

from studies which lie in the realm between geology and astronomy.

Side by side with these essays came others in the fundamental principles for the classification of geologic time, and most notably arguments favoring the successive diastrophic upheavals as the events which marked off the eras and periods from one another. These contributions constitute a fourth group to be mentioned on an equal footing with the other three cited.

In summary, I may, therefore, select from the long series of contributions which Professor Chamberlin has made to our science the four which may be described, in accordance with the phraseology on the medal, as "outstanding contributions to the earth sciences":

- (1) The contributions on the lead and zinc veins of the Upper Mississippi Valley.
- (2) The contributions on the Ice Age.
- (3) The contributions on the Planetesimal Hypothesis and on the subjects which lie along the borderland between geology and astronomy.
- (4) The contributions on Diastrophism as a principle in the subdivision of geological time.

Not alone for these, however, do we award the Penrose Medal. It is, also, an expression of the deep affection and respect with which Professor Chamberlin is universally regarded by geologists, at home and abroad.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### THE BRITISH ANTHROPOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

THE Royal Anthropological Institute, according to the *British Medical Journal*, has been promised a substantial grant, from the trustees of the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, for the development of its library. This grant has been made by the trustees in pursuance of their policy of linking up special libraries with the General Library for Students. By an arrangement with the Royal Anthropological Institute, the books and periodicals in the library of the latter, except such as are rare or irreplaceable, will become available to the general public who make application for the loan of books through the central library. The central library will thus be relieved of the necessity of buying such books, and at the same time will have the benefit of the expert knowledge and guidance of the officials of the institute. As the institute's library includes a wide range of periodicals, some of which are not elsewhere accessible in this country, these facilities should be of considerable advantage to students who are not in a position to obtain access to anthropological literature through other channels. Mr. C. G. Seligman, president of the Royal

Anthropological Institute, states that the council of the institute is influenced by a desire that its facilities for the study of man should become more widely known. The council holds that knowledge of the racial affinities, ways of thought and social organization of the primitive peoples of the British Empire can not be too widely extended among the general public, if only to bring about a fuller appreciation of the importance of the study of anthropology in helping to solve the difficulties of administration among backward peoples. In spite of the grant made by the Carnegie trust and the sums subscribed by its fellows, the institute is still far from being in a position to undertake the whole of the work that it is its duty to perform. He therefore appeals, not only to those whose interest in anthropology is academic, but also to those who realize that a sound knowledge of ethnology is an essential factor in the equipment of colonial administrators. It is on the knowledge which the latter may acquire that the well-being and security of colonial possessions depend. For the British Empire, the problem of the government of native races exists on a scale much greater than for any other power.

### THE ADMINISTRATION OF PATENTS BY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY will hereafter be prepared to take over patents arising from discoveries made in its own laboratories. Sanction of the Board of Trustees has been obtained for the plan. To take care of cases arising from this ruling, an Administrative Board of University Patents has been established, with the following members:

President Nicholas Murray Butler; Treasurer Frederick A. Goetze; Frederick Coykendall and Archibald Douglas, trustees; Walter I. Slichter, professor of electrical engineering; Ralph H. McKee, professor of chemical engineering; Frederick T. van Beuren, associate dean of the medical school; Thomas Ewing and Dr. Milton C. Whitaker, former professor of chemical engineering.

The trustees acted upon the recommendation of the Committee on Education,

that while no university officer should be under compulsion to assign to the university any patent that might be issued to him for a discovery of his own, even if that discovery were made in the university's laboratories, nevertheless the university should be prepared to accept the assignment of such patents in cases where that action approves itself to the judgment of a competent university authority.

Members of this board in handling the inventions so patented may

make arrangements on such terms and in such way as they may approve for the use, manufacture, sale, or other disposition thereof, or of rights therein, with power to arrange for the use or division of the proceeds thereof.