriophage and its uses clinically." The Central New York Branch has started the custom of introducing speakers dealing with special topics at

each annual meeting, and Dr. Smith's lecture was the first of a series of talks dealing with special subjects.

A BUST of Louis Pasteur by Arinson was presented to the New York Academy of Medicine on May 15 by A. Nelson Lewis, of New York, in memory of Ward McAlister, the father of the late Mrs. Lewis. The address was made on behalf of Mr. Lewis by Dr. William H. Welch, of the Johns Hopkins University, and the bust was accepted for the academy by Dr. Linsly R. Williams, director. A. Brouzet, acting consul general of France, spoke on behalf of his country. This is one of three busts of Pasteur made by Arinson. One of the others was recently presented to the Pasteur Institute by the French Government, and the third is owned by the Pasteur family.

GEORGE HUBBARD PEPPER, anthropologist and archaeologist, who for more than ten years was connected with the Heye Foundation of the Museum of the American Indian, died on May 13, aged fifty-one years.

MISS LOUISE FRANCES COWLES, professor emeritus of geology and mineralogy at Mount Holyoke College, died at Peterson Lodge, in South Hadley, on May 6. She had been connected with the department for a period of thirty-seven years prior to her retirement in 1904.

SURGEON-COLONEL R. J. REECE, C.B., senior medical officer of the British Ministry of Health, and formerly president of the Epidemiological Society of London, died on April 20, aged sixty-one years.

Nature reports the death of Mr. H. Deane, a distinguished botanist who was president on two occasions of both the Royal and the Linnean Societies of New South Wales, and also a well-known engineer, on March 12, aged seventy-seven years.

DR. SIEGMUND GABRIEL, honorary professor of chemistry in the University of Berlin, has died at the age of seventy-three years.

THE one hundred and twenty-eighth regular meeting of the American Physical Society will be held at Stanford University, in affiliation with the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Unless the length of the program necessitates a change, the general session of the American Physical Society for the presentation of papers will be held on Thursday, June 26, beginning at 10 a. m. On Wednesday evening, June 25, the American Association for the Advancement of Science will hold a public reception preceded by an address by Dr. David Starr Jordan. On Friday, June 27, there will be a trip to the Lick Observatory and Mount Hamilton.

THE twenty-seventh annual meeting of the Amer-

ican Society for Testing Materials will be held from June 24 to 27 at Atlantic City, N. J.

THE second annual meeting of the Virginia Academy of Science was held in Lexington, Virginia, on May 2 and 3. The faculty of Washington and Lee University were the hosts for the meeting and a most cordial welcome was extended to the visiting members of the academy. The meetings were held in the physical laboratory of the university, and the department of physics supplied such apparatus as was needed to illustrate the papers read before the members. On the evening of May 2, a public meeting was held in the Robert E. Lee Memorial Chapel, at which Dr. Henry Louis Smith, president of Washington and Lee University, gave an address of welcome, to which Dr. I. F. Lewis, of the University of Virginia, president of the Virginia Academy, replied. Dr. S. C. Lind, of the U. S. Bureau of Mines, then delivered an address on Radio-activity. Dr. James Lewis Howe, dean of the faculty of applied science of Washington and Lee University, was elected president for the coming year, and Dr. E. C. L. Miller, of the Medical College of Virginia, Richmond, was reelected secretary. Richmond was chosen as the place at which the next meeting will be held, the Medical College of Virginia and Randolph-Macon College asking that they be the host of the academy on this occasion.

THE seventeenth annual conference on Weights and Measures will be held at the Bureau of Standards on May 26, 27, 28 and 29. The program for the meetings includes many important subjects, such as specifications and tolerances for vehicle tanks, taximeters, and fabric measuring devices. The recent decision of the United States Supreme Court in relation to the Nebraska Standard-Weight Bread Law will be considered, particularly as to its bearing upon similar laws already enacted in other states. All weights and measures officials, railroad scale men, representatives of weighing departments, and others interested in any phase of weights and measures activity are cordially invited to attend the conference. No formal credentials are necessary on the part of those attending.

THE second World's Poultry Congress was opened on May 10, at Barcelona, by the King of Spain. There was an official reception of delegates from England, Scotland, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Egypt, India, South Africa, Straits Settlements, the United States, Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Cuba, Peru, Belgium, France, Holland, Denmark, Italy, Czechoslovakia, Switzerland, Poland, Russia, Rumania, China, Mexico, Colombia, Ecuador and Chile. During the following week the several sections met daily for the reading and discussion of papers, and

on May 17, the delegates left for Madrid, where the congress closed on May 19.

