

Alabama, North Carolina, Annapolis, Johns Hopkins, Pennsylvania, International Correspondence School, Columbia, Yale, Brown, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard, Syracuse, Western Reserve, Case, Oberlin, Ohio Wesleyan, Ohio State, etc.; to the Southern Memorial at Stone Mountain and Lincoln Memorial in Washington; to Mount Vernon and Arlington; to Valley Forge, Lexington and Concord; to Independence Hall, Faneuil Hall and Old North Church; and to the homes of O. Henry, Wilson, Longfellow, Hawthorne, Emerson, Alcott, Harding and Riley.

The party consisted of Professor W. C. Morse, Associate Professor F. E. Vestal, one graduate student, now in the University of Chicago, and eight undergraduates. The trip was made in two high-speed, one-ton Ford trucks, one equipped with four seats, the other with the three rear seats removed for baggage and camp outfit. Transportation cost—gasoline, oil and maintenance—was fifty dollars for each person.

W. C. M.

SYMPOSIUM ON ABSORPTION OF THE ITHACA MEETING OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

At the Washington meeting the Executive Committee of the Division of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry decided to hold a symposium dealing with "Absorption" when the society meets in Ithaca from September 8 to 13. The following is a very tentative outline of the proposed program of the symposium.

There will be one or more papers dealing with the mechanism of absorption, two or three papers describing experimental work which confirms the theory as to the mechanism of absorption, a paper showing the application of this theory to commercial installation, three or four papers dealing with commercial absorption equipment and one or two papers which will emphasize the industrial chemical side of absorption.

Professor Walter G. Whitman will act as chairman of this symposium. Already he has been able to secure promises from several prominent authorities to present papers before this symposium. The attention of the members of the society is called to the fact that completed papers, not to exceed 3,500 words, must be in the hands of the chairman of the symposium or the secretary of the division on or before the first of August. The papers are then submitted to reviewers and only upon a favorable recommendation are the papers placed upon the final program. An abstract not to exceed 200 words should accompany each paper.

Chemists who are working in any of the many applications of the field of absorption should get in

touch with Professor Whitman at their earliest convenience. His address is Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass.

ERLE M. BILLINGS,
Secretary, Industrial Division

DR. GEORGE E. DE SCHWEINITZ

IN accepting the resignation of Dr. George E. de Schweinitz as professor of ophthalmology in the medical school of the University of Pennsylvania, the following resolution was adopted by the trustees:

"RESOLVED: That the trustees accept with the deepest regret the resignation of Dr. George E. de Schweinitz as Professor of Ophthalmology in the School of Medicine, and instruct the secretary to prepare, in conjunction with Dr. LeConte, a suitable minute expression to Dr. de Schweinitz the gratitude of the trustees for his long and distinguished service to the university and to science."

Minute concerning the resignation of Dr. George E. de Schweinitz:

"Graduate from the Medical Department in 1881; resident physician in the hospital October 1, 1881 to October 1, 1882; surgical registrar, 1883-85; quiz master in therapeutics for five years; prosecutor of anatomy for Dr. Leidy, 1883-88; lecturer on medical ophthalmology, 1891 and 1892; professor of ophthalmology 1902 to date. As a teacher he has no superior; as a writer he has profound influence throughout the medical world. A recipient of the highest national and international honors from his confrères, he has achieved the ranking position in this country in his speciality. The luster of his accomplishments in life have been valued by him only as a means of ever increasing his service to the university, and of the forty-five years of close association with it, he gave constantly and freely of the best that was in him. The Board of Trustees is deeply grateful for such long and honored service."

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE birthday honor list of the king of England includes the conferring of the Order of Merit on Sir Charles Sherrington, Weyneflete professor of physiology at the University of Oxford, and a baronetcy on Sir Humphry Davy Rolleston, president of the Royal College of Physicians, London.

PROFESSOR J. C. McLENNAN, of the University of Toronto, has been elected president of the Royal Society of Canada.

At the meeting of the Royal Society on May 15, the name of Mr. Henry Balfour, curator of the Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford, was added to the list of elections of the society, the list of selected names having been reduced to fourteen by the death of Dr. T. Nelson Annandale.

PROFESSOR RUDOLPH MARTIN, professor of anthro-

pology in the University of Munich, will celebrate his sixtieth birthday on July 1.

