Committee on Organization presents a number of topics as subjects for special discussion or symposiums. The provisional list, which is subject to emendation and extension, is as follows:

1. The world's reserves in phosphates and pyrites.
2. Geology of the Mediterranean.
3. Cambrian and Silurian faunas.
4. Geology of Africa and its relations to that of Europe.
5. Tertiary vertebrates.
6. Hercynian folds.
7. Tertiary Foraminifera.
8. Modern theories of metallogeny.
9. Vulcanism.
10. Geophysical studies: (a) Their application to geology, (b) necessity of unification of the gravimetrical methods.

As with former congresses, excursions are being arranged to cover a large number of regions and localities of particular interest to the stratigrapher, the paleontologist, the metalliferous geologist, the physiographer, the tectonic geologist and others. These most alluring excursions, fuller particulars of which will later be issued by the committee, will take place before, during and after the congress, according to arrangements yet to be completed. Senor C. Rubio, president of the Board of Mines and former director of the Geological Institute of Spain, who headed the Spanish delegation at the last congress, held in Brussels in 1922, is president of the organizing committee.

In accordance with previous sessions the congress will be in its make-up thoroughly democratic and autonomous. However, admission to the excursions will be specially reserved for members of the congress who are geologists, geographers, mining engineers or persons engaged in the study or application of some branch of geology. Communications and papers to be submitted may be written and presented in French, English, German or Spanish. Authors submitting titles for the programs are requested to attach abstracts not longer than one page of printed text, and these should be typewritten and in duplicate.

Interest in this congress appears to be widespread among American geologists and it is understood that a considerable number are making arrangements to be in Madrid in the spring of 1926. The secretariat announces that the guide book for excursions is already in preparation. Everything, in fact, points toward a very successful and profitable session of the congress.

THE JOSEPH LEIDY MEMORIAL AWARD

THE Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, as was noted in SCIENCE last week, has selected Dr. Herbert Spencer Jennings, of the Johns Hopkins University, as the recipient of the first award of the Joseph Leidy Memorial Award. The selection of Dr. Jennings was made by the academy's committee on the Joseph Leidy Memorial Award, "in appreciation of his researches upon the Protozoa and the Rotatoria, and in recognition of his broad knowledge and keen understanding of the significance of biological phenomena."

The Joseph Leidy Memorial Award was endowed by a fund created in 1923, as a trust with the academy, providing for the award of a bronze medal every three years, accompanied by an honorarium, "as a reward for the best publication, exploration, discovery or research in the natural sciences in such particular branches thereof as may be designated, which award of said medal and honorarium once in three years and the conditions and limitations attending the same and all matters connected with the gift, shall be determined by a committee to be selected in an appropriate manner by the academy."

The committee, whose recommendation has been approved and accepted by the council of the academy and the academy itself, consists of Witmer Stone, *chairman,* R. A. F. Penrose (*ex-officio*), Henry Skinner, Henry A. Pilsbry, Henry W. Fowler and James A. G. Rehn, *secretary.*

The presentation of the award will be made at a special meeting of the academy to be held in the near future.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

MEMORIAL exercises in honor of Thomas Corwin Mendenhall will be held on April 16 in the University Hall of the Ohio State University. The program will include addresses by Dr. Ira N. Hollis, president of Worcester Polytechnic Institute; by Dr. Charles Frederick Marvin, chief of the United States Weather Bureau, and by Dr. Elihu Thomson, director of the Thomson Laboratory of the General Electric Company, Lynn, Massachusetts. These addresses will be followed by the presentation by the Mendenhall family of a bronze replica of the portrait medallion of Dr. Mendenhall given to him by his first group of students on the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the university on September 17, 1923.

SIR E. JOHN RUSSELL, director of the Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden, England, has been elected a corresponding member of the Paris Academy of Sciences, in the Section of Rural Economy, in succession to Professor Winogradsky, who has been elected a foreign associate.

DR. HARRIS J. RYAN, professor of electrical engineering at Stanford University, received the degree of doctor of laws from the University of California on

March 23 in recognition of his contributions to the knowledge on the subject of high-voltage transmission and phenomena.

THE doctorate of science has been conferred upon Mr. William Schaus, honorary associate curator in the Division of Insects in the United States National Museum, by the University of Pittsburgh on the occasion of the celebration of charter day. The degree was conferred in recognition of his discovery of thousands of new species of Neotropical Lepidoptera.