THE fourth congress of the British Institute of Transport will be held at Bristol from May 29 to May 31. The president, Sir Joseph Broodbank, will receive the delegates and visitors on May 28, and the following morning the Lord Mayor of Bristol will open the congress and extend a civic welcome to the delegates. Papers will be read on "The port of Bristol: past and present," "The problem of road surfaces with regard to mechanical transport," "Freight-train formations," and "The next five years of aerial transport." Visits will be made, among other places, to the Avonmouth Docks, the City of Bath, the works of the Great Western Railway at Swindon, and the various works in Bristol. In connection with a visit to the Severn Canals, the Mayor of Gloucester hopes to receive the party on arrival at Gloucester.

THE department of tropical medicine of Harvard University has recently received a gift of ten thousand dollars from Mr. Herman A. Metz, of New York City, for investigations with especial reference to the study and treatment of framboesia. These studies are to be carried out particularly in the Philippine Islands. The department is also in receipt of two other anonymous gifts, each amounting to ten thousand dollars, for medical research in connection with tropical medicine.

A NEW research farm of 350 acres has been placed free of cost at the disposal of the University of Leeds by Mrs. Ellis, widow of the Right Hon. John E. Ellis. The farm is at Wrea Head, Scalby, near Scarborough, and research in milk production is already being conducted there by the university.

THE Medical Schools of the Johns Hopkins University, Cornell University, Columbia University and New York University, at the request of the Surgeon-General of the Public Health Service, are giving courses at Columbia this summer on "Public health and preventive medicine" for training public health workers.

As adopted at the meeting of the Board of Trustees at its meeting in Ithaca on April 26, the total budget for the endowed colleges at Ithaca will, for the year 1924-25, be in excess of two million dollars. This is the first year that mark has been reached. The exact figure is \$2,068,734.95, as compared with \$1,979,115.95 for the current year. These totals cover all expenses of operation of the university except for the colleges of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine, which are supported by appropriations from the State of New York and the Federal Government. The budget of the College of Agriculture, based on the ap-

propriations of the State Legislature, amounts to \$1,755,194.11. The budget of the Medical College in New York was also adopted with higher figures than ever before, \$370,365.08. The total for the current year is \$339,540. A further appropriation of \$252,472.72 was voted for the Cornell University Medical College Clinic, which is practically a self-supporting activity.

IN addition to Mrs. Sherrill's gift of \$50,000 to the New York and Bellevue Hospital Medical College, a donation is announced of \$40,000 from the estate of Mrs. Egbert LeFevre, widow of a former dean of the college, who stipulated that \$25,000 should go to the Egbert LeFevre Memorial Library, and \$15,000 to the Egbert LeFevre Deanship Fund. The sum of \$11,000 has also been received for the Medical College Dispensary Endowment Fund. Mrs. B. Fleishmann Holmes has given \$2,500 for the campaign fund and \$5,000 for work in therapeutics, and the Cardiac Clinic received a gift of \$1,000 from Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt.

At a meeting of the board of trustees of the American Pharmaceutical Association, in Washington, on December 7, a committee of five was appointed to arrange for raising \$500,000 to erect a building to provide for the activities of the American Pharmaceutical Association and afford facilities for representatives of all the national drug trade associations. The association already has numerous exhibits for a museum and nucleus for a pharmaceutical library. It also has the promise of a gift to equip a research laboratory, but has no place to house this equipment.

SIR JOHN RUSSELL, director of the Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden, England, has recently returned from a special mission to the Sudan. During his three-month tour of this section he has been engaged in advising the Sudan government on its agricultural research policy with particular reference to the suitability of the region for cotton culture. During this time careful studies were made into the possibilities of conducting scientific research and the establishment of an experimental station. The extent of the development plan is indicated by the fact that the first instalment of the great irrigation scheme in the Gezira plain, south of Khartoum, that is expected to come into operation in the autumn of 1925, will involve 300,000 acres. The total irrigable area of the province, however, amounts to some 3,000,000 acres. The investigation has particularly emphasized the comparative freedom of the region from fungous diseases and its unique isolation against natural invasion by such fungi as well as insects.

