

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE degree of doctor of science was conferred on Dr. Irving Langmuir, of the Research Laboratories of the General Electric Company, at the recent commencement of Columbia University.

THE degree of doctor of laws was conferred on Miss Annie J. Cannon, of Harvard College Observatory, on the occasion of the celebration of the semi-centennial celebration of Wellesley College.

DR. JOHN M. COULTER, professor of botany in the University of Chicago since 1896, will retire from active service this month. Dr. Coulter is in his seventy-sixth year.

At the recent Chicago meeting of the Western Society of Engineers, one of the three Chanut medals for the best engineering papers read before the society during 1924 was awarded to John F. Hayford, director of the college of engineering at Northwestern University, who died a few months ago. The medal was received by his son. The other two medals were conferred on Paul L. Battey and Walter A. Shaw.

DR. EDWARD LEE THORNDIKE, professor of educational psychology in Teachers College, Columbia University, has been awarded the Butler gold medal, given every five years by Columbia University for the most distinguished contribution to philosophy or to educational theory, practice or administration, for his contribution to the general problem of the measurement of human faculty and to the application of such measures to education.

THE University of Manchester has conferred the honorary degree of doctor of science on Professor Arthur S. Eddington, of Cambridge.

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY, Belfast, will confer the degree of D.Sc. on Professor F. G. Donnan, professor of inorganic chemistry in University College, London, and on Professor E. W. MacBride, professor of zoology in the Imperial College of Science, S. Kensington, both of whom are former students of Queen's College.

DR. JOHN C. MERRIAM, president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, has accepted appointment as a member of the advisory board of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation.

DR. H. FOSTER BAIN, since 1921 director of the Bureau of Mines, has resigned, to take effect on July 1. He has been appointed chief secretary of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers.

WILLIAM L. BRYANT, for many years director of the Museum of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, has resigned to accept the directorship of the Park Museum in Roger Williams Park, Providence, R. I.

THE fellowship of \$5,000 given by the Kahn Foundation for the Foreign Travel of American Teachers has been awarded to Professor Roderick Duncan McKenzie, of the University of Washington, Seattle. Professor McKenzie will spend the next academic year in the Oriental countries bordering on the Pacific to obtain wider perspective of the inter-racial problem.

To enable him to continue research work on the electro-chemistry of solution, Gosta Okerlof, of Sweden, who was assistant to Professor Svante Arrhenius, has been granted a special Harrison fellowship in chemistry by the trustees of the University of Pennsylvania.

SURGEON GENERAL CUMMINS, of the United States Public Health Service, on June 6 appointed a committee of seven experts to look into the "health hazard involved" in the use of tetra-ethyl gasoline. The committee is to investigate and report to the Surgeon General, if possible, by January 1, 1926. It consists of Dr. David L. Edsall, dean of the Harvard Medical School; Dr. William H. Howell, professor of physiology, Johns Hopkins Medical School; Dr. H. A. Chesley, executive health officer of the State of Minnesota; Dr. Reid Hunt, professor of pharmacology, Harvard Medical School; Dr. Waller S. Leathers, professor of preventive medicine, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn.; Dr. Julius Stieglitz, professor of chemistry, University of Chicago, and Professor C.-E. A. Winslow, professor of public health, Yale Medical School.

DR. J. C. ARTHUR, professor emeritus of botany at Purdue University, and Dr. Frank Kern, head of the department of botany and dean of the graduate school of the Pennsylvania State College, who are collaborating in the publication of a book on their researches on rust fungi, will spend the summer in Europe in order to visit specialists in plant diseases. After returning from Europe in the autumn, Dr. Kern, who has received a year's leave of absence, will spend the remainder of the academic year in the University of Porto Rico as acting dean of the agricultural school, where he will conduct researches on the rust fungi and also in tropical botany, plant pathology and agriculture.

DR. WILLIAM H. WILMER sailed on June 2 for Europe to make a survey of research methods, preparatory to the opening of the institute for the study and treatment of diseases of the eye and causes of blindness at the Johns Hopkins University, which re-

cently received an endowment of \$3,000,000. Dr. Wilmer will be accompanied by Harold F. Pierce, associate in physiology of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University.

DR. JOHN H. GEROULD, of Dartmouth College, will during August visit the Station Zoologique at Wimereux, Pas de Calais, France. After the meetings of the British Association for the Advancement of Science at Southampton, which he will attend, and a month in Normandy, he will spend three months or more at the Laboratoire d'Entomologie, Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris.

DR. CHAS. E. ST. JOHN plans to sail from Montreal on June 19 for England to attend the meeting of the Committee on Relationship of Solar and Terrestrial Phenomena in London, and later the meeting of the International Research Council in Brussels and of the Astronomical Union in Cambridge.