DR. DAVID CHEEVER, of the Harvard Medical School, is retiring from the department of anatomy in order to give more time to his surgical work. His place will be filled by Dr. Robert M. Green, who will have Mr. J. C. McCann as an associate.

DR. F. L. RANSOME tendered his resignation as geologist in the U. S. Geological Survey, effective on May 16, in order to continue his present work as head of the department of geology and mineralogy of the University of Arizona.

PROFESSOR A. J. HILL, of the department of organic chemistry of Yale University, has been appointed a member of the Committee on Medicinal Products Research of the National Research Council.

DR. LILIAN WELSH, for thirty years professor of physiology and hygiene at Goucher College, was given the honorary degree of LL.D. at the annual commencement exercises on the occasion of her retirement from active teaching. Dr. Welsh becomes professor emeritus.

DR. ANATHAN AALL, professor of philosophy and director of the institute of psychology in the University of Christiania, has been appointed visiting professor of philosophy at Columbia University for 1925.

At the fifth annual meeting of the Southwestern Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the following officers were elected: *President*: Dr. Elliott C. Prentiss, El Paso, Texas. *Vice-president*: A. L. Flagg, Phoenix, Arizona. *Executive Committee*: A. L. Flagg, Phoenix, Arizona, *Chairman*; Professor Frank E. E. Germann, Boulder, Colo.; Dr. Byron Cummings, Tucson, Arizona; Dr. E. L. Hewett, Santa Fé, New Mexico; Dr. D. T. MacDougal, Tucson, Arizona; R. S. Trumbull, El Paso, Texas. *Secretary-Treasurer*: R. S. Trumbull, El Paso, Texas. The next meeting, of which the date is not yet announced, will be held at Boulder.

ATHERTON SEIDELL, of the Hygienic Laboratory of the Public Health Service, left for Europe on May 3. He expects to spend some time at the Pasteur Institute in the laboratory of Professor Gabriel Bertrand, where he will continue his studies of the vitamins. Dr. Seidell will attend the meeting of the Société Chimie Industrielle at Bordeaux and the International Union of Pure and Applied Science at Copenhagen.

DR. ALEXANDER G. RUTHVEN, of the University of Michigan, is spending two months in England to study museum methods at the British Museum in London, and to make arrangements with that institution for an exchange of materials.

PROFESSOR DONALD REDDICK, of the department of plant pathology of Cornell University, is spending his sabbatic leave in Europe. He plans to trace the development of plant pathology in Europe, and will also visit several universities on the Continent for purposes of general inspection and study.

DR. B. T. SIMMS, professor of veterinary medicine at the Oregon Agricultural College, has returned to the college after spending a month in investigation of the foot and mouth disease situation in California. Dr. Simms was a member of a committee appointed by Walter M. Pierce, governor of Oregon, to investigate the situation and report progress made in stamping out the disease.

M. L. CROSSLEY, of the Calco Chemical Company, Bound Brook, N. J., has been elected president of the American Institute of Chemists.

DR. H. E. BABCOCK, of Cornell University, has been elected president of the New York State Agricultural Society.

OSCAR LEE DUSTHEIMER, professor of mathematics and history at Baldwin-Wallace College, was elected president of the Cleveland Astronomical Society at its recent annual meeting.

DR. WILLIAM F. PETERSEN was elected president at the annual meeting of the Pathological Society of Chicago, on May 12.

I. L. MILLER, state food and drug inspector, has been elected president of the Indiana Section of the American Chemical Society.

PROFESSOR W. J. SOLLAS, professor of geology and paleontology in the University of Oxford, was elected vice-president of the British Paleontographical Society, to succeed the late Professor Bonney at the seventy-seventh annual meeting held in London on May 2.

DR. ERNEST CARROLL FAUST, who has exchanged chairs in helminthology during the year 1923-24, with Dr. William Walter Cort, of the department of medical zoology of the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health, is returning to Peking, on July 31, to resume his duties in charge of the division of parasitology in the Peking Union Medical College, under the China Medical Board of the Rockefeller Foundation. Dr. Faust plans to continue his investigations on the biology and epidemiology of parasitic diseases in China, particularly those communicated to man through the consumption of uncooked fish.

DR. WALTER F. RITTMANS, of the Carnegie Institute of Technology, has been appointed consulting engineer to the State of Pennsylvania.

