

for 1925; President, Wilbur A. Nelson, state geologist of Tennessee; secretary, M. M. Leighton, state geologist of Illinois; member of executive committee, E. B. Mathews, state geologist of Maryland. The association voted to send a memorial to the President of the United States requesting a liberal support to scientific work. The memorial, which was presented by the new president of the association, follows:

The American Association of States Geologists is composed of state officials charged with the scientific study and exploration of the natural resources of their respective states. As such, they are engaged in the development of new taxable values; and in the outlining of policies along these lines for the different states in the union. They are therefore vitally interested in the policies adopted affecting the scientific work carried on by the federal government.

State geological surveys through the application of science in solving the problems of geology, particularly as they relate to the unknown or undeveloped resources of the country, are laying the foundation for the establishment of new mining developments and manufacturing industries; and often actually assist such industries in starting on a successful basis. The members of the association are interested in water power, stream gaging, mining, quarrying of structural materials and road materials, soils, topographic mapping, forestry, fish and game, parks, oil and gas, industrial and municipal water supplies and waste disposal. They are oftentimes the only state agency charged with scientific study, and development of these natural resources. Because of this there is a lively interest not only in geology and all allied sciences, but also the fundamental relation of scientific work to the prosperity and general welfare of our respective states and the country as a whole.

In connection with their various activities state geologists have occasion to come in contact with and to use all the scientific bureaus of the government and necessarily must depend on the government scientific bureaus for a great deal of service from their highly specialized and trained scientific personnel, which the smaller state organizations could not afford to maintain independently.

Without this help it would be impossible for us to render the quality of service which should be given to our states, and which is now being given in developing our varied resources.

As state geologists we feel that in the effort to secure economy, a false economy is likely to be inadvertently adopted by the government, which will actually retard the development of new taxable wealth.

The building of a scientific personnel of high quality is a matter that takes years. The destruction of the spirit of such organizations can be accomplished in a few months.

This scientific work of the federal government, the high value of which we keenly appreciate, lacks encouragement to such an extent that the best scientific ability possessed by the young men of the country is not being

attracted into the government service as it formerly was; and further many of the best men at present in the service are impelled regretfully to seek occupation elsewhere.

We feel that this situation, while not keenly appreciated by the public, is one which has a vital bearing on the public welfare and that a grave mistake in public policy will be made if the present conditions are allowed to continue.

The maintenance of competent national scientific bureaus is not a matter of interest solely to national officials of the legislative and executive branches. It is also of vital interest to local state agencies throughout all the country. We would respectfully suggest that in preparing the budgetary distribution of funds for scientific work by the federal government the judgment of some impartial representative body of scientists, such as the National Research Council, established by executive order soon after the World War, might prove of service.

The fact that members of this association officially represent thirty-seven states of the union gives them a personal contact with the pulse of the thinking people on this subject. We, therefore, feel it our duty as public officials, and privilege as citizens, to present this matter to you and to respectfully urge that you give it careful and serious consideration.

Respectfully,

WILBUR A. NELSON,
*President, Association of
States Geologists of America*

THE ELLA SACHS PLOTZ FOUNDATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION

THE Ella Sachs Plotz Foundation for the Advancement of Scientific Investigation was established in 1923, and during the first year of its existence the trustees have received thirty-two applications for assistance from investigators in the United States, Europe and Australia. Grants were made in eight instances, as follows:

Dr. T. Addis and Mrs. L. L. Mackay, Leland Stanford University, \$1,000 for an investigation of the factors which influence the rate of compensatory hypertrophy of the kidney after unilateral nephrectomy.

Dr. George E. Fahr, University of Minnesota, \$500 for a research on the rôle of colloids of blood plasma in the production of edema in acute and subacute glomerulonephritis.

Dr. Frank Fremont-Smith, Harvard University, \$1,000 for investigation of physiology and biology of spinal fluid.

Dr. Henry G. Barbour, University of Louisville, \$1,500 for an investigation of the physiology, pharmacology and clinical pathology of water exchange.

Dr. A. Bezredka, Pasteur Institute, Paris, France, \$1,500 for researches in bacteriology and immunology.

Dr. Joseph C. Aub, Harvard University, \$1,000 for a study of the internal secretions of the adrenal cortex.

