

beliefs are satisfactory to the Baptists of Georgia was appointed in his place, and in order to avoid any liberal contamination in the future, plans are being devised to require every member of the faculty or candidate for appointment to sign a religious covenant or creed that will be satisfactory to the Baptists of Georgia. Thus are religion and scholarship and science promoted at Mercer University.

E. G. CONKLIN

PRINCETON, N. J.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

CELEBRATION OF THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF STEREOCHEMISTRY IN FRANCE

ON December 22 the Société Chimique de France celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the science of stereochemistry. It was in 1874 that two scientists, the one French, Le Bel, and the other Dutch, van't Hoff, both former students of Wurtz, professor of the Faculty of Medicine of Paris, published independently and within a few weeks of each other, the general theory of the asymmetric carbon atom which explained in a rational manner molecular asymmetry discovered by Pasteur twenty-five years previously.

M. François Albert, Minister of Public Instruction, presided at the ceremony, assisted by M. Painlevé, member of the institute and president of the Chamber of Deputies, Jonkheer J. Loudon, Minister Plenipotentiary of Holland, and a number of representatives of French and foreign scientific societies.

Argentina—A. Saubidet, chancellor of the Argentine Consulate and president of the International Office of Analytical Chemistry.

Belgium—Professor Wuyts.

Estonia—M. Schmidt, Chargé d'Affaires of the Legation of Estonia.

Great Britain—Sir William Pope, Cambridge University.

Greece—Dr. Valtis, representing the Ministry of Greece.

Holland—Jonkheer J. Loudon, Minister Plenipotentiary; Professor Cohen, Institute van't Hoff; Dr. Alingh Prins.

Norway—M. Brettenville.

Serbia, Croatia, Slavonia—His Excellency, M. Tomitch.

Switzerland—Professor Paul Dutoit, delegate of the council of the Chemical Society of Switzerland.

United States—Professor Paul M. Dean, University of Colorado.

After a discourse by M. Moureu, president of the Société Chimique de France, M. Haller, in the name of the Academy of Sciences, presented to M. Le Bel the "grande médaille d'or de Lavoisier." Following

the response by M. Le Bel, who still maintains an active interest in chemistry, brief addresses were made by Sir William Pope and Professor Cohen. The meeting was closed by a lecture on the "Progress of stereochemistry" by Professor Delepine.

PAUL M. DEAN

PROJECT FOR THE SCIENTIFIC IMPROVEMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN CHINA

AN international project for the scientific improvement of the important food crops of China has been inaugurated by the University of Nanking and Cornell University with the aid of the International Education Board. Dr. H. H. Love, of the department of plant breeding in the New York State College of Agriculture, at Cornell, will leave Ithaca in March for China, to devote his sabbatic leave of six months to organizing the work. In February of 1926 Dr. C. H. Myers, of the same department, will go to China and carry on the work for six months. In this way the several members of the department will take turns in devoting their regular sabbatic leaves of absence from Cornell to this work in China until a staff has been trained at Nanking to carry it on. The cooperative plan is expected to be continued for the next five to ten years.

This program is a part of a large scheme for the prevention of famines in China, in which the University of Nanking is doing important work, and it looks to a permanent improvement and increase of the food supply. Improved strains of the various food crops must be developed so that the Chinese farmer can obtain an increased yield at a very slight increase in cost. Dean J. H. Reisner, of the College of Agriculture and Forestry at Nanking, has sought American aid in establishing the plant breeding part of the scheme.

As much plant improvement work as the facilities and time will permit will be carried on from the beginning. The experiment staff will make a general study of the more important food crops in several provinces so as to determine which varieties of each crop will serve as foundation stocks for improvement work. At the same time they will train a group of Chinese to carry on this work after the cooperation shall have ceased.

The University of Nanking will provide the facilities, Cornell will cooperate by enabling its specialists in plant breeding to lend their services, and the International Education Board will furnish certain financial aid.

THE BELL TELEPHONE LABORATORIES

THE growth of the research and development work of the Bell System has led to the formation of Bell