

LECTURES BY INDUSTRIAL FELLOWS OF MELLON INSTITUTE

THE following course of lectures by specialists engaged in research in the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research of the University of Pittsburgh will be given throughout the first and second semesters of the university year 1924-1925, on Monday afternoons at 4:30, in the Fellows' Room of the institute. Each discourse will be one hour in length and will deal with raw materials, manufacturing processes, properties and uses of the techno-chemical products scheduled for discussion.

The lectures are open to the membership of the institute, to interested faculty members and qualified students of the University of Pittsburgh, and to teachers of chemistry and chemists in the Pittsburgh district.

October 6, Insecticides and fungicides, Dr. O. F. Hedenburg.

October 13, Matches, Dr. E. E. Marbaker.

October 20, Fertilizers, Mr. H. H. Myers.

October 27, Portland cement, Mr. Tracy Bartholomew.

November 3, Metallurgical refractories, Mr. M. C. Booze.

November 10, Heat-insulation materials, Mr. R. H. Heilman.

November 17, Corrosion preventives, Mr. C. R. Texter.

November 24, Wrought iron, Dr. B. B. Wescott.

December 1, Protected metals, Dr. J. H. Young.

December 8, Enameled cast iron and sheet steel, Mr. J. E. Hansen.

December 15, Galvanized metal ware, Mr. W. G. Imhoff.

January 5, Salt, Mr. C. C. Kesler.

January 12, Inks, Dr. F. F. Rupert.

January 19, Wood preservatives, Dr. A. M. Howald.

January 26, Petroleum products, Dr. W. A. Gruse.

February 2, Wood chemicals, Mr. R. F. Remler.

February 16, By-product coke, Mr. O. O. Malleis.

February 23, Rubber, Mr. H. W. Greider.

March 2, Cotton textiles, Mr. E. R. Clark.

March 9, Cellulose esters, Dr. W. F. Henderson.

March 16, Sugar, Dr. D. K. Treessler.

March 23, High explosives, Dr. H. L. Cox.

March 30, Edible gelatin, Dr. T. B. Downey.

April 6, Cereal products, Dr. H. A. Kohman.

April 13, Packed foods, Mr. E. R. Harding.

April 20, Official drugs, Dr. A. W. Harvey.

April 27, Newer medicinal agents, Dr. L. H. Cratcher.

May 4, Perfumes, Dr. E. H. Balz.

of physics at the University of Paris, is now lecturing at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

PROFESSOR E. C. KENDALL, who is in charge of the chemical division of the Mayo Foundation of the University of Minnesota, has been appointed the Chandler lecturer, and will receive the Chandler Medal at a meeting to be held next February.

THE Royal Institute of Scientific Industrial Research of Sweden has awarded its gold medal of the first class to Johannes Ruths, for his invention of the Ruths steam accumulator. This is the first time the medal has been awarded.

THE twenty-fifth anniversary of Professor G. Jellergsma's incumbency of the chair of nervous and mental diseases at the University of Leyden was celebrated by the presentation of his portrait and addresses by twelve speakers representing the universities and medical societies of the Netherlands.

PROFESSOR EDOUARD BRANLY, the French pioneer of radio-telegraphy, celebrated his eightieth birthday on October 22.

DR. JOANNIS, professor of chemistry at the University of Paris, recently retired.

STEPHEN MOULTON BABCOCK, inventor of the "Babcock Test" for determining the amount of butter fat contained in milk, and formerly professor of agricultural chemistry at the University of Wisconsin, recently celebrated his eighty-first birthday.

CLINTON N. LAIRD, professor of chemistry at Canton Christian College, Canton, China, is spending a year, while on leave of absence, at the School of Hygiene and Public Health of the Johns Hopkins University.

GALO W. BLANCO has left his position as chief research chemist for the Riordan Pulp Corporation, Ontario, to take charge of Research on Viscose at the DuPont Fibresilk Company, Buffalo, N. Y.

LAURA I. McLAUGHLIN, of the University of Chicago, has joined the staff of the bureau of home economics of the United States Department of Agriculture as nutrition chemist.

ROY A. LEWIS, general manager of the Bethlehem Steel Company, Bethlehem, Pa., has joined the staff of lecturers at Lehigh University. Winthrop O. Harsey, superintendent of the service department of the same company, has also become a member of the staff of lecturers.