THE honorary degrees to be conferred by Trinity College, Dublin, include the degree of master of surgery on Dr. George Crile and Dr. Charles Mayo.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY proposes to confer honorary degrees upon Professor John Joly, professor of geology and mineralogy in the University of Dublin.

MLLE. IRENE CURIE, daughter of the discoverers of radium, received the degree of doctor of science at the Sorbonne, on April 1.

PROFESSOR DOUGLAS W. JOHNSON, of Columbia University, has been awarded the Edouard Caudy medal by the Société de Geographie Commerciale de Paris.

THE Malaria Commission of the League of Nations Health Organization ended its sessions at Geneva on March 30, after the nomination as corresponding members of Dr. Samuel Taylor Darling, Professor Brumpt of France, and Colonel Christophers of England.

THE Franklin Institute has awarded to Harvey C. Hayes, of the Naval Research Laboratory, Anacostia, D. C., the Louis Edward Levy gold medal for his article on "Measuring ocean depths by acoustical methods."

AT the University of Cambridge the Adams prize for an essay on "The physical state of matter at high temperature" has been awarded to R. H. Fowler, Trinity College. A Smith's prize has been awarded to T. G. Room, St. John's College, for an essay on "Varieties generated by collinear stars in hyperspace."

DR. JAMES B. MURPHY, member of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, has been elected a foreign member of the Deutsches Zentral-Komitee zur Erforschung und Bekämpfung der Krebskrankheit of Berlin.

WE learn from *Nature* that at the annual meeting of the Ray Society on March 12 the following officers were reelected: *President,* Professor W. C. M'Intosh; *treasurer,* Sir Sidney F. Harmer; *secretary,* Dr. W. T. Calman. Lord Rothschild was elected a vice-president, and Professor A. E. Boycott and Mr. R. T. Gunther were elected new members of council.

DR. J. R. SCHRAMM has resigned his position as professor of botany at Cornell University, as of date of next June, and will become editor-in-chief of the new *International Biological Abstracts.*

NOAH T. CLARKE, son of Dr. John M. Clarke, director of the State Museum at Albany, who has been a technical assistant in the museum since 1912, has been appointed by the New York State Board of Regents state archeologist to succeed Dr. Arthur C. Parker, who recently resigned.

DR. E. B. STEPHENSON, who has been physicist for the Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army, for the past five years, has resigned and accepted a position in the Naval Research Laboratory, Bellevue, Anacostia, D. C., where he will be engaged chiefly in subaqueous sound ranging work.

DR. A. BESREDKA, of the Pasteur Institute, Paris, and Dr. I. Abelin, Bern, have been given grants of $1,500 and $800, respectively, by the Ella Sachs Plötz Foundation for the promotion of scientific research.

RICHARD WHITMORE HARR, of Chevy Chase, Md., Sheffield Scientific School, '25, Yale University, has been awarded the Thompson-Starrett prize of $2,500 for work of exceptional merit in the course in building construction. He is the first recipient of the prize, which was established by Mr. and Mrs. Louis J. Horowitz, of New York City. According to the provisions of the award, Mr. Harr will receive practical training in building construction with the Thompson-Starrett Company.

DR. CHARLES G. ABBOT, director of the Astrophysical Observatory of the Smithsonian Institution, will conduct a joint expedition, planned by the Smithsonian Institution and the National Geographic Society, which has as its object the improvement of methods of long-range forecasting by measurements of the heat of the sun. Observations will extend over four years.

DR. SAMUEL T. DARLING sailed on March 21 from New York for Europe to become director of an expedition that will study the malaria condition in countries about the Mediterranean, under the auspices of the Rockefeller Foundation. The countries to be visited are Switzerland, Italy, Greece, Palestine, Egypt and Morocco. Dr. Darling will complete this work by July 1 and will then go to England to address a meeting of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine at Oxford University.

THE Bureau of Animal Industry of the U. S. Department of Agriculture has selected the following

men of science to conduct research in Europe on the foot and mouth disease: Dr. Peter K. Olitsky, Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research; Jacob A. Traum, University of California, and Dr. Harry W. Schoening, of the Bureau of Animal Industry. The delegation will go to Berlin to investigate reports of the discovery of the causative organism and then collaborate with investigators of this problem in Budapest and Alfort, France.