Dr. L. H. Newburgh, University of Michigan, \$1,250 a year for three years for a study of the production of chronic nephritis with high protein diets and amino acids.

Dr. J. Abelin, Berne, Switzerland, \$800 for a research on the influence of the vegetative nervous system on the metabolism.

As a rule, preference will be given to researches on a single problem or on closely allied problems: It is hoped that investigators in this and in other countries may be found, whose work on similar or related problems may be assisted so that more rapid progress may be made possible.

Applications for grants to be held during the year 1925-26 should be in the hands of the executive committee before May 15, and should be sent to the secretary, Dr. Francis W. Peabody, Boston City Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. WILLIAM FRANCIS HILLEBRAND, chief chemist of the Bureau of Standards, died on February 7 at the age of seventy-one years.

THE nomination of Dr. William M. Jardine, president of the Kansas State Agricultural College, to be United States secretary of agriculture has been confirmed by the senate. F. D. Farrell, dean of the School of Agriculture, has been named acting president of the college, and Dr. Jardine has been given an indefinite leave of absence.

DR. W. W. KEEN, of Philadelphia, has been elected a foreign honorary member of the Royal Academy of Medicine of Belgium.

AT the graduation exercises of the Army Medical School on February 10, Captain Harvey R. Livesay was awarded the Sternberg Medal and Lieutenant Leon L. Gardner the Hoff Medal.

THE Geological Society of England has announced the distribution of its medals and awards for this year as follows: Wollaston Medal, G. W. Lamplugh; Murchison Medal, Dr. H. H. Thomas; Lyell Medal, J. F. N. Green; Bigsby Medal, C. W. Knight; Wollaston fund, Dr. A. Brammall; Murchison Fund, Dr. A. E. Trueman; Lyell Fund, Dr. J. A. Thomson and Dr. W. A. Richardson.

THE Italian association of hygiene is planning to present a gold medal to Dr. A. Selavo, professor of hygiene at Florence, on the occasion of its annual meeting, in tribute to his services to the cause of hygiene in Italy.

PROFESSOR BOHUSLAV BRAUNER, professor of chemistry in the Charles' (Bohemian) University at Prague, has been awarded the cross of a chevalier of

the French Légion d'Honneur for his scientific work in chemistry.

A DINNER was given at the Colonial Club, Cambridge, on February 3, in honor of Solon Irving Bailey, Phillips professor of astronomy, who retired from the staff of the college observatory on February 1, after thirty-two years of service.

DR. LEWIS BUCKLEY, of New York, has been elected chairman of the Engineering Foundation, New York.

PROFESSOR FREDERICK H. KRECKER, of Ohio State University, has been made editor of the *Journal of Science*, the official organ of the Academy of Science and of the Scientific Society of the University.

DR. FRANZ E. GELDENHUYS was recently named by the Minister of Agriculture in South Africa as chief of a new division of agricultural economics and markets in the Department of Agriculture.

EDWARD P. BARTLETT, associate professor of chemistry at Pomona College, California, is on a year's leave of absence from the college and has accepted an appointment in the Haber division of the Fixed Nitrogen Research Laboratory, Washington, D. C.

VANCE P. EDWARDES, in charge of sulphite investigations in the pulp and paper section of the Forest Products Laboratory, 1917-1921, has rejoined the laboratory after three and one half years in the employ of the Interlake Division of the Consolidated Water Power & Paper Co. at Appleton, Wis.

LEOPOLD R. CERECEDO has resigned as professor of chemistry at Fordham University, New York, to do research work at Yale University.

DR. E. V. COWDRY, of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, who has been working in Sir Arnold Theiler's laboratory near Pretoria, South Africa, expects to arrive in New York early in March.

It is reported that Mme. Curie, of France, has accepted the invitation of the National University, Mexico City, to deliver a series of lectures at the university on radium developments.

PROFESSOR E. V. MCCOLLUM, of the School of Hygiene and Public Health of the Johns Hopkins University, recently lectured at the Universities of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, the Mayo Foundation, the Academy of Medicine of Des Moines and at Washington University, St. Louis, on the subject of "The present status of our knowledge of vitamins."

DR. OSCAR M. SCHLOSS, professor of pediatrics at the Cornell University Medical College, will deliver the seventh Harvey Society lecture at the New York Academy of Medicine, on Saturday evening, March 21.