DR. PAUL E. HOWE, associate in the department of animal pathology of the Rockefeller Institution, at Princeton, N. J., has been appointed biological chemist in the Animal Husbandry Division, Bureau of Animal Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture. Dr. Howe will assume his new work on June 16, and will have supervision of the nutrition investigations in animal husbandry.

L. I. SHAW has resigned from the U. S. Bureau of Mines to take a position with the Western Electric Co. He assumed his new work at the Hawthorne plant early in June.

DR. W. A. TAYLOR, of the Chemical Warfare Service, has been appointed chemical director of the LaMotte Chemical Products Company.

DR. LEE DE FOREST was declared on May 5 by the District Court of Appeals in Washington as entitled to priority as the inventor of the audion as a means of producing sustained electrical oscillations in transmission by radio or otherwise, the opinion of the court having reversed the finding of the commissioner of patents.

DR. HERMAN A. SPOEHR, of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, recently gave the annual lecture before the societies of Sigma Xi and Phi Beta Kappa, of the University of Nebraska. His subject was, "Sunlight the prime mover of civilization."

ON May 21, Dr. William Crocker, director of the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research, Inc., lectured before the Phi Kappa Phi fraternity of the University of New Hampshire, on "Building a modern plant research institute," and, on May 22, before the New Hampshire Academy of Science at Randolph, on "Interesting things I have learned from twenty years' research on seed germination." He was made an honorary member of Phi Kappa Phi on the occasion of the first address.

DR. ALBERT SCHNEIDER will give a course of lectures on "Modern methods of crime investigation" at the regular summer session of the University of California beginning on June 23.

PROFESSOR LEONOR MICHAELIS, of the Universities of Berlin, Germany, and Nagoya, Japan, lectured on the "Significance of colloid chemistry in medicine" at the Mount Sinai Hospital on May 29.

A CORRESPONDENT writes: "Dr. George Little, state geologist of Mississippi from 1868-72, and of Georgia from 1874-81, died at his home in Tuscaloosa on the night of May 15, aged eighty-six years. Dr. Little was well known to the geologists of a generation ago. He met Sir Charles Lyell in Tuscaloosa in 1846, and Alexander von Humboldt in Germany in his student days."

DR. C. LE ROY MEISINGER, of the U. S. Weather Bureau, was killed on June 3, near Monticello, Ill., through the explosion of the balloon in which he was making the ninth of a series of flights to collect data in regard to storms at close range. Dr. Meisinger was twenty-nine years old.

EDWARD CLAPP SHANKLAND, the well-known civil engineer of Chicago from 1911 to 1916, died on June 4, aged seventy years.

DR. CHARLES WILLIAM ANDREWS, F.R.S., assistant keeper of geology in the Natural History Museum, Kensington, died in London on May 25, at the age of fifty-eight years.

ON the occasion of the celebration of the centenary of the birth of Lord Kelvin, which will be held at Glasgow University on Commemoration Day, June 25, Dr. Alexander Russell, F.R.S. (an old pupil of Lord Kelvin), the president of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, will give the memorial oration.

A BRONZE tablet in memory of the late Professor William E. Kellicott was presented to Goucher College by the class of 1918, and unveiled at their class reunion on May 30. Professor Kellicott was the honorary member of this class. The speech of presentation was made by Miss Helena Schneidereith, president of the class, and President W. W. Guth received the gift for the college. The inscription upon the tablet is as follows:

AS A TRIBUTE TO

WILLIAM ERSKINE KELLICOTT
1878-1919

PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY IN GOUCHER COLLEGE
1906-1918

This Tablet is Dedicated

In Love and Honor to One Who Was Ever
An Inspiration as Man, Scientist, Friend

By the Class of 1918

Esse Quam Videre

A CORRESPONDENT writes, "On May 18, in the large dome of the Chabot Observatory, Oakland, California, the twenty inch refractor, which cost in 1915 about \$20,000, was dedicated as a memorial to Charles Burckhalter, who was for many years director of the Chabot observatory. This dedication was accomplished by the unveiling of a plaque, authorized by the Board of Education of the city of Oakland, as an expression of appreciation of the long faithful and distinguished service in the unique position which the city astronomer of Oakland holds. No other city in the world possesses as part of its public school system an observatory with an equipment equal to that in the Chabot observatory of Oakland. The present building though incomplete and the great telescope