IT is reported by the Associated Press that an official German Agricultural Commission, the first to travel abroad since the war, left Bremen on the steamship *Columbus* on April 2 for a six months' study of the progress made in American agriculture during the last ten years. The members, appointed by the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture and by farmers' organizations, are Dr. Theodor Brinkmann, professor of farm economics at Bonn; Dr. George Keuhne, expert on agricultural machinery, of Munich; Dr. Theodor Roemer, professor of selective plant breeding, at Halle, and Joachim Deiche, a large farm owner and former director of the live stock breeding department of the German Chamber of Agriculture. The delegation will be received by the United States Department of Agriculture at Washington, which will plan separate itineraries for them, each to his own specialty. Dr. Fred Hagedorn, under secretary of agriculture, will accompany the commission and will himself make a study of American agricultural economics and finance.

LINCOLN ELLSWORTH, American engineer, who will participate in Captain Roald Amundsen's flying expedition to the North Pole arrived at Oslo, Norway, on March 30. Mr. Ellsworth stated that it was expected the entire aerial trip would be accomplished in seven hours. If it proved possible to land, the expedition would remain at the Pole twenty-four hours for observation and exploration purposes. Captain Amundsen and Mr. Ellsworth left for Tromsöe on March 31. The Störthing has approved the government's proposal to put the naval transport *Fram* at the disposal of Captain Amundsen. This will involve an extra expenditure of only 25,000 kroner, as the *Fram* was already scheduled to go to Spitzbergen on scientific explorations and is capable of serving the two expeditions.

LEAVE of absence from Harvard University for the second half of the academic year of 1925–26 has been granted to Professor George D. Birkhoff, of the department of mathematics, western exchange professor during the first half of 1924–25, and to Professor Percy Bridgman, of the department of physics, for the months from November to March, to Assistant Professor Harlan T. Stetson, of the department of astronomy, and for the whole year to Assistant Professor Joseph L. Walsh, of the department of mathematics.

THE Institute of Medicine of Chicago gave its first Ludvig Hektoen Lecture of the Billings Foundation at the City Club on March 27, when Drs. George F. and Gladys R. H. Dick lectured on scarlet fever.

DR. ELMER V. MCCOLLUM, of the School of Hygiene and Public Health, of the Johns Hopkins University, lectured on March 16, at the American Museum of Natural History, under the auspices of the New York Academy of Sciences on "The application of laboratory studies in nutrition to human progress."

ON March 24, Professor Joseph S. Ames, of the Johns Hopkins University, lectured on "Some scientific aspects of aviation development," before the Swarthmore Chapter of the Society of Sigma Xi.

DR. ROBERT B. SOSMAN, of the Geophysical Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, is giving a series of lectures at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on the composition, temperature, structure and elastic qualities of the interior of the earth.

DR. R. A. GORTNER, professor of agricultural biochemistry at the University of Minnesota, lectured before the Akron (Ohio) section of the American Chemical Society on April 3, on "Biochemistry—the present and the future." On April 4 he spoke at Pennsylvania State College on "Colloids in living processes," under the auspices of the honorary chemical society, Phi Lambda Upsilon. Professor Gortner is national president of Phi Lambda Upsilon.

PROFESSOR HENRY B. WARD, of the department of zoology, of the University of Illinois, gave an illustrated lecture before a joint meeting of the biology club and seminar of the department of biology of the James Millikin University, Decatur, Illinois, on March 24. His subject was: "Salmon, an example of research and conservation of national resources."

DR. GERALD L. WENDT, dean of the department of chemistry and physics at Pennsylvania State College, spoke on March 27 before the combined chemical societies of Lafayette College, Lehigh University and the Lehigh Valley Section of the American Chemical Society. His subject was "The shattering of the atom."

WILLIAM H. GEER, director of the department of physical training at Harvard College, died on April 1, from the effects of carbon monoxide poison while in his garage, after being unconscious for 117 hours. Dr. Geer was forty-one years old.

THE spring meeting of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers will be held at Milwaukee, from May 18 to 21.