PROFESSOR HOWARD ECKER, head of the department of chemistry at the Ohio Mechanics Institute, is now in charge of research for the Johnston Paint Co., Cincinnati, Ohio.

DR. JOHN ALBERT KEY has left Baltimore to take

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE French Institute has awarded triennial Osiris prizes of the value of 100,000 francs to Dr. Charles Fabry, for the invention of his interferometer and to M. Jean Richepin, the poet. Dr. Fabry, professor

charge of research work at the Shriner Hospital for Crippled Children, St. Louis.

DURING the past season the members of the staff of the Roosevelt Wild Life Forest Experiment Station of the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse have been engaged in field studies as follows: Dr. Charles E. Johnson continued his study of the Adirondack beaver, Dr. A. O. Gross has studied the status of the ruffed grouse in the lower Hudson Valley and Mr. B. A. Scudder has studied the Adirondack deer situation.

DR. PRESTON E. JAMES, assistant professor of geography at the University of Michigan, recently returned from field studies in Trinidad, British West Indies.

PROFESSOR J. HOWARD ALLISON has returned to his work at the University of Minnesota after a year studying forestry in Sweden, as a fellow of the American-Scandinavian Foundation.

DAVID J. PRICE is on leave of absence for several months from the division of development work of the U. S. Bureau of Chemistry, to carry out some special engineering studies at the Pennsylvania State College.

DEAN C. E. SEASHORE, of the University of Iowa, is spending six weeks beginning on November 1 in visiting colleges and universities in the west for conferences with faculties in the interest of the gifted student project of the Division of Educational Relations in the National Research Council.

PROFESSOR RALPH H. MCKEE, of Columbia University, left on November 1 for Italy, Poland and France. He will return the latter part of December.

DR. S. O. FLADNESS, of the U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry, has left for Mexico City, where he will take up his work as agricultural commissioner from the United States on November 1. He will cooperate with Mexican agricultural experts in putting the agricultural relations of the two countries on a sound economic basis, and will represent the U. S. Department of Agriculture in all matters involving the interests of the United States.

DR. CHARLES C. ADAMS, director of the Roosevelt Wild Life Forest Experiment Station of the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse, spent July, August and September in visiting the national forests and national parks of the southwest. Special attention was given to wild-life problems and the policies of the national parks and the national forests.

DR. A. V. HILL, professor of physiology at University College, London, will deliver the third Harvey Society Lecture at the New York Academy of Medicine, on Saturday evening, November 15. His subject will be "The recovery process after muscular exercise in man."

PROFESSOR CHARLES DE LA VALLÉE-POUSSIN, of the department of mathematics of the University of Louvain, Belgium, recently delivered two lectures at the University of Michigan.

DR. I. M. KOLTHOFF, of the University of Utrecht, Holland, who is visiting the United States under the auspices of the University of Michigan, lectured at the university on October 16 on "The use of different electrodes in neutralization reactions."

DR. EDWARD F. ARMSTRONG, president of the Society of Chemical Industry in England, spoke at Yale University on the "Basis of development in chemistry" on October 23.

COURSES on human phylogeny and on ontogeny are being given in the United States National Museum by Dr. Aleš Hrdlička, on Monday and Friday afternoons.

E. F. BURCHARD, of the U. S. Geological Survey, recently addressed The Bag and Hammer, a geological society with a membership recruited from the department of geology at the University of Cincinnati. The subject of the lecture was "The geology of the Birmingham, Alabama, iron district."

J. E. SPURR, editor-in-chief of the *Engineering and Mining Journal-Press*, New York, delivered three lectures on ore deposits, at the University of Toronto, on October 29 and 30. These lectures were given under the auspices of the department of geology of the university, two of them being class lectures and the other an evening lecture on "Ore magmas" which was attended by members of the Toronto branch of the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy.

THE Henry Ward Beecher lectures at Amherst College will be given by Professor James H. Breasted, director of the oriental institute at the University of Chicago. The series will consist of four lectures, to be given on November 17, 18, 19 and 20.

At a joint meeting of the Washington Academy of Sciences and the Philosophical Society of Washington, held at the Cosmos Club, Washington, on November 1, Professor H. N. Russell, of Princeton University, delivered an address on "Recent advances in our knowledge of the interior of the stars."