are largely the result of the tireless efforts of Charles Burckhalter through many years. The plaque placed upon the pier of the 20-inch telescope contains a medallion of Mr. Burckhalter and these words: 'This telescope is dedicated to the memory of and named for Charles Burckhalter, director of Chabot Observatory, 1885-1923, by the Oakland Board of Education. He devoted his life to the youth of Oakland that they might know eternal truth as it is written in the stars. "The heavens declare the glory of God, the firmament sheweth His handiwork."' At the unveiling of the plaque, Mr. J. F. Chandler, of the Board of Education, presided. Mr. Fred M. Hunter, superintendent of the Oakland Public Schools, spoke upon 'Mr. Burckhalter as a teacher.' Professor Earle G. Linsley, of the department of astronomy, Mills College, and director of the Chabot Observatory, spoke upon 'Mr. Burckhalter and the Observatory,' and Dr. Robert G. Aitken, acting director of the Lick Observatory, spoke upon 'The life work of an astronomer.'

FUNDS have been provided by the National Tuberculosis Association for the support of research on the chemistry of tubercle bacilli at Yale University this coming year. The research is to be under the direction of Professor Treat B. Johnson, of the Sterling Chemistry Laboratory. The new appointees who will cooperate in this work are: Mr. Robert De Wolf Coghill, Ph.D. (Yale '24), research fellow, and Mr. Donald Mulvaney Hetler, M.S. (Kansas '23), who has been awarded a fellowship in biochemistry.

THE corner-stone of the building for the newly established Research Institute in Animal Pathology of the Royal Veterinary College was laid by the Duke of Connaught on May 23.

AT the annual general meeting of the Institute of Physics, held on May 26, Sir Charles A. Parsons, K.C.B., F.R.S., was reelected president. The vice-presidents are Professor W. H. Eccles, F.R.S., Mr. C. C. Paterson, Dr. E. H. Rayner and Sir Napier Shaw, F.R.S. Sir Robert Hadfield, F.R.S., is treasurer, and Professor Alfred W. Porter, F.R.S., honorary secretary. From the annual report of the institute it appears that the demand for highly trained and qualified physicists exceeds the supply. The report deals at some length with the new monthly *Journal of Scientific Instruments* which is being produced by the Institute and edited at the National Physical Laboratory. It also refers to the lectures on "Physics in Industry" which are being delivered under the auspices of the institute and a second volume of which will shortly be published by the Oxford University Press. It is believed that the publication of these lectures and their circulation among manufacturers will do much to promote one of the main objects of the Institute,

which is to urge the importance of physics in industry, and to encourage the employment of physicists qualified to understand where and how physical principles and knowledge may be utilized in increasing the efficiency of existing processes, and in the development of new applications.

Nature writes research and education will benefit by the surplus of just over £780, which the local committee organizing the Liverpool meeting of the British Association has realized from receipts for excursions, subscriptions, etc. Subject to the approval of subscribers, the money will be allotted as follows: £300 to the Tidal Institute of the University of Liverpool towards the fund which is being collected for the purchase of a tide-predicting machine; the profits from the exhibition of scientific apparatus, with an additional sum to make £200, to the Technical and Commercial Education Sub-Committee of Liverpool for the endowment of a prize called the British Association Exhibition, to be awarded annually in the Central Technical School; and the balance to a fund to assist scientific workers from Liverpool to attend meetings of the British Association in the British Isles.

AMONG the courses offered at the summer school of the New York State College of Agriculture at Cornell University to deal with forestry, and particularly designed to meet the needs of teachers, one is a course in popular dendrology; its object is to acquaint those who elect it with the more common trees of New York State. The other course outlines the field of forestry, with especial emphasis on those phases of the subject concerning which every intelligent person should be informed. The aim in both courses is to present material that will be of value to teachers in their work in their own schools. In 1924 these courses will be conducted by Professor Ralph S. Hosmer, head of the department of forestry at Cornell University.

A CORRESPONDENT writes: "A fossil harbor seal or 'hair seal' about two feet in length has been sent to the Museum of Stanford University, by Mr. Edward B. Starr, from the diatom beds at Lompoc. These beds belong to the Miocene age and are supposed to be about two million years old, and this specimen, very perfect, is the first fossil of the kind which has been found in the regions bordering the Pacific Ocean."