THE Alabama Academy of Science held its annual meeting in Mobile, on April 3, in affiliation with the Alabama Education Association, under the presidency of Wright A. Gardner, Auburn. Mr. Sumner A. Ives, Birmingham, is secretary of the academy.

AN examination for junior entomologist will be held on applications received by the Civil Service Commission at Washington, D. C., prior to April 25. Vacancies in the Bureau of Entomology, for duty in Washington, D. C., or in the field, and in positions requiring similar qualifications, will be filled. The entrance salary in the District of Columbia is $1,860 a year. Advancement in pay may be made without change in assignment up to $2,400 a year. Promotion to higher grades may be made in accordance with the civil service rules. Both men and women are eligible. Applicants must have graduated with a degree from a college or university of recognized standing, with specialization in entomology. As a result of this examination, separate registers will be established of eligibles experienced in the following divisions: Deciduous fruits, cereals and forage crops, southern field crops, shade and forest trees, truck crops and stored products, apiculture, tropical and subtropical fruits, miscellaneous insects (including insects affecting the health of man and domestic animals), preventing spread of moths.

BEQUESTS for public purposes, amounting to about a million dollars, were made in the will of Wilson Catherwood, of Philadelphia. These bequests include one of $250,000 to the Zoological Society of Philadelphia.

AT a dinner given March 16 by Sir William Mulock, chancellor of the University of Toronto, which was attended by many representative citizens of Toronto, it was decided to give energetic support to the movement to raise $500,000 by popular subscription for the Banting Research Foundation. The Premier of Ontario, Mr. Ferguson, promised substantial support by the Province, and the Mayor, Mr. Foster, by the city of Toronto. It was further decided that the subscription books should be kept permanently open in the hope of securing a larger endowment for pure scientific and industrial research as well as medical research.

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association states that an appropriation of two million dollars for the immediate construction of a fire-proof building at Walter Reed Hospital, Washington, D. C., has been provided by congress. This hospital is recognized as the medical center of the army. Special attention is given there to surgical and reconstruction cases. The Secretary of War plans to complete two wings to the main hospital building, which will be fire-proof and contain wards for patients. There will also be constructed an addition to the main hospital building containing dining-rooms, kitchens, wards, library, laboratory, observation and isolation wards. At present many patients are housed in temporary buildings erected during the war. The present appropriation will permit the construction of permanent fire-proof buildings sufficient to care for 700 patients.

FROM the 9,000,000 francs collected from the public on Pasteur's Day, the French Academy has recommended that, among others, the Laboratories of Physiology and Medicine receive 576,000 francs; Madame Curie's Laboratory in the Sorbonne, 170,000 francs, and the zoological laboratories, 630,000 francs.

THE Astronomy and Physics Club of Pasadena since the holiday recess has had the following program:

January 9.—*Motions in spiral nebulae:* DR. ADRIAAN VAN MAANEN.

January 16.—*Application of the cepheid criterion to the spiral nebulae:* DR. EDWIN P. HUBBLE.

January 23.—*The glands of internal secretion:* DR. EUGENE M. K. GEILLING, of the Johns Hopkins University.

January 30.—*Electric and diamagnetic polarization of gases:* DR. PAUL S. EPSTEIN.

February 6.—*X-rays and atomic structure:* DR. MANNE SIEGBAHN, of the University of Upsala.

February 13.—*A test of the relativity time transformation:* DR. ROY J. KENNEDY, National Research Fellow.

February 20.—*On the mechanism of chemical reaction:* DR. RICHARD C. TOLMAN.

February 27.—*The Washington meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and related societies:* DR. JOHN A. ANDERSON.

March 6.—*Scientific research and the community:* PROFESSOR A. FINDLAY, of Aberdeen University.

A BRITISH party consisting of Messrs. Shelton, Bernacchi and Worsley arrived at the end of March, at Oslo, Norway, en route for the Finse-Bergen railway for the purpose of trying a new tractor intended for the Antarctic expedition they are about to undertake. The expedition intends to go to King Edward VII.'s Land, thence proceeding southward or eastward, and will try to explore the unknown areas of Graham's Land. Great expectations are held as to the new tractor motor of about 40 horse power, which will be tried in the most difficult ground of Finse for about a week. Commander Worsley states that the expedition intends to start in September if in the meantime it succeeds in getting a vessel suitable for its purpose (about 500 tons gross). He was not sure that Amundsen's ship *Maud*, which is

expected at San Francisco in the summer, was sufficiently large, as the expedition was likely to last a couple of years. It was important to get a vessel of good speed and not necessarily one built for Polar ice, as ice conditions in the seas they would visit, for example, Ross Sea, were not particularly difficult.