THE inaugural address of the president of the Association of Economic Biologists was delivered on October 24, by Dr. F. A. E. Crew, director of the Animal Research Station, Edinburgh, at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, England.

THE General Electric Company has appropriated \$25,000 for a memorial fund for Union College in memory of Dr. Charles P. Steinmetz, the company's chief consulting engineer, who died a year ago. The income from this fund will be used to provide four annual scholarships.

THE contract has been let for the erection of a statue in Georgia to Dr. Crawford W. Long, whose name is important in the history of anesthesia. The statue of marble, costing about \$9,000, will be completed not later than December 1, 1925.

A TABLET was unveiled on October 5 by the Paris Academy of Sciences in commemoration of the mathematician, Charles Hermite, at Dieuze, his birthplace.

DR. MORRIS B. MILLER, emeritus professor of surgery in the graduate school of medicine of the University of Pennsylvania, died on November 5, at the age of fifty-seven years.

DR. ROBERT PEEL LESLIE, Ph.D. (Toronto), of New York City, well-known pharmacist and head of Leslie & Co., Inc., died on October 31, at the age of forty-seven years.

DR. EDOUARD G. DEVILLE, director-general of surveys in the Canadian Department of the Interior, and author of "Astronomic and geodetic calculations" and "Photographic surveying," died on September 21, aged seventy-three years.

DR. SANTIAGO ROTH, head of the department of paleontology in the Museo de La Plata, Argentina, died on August 4.

DR. E. O. FENZI, of Italy, the well-known horticulturist and introducer of the alligator pear into California, died on November 6 in his eighty-first year.

DR. G. PRUVOT, professor of zoology and comparative physiology at the University of Paris and formerly director of the Marine Zoological Laboratories at Banyuls-sur-Mer, has died.

LADY TEALL has presented to the Sedgwick Museum, of the University of Cambridge, the collection of rocks and rock-slices made by her late husband, Sir Jethro Teall, Sc.D., St. John's College. The collection contains numerous slices described and figured by Sir Jethro in his work, "British Petrography," and in a number of his published papers.

NEGOTIATIONS are expected to be completed shortly whereby the garret in Heathfield Hall, Handsworth, in which James Watt conducted the experiments which led to the development of the steam engine, will be brought bodily to London to be perpetuated in the South Kensington Museum. Watt first went to Heathfield Hall in 1768. After his death the room in which he worked remained locked for many years, and his tools and benches have been undisturbed.

ACTING SECRETARY HOWARD M. GORE, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, announces that the conference on utilization of forest products called by the late Secretary Wallace for November 19 and 20 will not be postponed. Secretary Wallace regarded waste reduction as one of the most important phases of for-

est conservation and expected much to be accomplished by the forthcoming conference. The department will commemorate his great service to forestry by carrying out the conference as he planned.

At the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association, held in Detroit from October 20 to 23, the following officers were elected: *President*, Henry F. Vaughan, Detroit; *vice-presidents*, Drs. Oscar Dowling, New Orleans; Daniel A. McClenahan, Hamilton, Canada, and Powhatan S. Schenck, Norfolk, Va.; *treasurer*, Louis I. Dublin, New York, and *secretary*, Mr. Homer N. Calver, New York.

THE Institution of Electrical Engineers held its first meeting of the 1924-25 session on October 23, when the retiring president announced that the council had made a gift of 100 guineas to the Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge, as an appreciation of the work done there by distinguished physicists. Dr. A. Russell presented the awards made by the council for papers read during the previous session. W. B. Woodhouse, the new president, then took the chair, and called on Ll. B. Atkinson to propose a vote of thanks to the retiring president, which was seconded by J. S. Highfield, and passed with acclamation, Dr. Russell replying.

THE following lectures are being given at the New York Botanical Garden on Saturday afternoons at 3 P. M.: November 1, "The rock garden," Dr. E. B. Southwick; November 8, "The hardy chrysanthemums," Mr. K. R. Boynton; November 15, "The hemlock grove," Dr. H. A. Gleason; November 22, "The pinetum—The collection of evergreen trees," Dr. N. L. Britton; November 29, "The geology of the New York Botanical Garden," Dr. Arthur Hollick.