Industrial and Engineering Chemistry states that the Treasury Department has adopted a new list of standards of strength of coal-tar dyes. This list is a revised and enlarged edition of the tentative list issued by the Treasury Department on August 14, 1923, and is in accordance with a proviso of Para-

graph 28 of the tariff act, which provides that the specific duty of 7 cents per pound on finished coal-tar dyes shall be applied on the basis of strength of commercial imports prior to July 1, 1914, since pre-war period dyes generally were imported in lower strength than now. The revised list contains 469 standards, covering about 1,100 names of dyes, whereas the original list consisted of 212 standards covering 600 names of dyes. New features are Schultz and Color Index numbers, where there are any, or letters indicating the method of application for each dye; a general index; and keys to the class index and the manufacturer's name. These standards represent approximately ten months' work by the customs service in cooperation with domestic manufacturers, importers and coal-tar experts, and are the result of many laboratory tests made in New York. The list was submitted to large importers and domestic manufacturers for comment, criticism and correction. As a result, some dyes were eliminated where doubt existed; others, where objection did not appear sound, were retained.

DR. H. W. WILEY attended the semi-centennial celebration of the opening of Purdue University recently held at Lafayette, of whose first faculty he is the sole survivor. Thirty-seven students were present on the first day, September 17, 1874. Of those, seven failed to qualify. Now there are over 3,000 students enrolled, and Purdue has reached the hegemony of the land-grant technical schools. During the celebration Dr. Wiley spoke to the Purdue Club, the Tippecanoe County Medical Society, at the semi-centennial dinner, and to the Lincoln Club of Lafayette of which he was a former member in 1880 and its first president.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

THE sum of \$500,000 has been given to the University of Alberta Faculty of Medicine, Edmonton, by the Rockefeller Foundation of New York City.

THE Rockefeller Foundation has also provided for a period of five years funds for the development of the Medical School of the American University of Beirut, Syria, of which Mr. Bayard Dodge is president. The appropriation provides for new fellowships, laboratory equipment and medical periodicals. It is proposed to place the medical school on a par with medical institutions of class A in America and Europe.

A GIFT of a million dollars has been made to the University of Paris for the erection, in the so-called University City, of a house primarily for Belgian

students, and secondarily for students of Limburg and Luxembourg. This gift will bear the name of the "donation Biermans-Lapôte," from the names of the donors, Mr. Biermans and Mrs. Biermans (née Lapôte), who are of Dutch and Belgian origin, respectively. They are, however, residents of Canada, in which country their fortune was made.

OWING to the generosity of M. David Weill, the University of Paris will be able to grant this year five new scholarships of 6,000 francs each, for foreign study. These scholarships will be given to medical graduates who are preparing to teach.

DR. ELBERT F. ALLEN has been promoted to an assistant professorship of mathematics in the University of Missouri.

DR. J. STUART FOSTER, fellow in physics of the National Research Council, has been appointed assistant professor of physics at McGill University.

DR. RUTH B. HOWLAND and Dr. Ralph H. Cheney, instructors in the Washington Square College of New York University, have each been promoted to the rank of assistant professor in biology.

ROBERT L. PENDLETON, Ph.D. (California '17), director of agriculture in Gwalior State, India, has been appointed professor of soil technology and in charge of the work in soils in the department of agronomy, College of Agriculture, University of the Philippines.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE PRESENT STATUS OF METRIC SYSTEM IN THE UNITED STATES

IN SCIENCE, April 18, 1924, p. 357, Professor A. B. Beaumont offers an admirable suggestion favoring the extension of the metric system. Briefly his plan is to have the Agricultural Experiment Stations plot their experimental fields in meters. The transition is easy and involves no expense since the meter is of the same order as the yard and because yields in kilograms per hectare approximate pounds per acre. (The difference is only 29 grams.)

Let it be noted in passing that while acre is a term frequently used, few persons can say how many square feet are in an acre. This in itself is quite a commentary on the irrationality of our land measures.

Beaumont further points out that "the meter is a little better than the yard for distances between large intertilled crops; and the *are* or *hectare* can easily be made to contain plants numbering multiples of ten, where an exact number of plants is desirable."

If this plan can be put into operation, it will bring