THE medical correspondent of the London *Times* writes: "An investigation into the comparative hy-

gienic merits of paper money and coin has recently been carried out in Berlin. The results are published in the *Archiv für Hygiene*. In commenting on them the *Lancet* states that 'infectious diseases may be spread by paper money more frequently than by any other article in use among the people.' It was found that coined money is innocuous, owing to the self-disinfecting action of the metal itself, and because its small, smooth surface prevents the development of germs. 'The dirtiest piece of copper is, from the standpoint of a bacteriologist, better than newly-issued paper money.' In post-war banknotes for some time in circulation up to 143,000 bacteria were found. In pre-war notes the highest find was 3,000 bacteria. The post-war note is, of course, much more frequently handled than were the notes of the pre-war period. The notes manufactured of 'laid' paper were the worst offenders, as germs tend to stick to them. The investigator studied the vitality of the germs and found that *streptococci*—the germs of blood and other poisonings—were virulent 54 hours, while enteric fever bacilli lived 11–96 days. Dysentery germs lived 17–52 days."

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

STUDENTS of the International Y. M. C. A. College at Springfield, Mass., have pledged approximately \$30,000 to the \$2,500,000 endowment and expansion fund of the college. The undergraduate pledge brings the total amount now subscribed to the fund up to \$1,523,935 with \$976,065 yet to be raised before the campaign ends July 1, 1925.

JOINT action by the trustees of the Johns Hopkins University and the Johns Hopkins Hospital was taken on May 14, in the appointment of a joint committee headed by Dr. Frank J. Goodnow, president of the university, to bring into closer association the two institutions. The joint committee is charged with the responsibility of surveying and providing for the needs of the two institutions in connection with the university's coming semi-centennial, in 1926.

DR. W. S. LEATHERS, executive officer of the Mississippi State Board of Health and dean of the University of Mississippi School of Medicine, has accepted the appointment of professor of preventive medicine in Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. He will take up his work at Nashville following a year of travel and study in Europe. Dr. Hugh J. Morgan, at present resident physician at the Hospital of the Rockefeller Institute, and Dr. C. Sidney Burwell, instructor in medicine at the Johns Hopkins Medical School, have been appointed associate professors of medicine.

At Harvard University Dr. Frederick H. Verhoeff has been promoted to a professorship of ophthalmic

research. Other promotions in the Medical School include: Dr. Joseph T. Wearn to assistant professor of medicine; Dr. Robert M. Green to assistant professor of applied anatomy; Dr. Frederick S. Burns to assistant professor of dermatology, and Dr. Benjamin White to assistant professor of bacteriology and immunology and preventive medicine and hygiene.

At the University of Chicago, Associate Professor A. C. Lunn has been promoted to a full professorship of mathematics.

DR. W. KOEHLER, professor of psychology at the University of Berlin, will lecture at Clark University during the second half of the coming academic year.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

DALTON AS A NAME FOR THE UNIT OF ATOMIC WEIGHT

THE unit of atomic weight is the only unit of measurement in wide use without a name, and a suitable name for it is often desirable for clear expression of ideas. Especially is such a name desired when one is attempting to explain the concept of atomic and molecular weights to beginning students of chemistry. There was a time when the reality of atoms and molecules was questioned by some of the most eminent chemists, and therefore it was well to cultivate the concept of atomic weights as being merely relative weights. But that day has passed. The actual existence of atoms is universally accepted and therefore atomic weights are not only relative weights but are also actual weights. To continue to instruct a student that atomic weights are simply relative weights is not modern. If the concept of actual weights is to be presented it can not be done conveniently without the unit having a name. Because of the historical connection the name dalton is suggested. The atom of oxygen would weigh 16 daltons, hydrogen 1.008 daltons, etc.

Correlation of the dalton with the gram can be made through Avogadro's number. If 32 grams of oxygen contain 6.06×10^{23} molecules (12.12×10^{23} atoms) and if each atom is given a weight of 16 daltons, then one dalton = $0.0_{23}1650$ grams.

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THE CARDIO-INHIBITORY CENTER

IN a recent article (*Journ. Physiol.*, vol. lviii, p. 168, 1923) on the localization of the vaso-motor center, Scott and Roberts refer to a paper (*Amer. Journ. Physiol.*, vol. xxxix, p. 149, Dec., 1915) on the cardio-inhibitory center by Bowman and myself and, by their remarks, indicate that they have not clearly understood our meaning. I desire to em-