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

Telephone Laboratories, Incorporated, organized on January 1, 1925, for the purpose of carrying on development and research activities in communication and allied fields.

This new company, which is jointly owned by the American Telephone and Telegraph Company and the Western Electric Company, Incorporated, has taken over the personnel, buildings and equipment of the research laboratories of these two companies which were formerly operated as the Engineering Department of the Western Electric Company.

Extensions of laboratory facilities for the scientists and engineers of the new corporation are already under way. Laboratory space in the form of a new building covering almost a quarter of a city block will be added to the 400,000 square feet at present in service in the group of buildings at 463 West Street, New York City. At the date of incorporation, the personnel numbered approximately 3,600, of whom about 2,000 are members of the technical staff, made up of engineers, physicists, chemists, metallurgists and experts in various fields of technical endeavor.

The chairman of the board of directors of the Bell Telephone Laboratories is General J. J. Carty, vice-president of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company. Other members of the board are: Dr. F. B. Jewett, formerly vice-president of the Western Electric Company, who is president of the new corporation, and also recently elected vice-president of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company; W. S. Gifford, executive vice-president of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company; C. G. DuBois, president, and J. L. Kilpatrick, vice-president, of the Western Electric Company, and J. B. Odell, assistant to the president of the Western Electric Company.

The operations of the Bell Telephone Laboratories are under the direction of E. B. Craft, executive vice-president, who was formerly chief engineer of the Western Electric Company.

In the functional division of the research, development and engineering work of the laboratories, physical and chemical research is organized under Dr. H. D. Arnold, director of research; development of apparatus under J. J. Lyng, apparatus development engineer, and development of communication systems under A. F. Dixon, systems development engineer, all formerly concerned with similar activities in the engineering department of the Western Electric Company. Dr. R. L. Jones, inspection manager, continues his former responsibilities in engineering inspection, and S. P. Grace, commercial development engineer, those of commercial development.

The formation of Bell Telephone Laboratories, Incorporated, provides an individual organization, the whole activities of which may be more efficiently devoted to the furtherance of research, development and engineering investigations along the line in which the parent companies have already made great progress. Its formation is an indication of the estimate which these companies place upon the importance of properly organized research.

## TRANSFER OF THE COLLECTION OF TYPE CULTURES OF BACTERIA

THE collection of type cultures of bacteria established at the American Museum of Natural History by Dr. C.-E. A. Winslow and more recently maintained at the Army Medical Museum by the Society of American Bacteriologists, will be transferred about the first of February to the McCormick Memorial Institute of Chicago.

This has been made possible by a grant secured by the National Research Council from the General Education Board, which provides for the maintenance of the collection for a period of five years.

The general supervision of the culture collection will be vested in a committee representing the Society of American Bacteriologists, the Society of Pathologists and Bacteriologists, the American Phytopathological Society, the American Society of Zoologists and the McCormick Memorial Institute.

The maintenance and distribution of the cultures will be under the direction of Dr. L. Hektoen, director of the McCormick Institute, assisted by Dr. Geo. H. Weaver and Dr. Lula Jackson.

The committee hopes to greatly enlarge the collection, and eventually to include fungi, molds and other microorganisms, as well as a comprehensive collection of bacteria.

Under the new arrangement a charge will be made for cultures which, while it will not be sufficient to cover the cost of the culture, will help in the maintenance of the collection. A catalog will be issued as soon as possible.

L. A. ROGERS

## MINUTE ON THE LIFE OF PROFESSOR GEORGE CHANDLER WHIPPLE

THE following minute on the life and services of Professor Whipple was prepared by a committee from the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, the Faculty of the Engineering School and the Faculty of the School of Public Health, Harvard University:

George Chandler Whipple, Gordon McKay professor of sanitary engineering, died at his home in Cambridge on the morning of November 27, 1924, in the fifty-ninth year of his age.

Coming to the University thirteen years ago from an