THE following public lectures have been given this fall at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden: September 21, "Asters and other herbaceous perennials," H. E. Downer, horticulturist, Vassar College; September 28, "Waterlilies," Charles L. Tricker, horticulturist; October 5, "Cannas," Louis Wintzer, of the Conard and Jones Co.; November 3, "The effect of electricity on the growth of plants," Dr. V. H. Blackman, professor of plant physiology and pathology, Imperial College of Science and Technology, London.

At the October meetings of the Astronomy and Physics Club of Pasadena the programs were as follows: October 3, "Relativity," Professor A. S. Eddington; October 10, "Is the Compton effect a real effect?" Professor E. C. Watson; October 17, "Modern dynamics," Professor Geo. D. Birkhoff; October 24, "The constancy of the total photoelectric effect in sodium with temperature," R. C. Burt; October 31, "Planetary radiation," Dr. S. B. Nicholson.

THE National Museum of Wales at Cardiff has received from Sir William Reardon and Lady Smith a further sum of £5,000, bringing their total contribution to £15,000.

THE American Society for Clinical Investigation has founded a journal to be called the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*, and Dr. G. Canby Robinson, dean-elect and professor of medicine at Vanderbilt University, will be editor-in-chief. The new journal has been made possible by a grant to the society by the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research. The first issue appeared in October.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

HARVARD COLLEGE is the beneficiary of one half the estate of George True Nealley, of New York, and the National Academy of Sciences and the National Geographic Society divide the other half equally. The value of his estate was not made known.

It is announced that the University of Pittsburgh has completed plans for the erection of a fifty-two story building, 680 feet high, to be the center of the university activities.

A NEW group of four buildings at Western University, London, Ontario, which has cost £300,000, were formally opened on October 23.

A CELEBRATION commemorative of the centennial of the foundation of the Medical College of the State of South Carolina took place at Charleston on November 12 and 13.

THE statutes of the University of London have been amended to allow the university to confer the degree of bachelor of pharmacy.

DR. L. W. TAYLOR, of the University of Chicago, has been appointed head of the department of physics at Oberlin College, to take the place of Professor S. R. Williams, who has resigned.

WILFRED ELDRD, associate in the food research institute of Stanford University, has been appointed to a research professorship in the University of Washington.

DR. HAROLD ST. JOHN, of the department of botany at the State College of Washington, has been promoted to be associate professor of botany and curator of the herbarium.

DR. GLENN E. CULLEN, associate professor of research medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, has been appointed professor of biochemistry in the

medical school of Vanderbilt University. Dr. Cullen will be in Europe for a year at Rigs Hospital, Copenhagen.

DR. THOMAS GROVER ORR, a physician of Kansas City, has been appointed head of the surgical department of the school of medicine at the University of Kansas.

DR. BASIL GRAVES, curator of the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital, has been appointed clinical lecturer and special instructor in charge of the department for microscopy of the living eye in the department of ophthalmology of the graduate school of medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, for a period of three months from January 1, 1925.

DR. A. T. DE MOULPIED, of the British Dyestuffs Corporation, has been appointed professor of science at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, in succession to Professor J. Young.

DR. ALFRED KUHN, professor of zoology at the University of Göttingen, has declined the offer of the professorship of zoology and comparative anatomy at Munich.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THERMOMETER SCALES

APROPOS of the discussion on thermometer scales it may be worth while to consider some points generally ignored. As far as the people at large are concerned practically everybody is familiar with the relations between the Fahrenheit scale and the temperatures, and it would be most difficult and confusing to them to make a change.

But apart from that, the ideal thermometric scale is far from the centigrade type, at least for those having to do with meteorological statistics. The centigrade is extremely defective in that its degrees are so large that exact work requires decimal fractions to be tabulated, and it has an arbitrary zero requiring plus and minus signs to indicate degrees of temperature. One reason why the Fahrenheit scale is better is that its degrees are so much smaller.

The ideal thermometer will have its scale running all one way, eliminating plus and minus signs, and its degree divisions small enough to require at most only one decimal point in tabulating fractions. The only instance I have come across in which these points are recognized is the scale invented by Louis De Lisle de la Croyère about the end of the 18th century, probably described in the *Journal of the Hydrographic Department of the Russian navy*, vol. VII, pp. 537-542, 1849 (which I have not seen), and used in the appendix to Krashenninikoff's "History of