NEW ZEALAND is suffering from a serious epidemic of infantile paralysis. All the schools have been closed since Christmas and juvenile travel is only allowed by a permit from the health officers. Over 800 cases of the disease have been reported since the disease broke out in December, with 127 deaths.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

AN appraisal filed recently of the estate of Mrs. Anna R. Milton, who died February 15, 1924, shows that Harvard University, as the residuary legatee under the will, receives $765,108. Mrs. Milton stated in her will that the will of her husband provided a trust fund of $1,000,000 for her benefit during her life, and made Harvard the beneficiary upon her death.

PROFESSOR AND MRS. FRANK R. LILLIE have added $30,000 to their recent gift of $60,000 for the new laboratory of experimental zoology at the University of Chicago, construction of which has already begun.

THE State University of Iowa has established the rank of honorary associate which may be awarded to any full professor in a college who is not a candidate for a degree, but wishes to spend a year, a semester or a summer quarter at the university. This appointment carries with it the hospitality of the department with facilities for research, admission to advanced classes and exemption from all fees.

YALE UNIVERSITY announces the appointment of Professor Harold Clyde Bingham, of Wesleyan University, as research associate in the Institute of Psychology, and the appointment of four research assistants, as follows: Helen Heffron Roberts and Alvira A. Kirk, research assistants in anthropology, and Carleton F. Scofield and Donald K. Adams, research assitants in psychology. Dr. Bingham is professor of psychology at Wesleyan, and Miss Roberts and Mr. Scofield are now on appointment in the Institute. Miss Kirk comes to Yale University from the Department of Anthropology of the American Museum of Natural History, New York City, and Mr. Adams from the Psychological Laboratory at Harvard University.

DR. HERBERT FREUNDLICH, of the Kaiser Wilhelm-Institut for Physical and Electrical Chemistry, Berlin, will remain at the University of Minnesota following the third National Colloid Symposium on June 17, 18 and 19, and will offer a special series of lectures during the first half of the summer session of the university. He will present a general survey of the field of colloids with especial emphasis on adsorption phenomena. Coupled with Dr. Freundlich's work will be a group of other offerings, including colloid laboratory work under Dr. L. H. Reyerson, a seminar in colloid chemistry, conducted by Dr. Freundlich, and a series of courses in the division of agricultural biochemistry. These will be: "The chemistry of wheat and wheat products," Dr. C. H. Bailey; "Flour laboratory methods," Dr. Bailey; "Phytochemistry," Dr. R. A. Gortner, and a series of research problems under Drs. Gortner, Bailey, Palmer and Willaman. In all twenty-three allied courses in chemistry, biochemistry and physics will be offered.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

ON THE DECOMPOSITION OF H_2O_2

IN the August 22nd 1924 issue of SCIENCE there is an article by Dr. Norman E. Ditman in which he states that hydrogen peroxide can be decomposed by a single electrical conductor, one end of which dips in the peroxide while the other end dips into a test tube containing a solution of colloidal platinum. Such a wire does not complete an electric circuit and the results as reported are so contrary to expectation that the experiment was repeated in this laboratory as nearly as could be done from Dr. Ditman's description. Fresh colloidal platinum was made in distilled water, without any stabilizer, by the Bredig method, using a short Pt rod as the positive electrode and a piece of fine Pt wire as the negative electrode. This wire had a total length of about six inches, most of which served merely as a conductor. Only about one fourth inch at one end was allowed to enter the distilled water. It was along this short length that the arcing took place. This end of the wire will therefore be called for convenience the "arced end"—the other end will be called the "unarced end."

The following experiments were then tried:

1. The arced end of the fine Pt wire was put in the beaker containing the colloidal Pt, and the unarced end was put in H_2O_2 of approximately three per cent. strength. No oxygen was given off.

2. The wire was reversed. Bubbles of O_2 formed at once on the arced end of the wire. This effect was unaltered by lifting the unarced end out of the colloidal Pt solution. Arcing had evidently activated the end of the wire.