DR. MAYNARD M. METCALF, chairman of the division of biology of the National Research Council, will conduct researches in Argentina, Chile, Brazil and Uruguay this summer on South American species of frogs.

KIRK BRYAN, of the U. S. Geological Survey, left Washington on June 2 for a two months' field trip in Wyoming, Montana and New Mexico. He will spend about a month at Pueblo Bonito in the Chaco Canyon National Monument for the National Geographic Society.

DR. HERBERT F. BERGMAN, professor of botany at the University of Hawaii, has been granted sabbatical leave for the year 1925-26. He will spend the year at Yale University, as a Seessel fellow, in research work on the proteins of some Hawaiian plants.

DR. IRWIN G. PRIEST, chief of the colorimetry section, of the Bureau of Standards, delivered at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology three lectures on the theory and practice of color specification in science, art and industry May 18, 19 and 20.

DR. A. C. LUNN, professor of applied mathematics at the University of Chicago, recently gave a series of lectures under the auspices of the department of physics of the University of Kentucky. The subjects of these lectures were as follows: "The relativity motive in scientific theory," "The historical background of Einstein's theory and the geometry of space and time," "The problem of the atomic constants and the chemical elements," "Relativity and the quantum theory."

DR. CHARLES LANE POOR, professor of celestial mechanics in Columbia University, lectured under the auspices of the University of Michigan on "Gravitation *versus* relativity" on the afternoon of May 27.

PROFESSOR G. R. WIELAND, of Yale University, gave recently before the Torrey Botanical Club at the American Museum of Natural History a lecture on "The early Mesozoic flowering plants."

DR. F. A. F. C. WENT, professor of botany in the University of Utrecht, is giving at various universities in England a series of lectures under the auspices of the Anglo-Batavian Society. His lecture in London was given at the Imperial College of Science and Technology on May 25, the subject being "Modern conceptions of light stimuli in plants."

THE Lebanon Government of Syria has awarded the Medal of Merit posthumously to Drs. Samuel T. Darling, Baltimore, and Norman V. C. Lothian, of Scotland, who were recently killed in an automobile accident in Syria.

DR. I. MINIS HAYS, widely known as a physician and since 1897 general secretary of the American Philosophical Society, died in Philadelphia, on June 6 at the age of seventy-seven years.

DR. HERBERT S. STEENSLAND, professor emeritus of pathology of the College of Medicine of Syracuse University, died on May 30, aged fifty-four years.

FATHER A. L. CORTIE, S.J., director of Stonyhurst College Observatory, died on May 13 at the age of sixty-six years.

W. W. ROUSEBALL, fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, known for his work on the history of mathematics and on the University of Cambridge, has died at the age of seventy-five years.

CAMILLE FLAMMARION, astronomer and author of numerous popular works on astronomy, died on June 4 at the age of eighty-three years, in his private observatory at Juvisy, near Paris.

DR. ALFRED C. KINSEY, of Indiana University, writes: "The death of Dr. Karl Sajo of Hungary was reported during the year of 1924. I have a characteristic letter from Professor Sajo, dated April 23, and I am delighted to be able to make this correction. Dr. Sajo has been rendering a good service to American entomologists by offering Hungarian insects for sale, and I hope that the mistaken report has not interfered with his work."

DR. CHARLES W. BURROWS, known for his researches in magnetism, died on May 2, in his fifty-first year, at his home in South Orange, N. J. Dr. Burrows was educated at the University of Michigan. He was formerly head of the magnetic section of the U. S. Bureau of Standards. Later, he became a consulting engineer, in which capacity he worked on applications of the method of magnetic analysis, in laying of the scientific basis of which he had taken a

prominent part. More recently he had developed a system of automatic train control.

WORD has just reached this country of the death of Omer Van der Stricht, professor of histology at the University of Ghent, on May 8, at Menton, France. Professor Van der Stricht had been ill for some time.

THE death is announced of Dr. Sidney Alrutz, director of the Institute of Experimental Psychology at Upsala, and of Dr. Arthur Heffter, director of the Institute of Pharmacology in Berlin.

IN accordance with the wish expressed on behalf of the congress held in 1923 at Oxford, the next International Congress of Psychology will meet in Groningen, Holland, from September 6 to 11, 1926. The congress will be limited, as was the previous one, to about 200 psychologists, to be invited by the committee. The organizing committee consists of Professors G. Heymans, *President*; E. D. Wiersma, *vice-president*; F. Roels, *first secretary*; H. J. F. W. Brugmans, *second secretary*; L. Bouman, G. van Wayenburg and H. Zwaardemaker.

THE twelfth International Physiological Congress will be held in 1926, at Stockholm, from August 3 to 6. Professor Johansson will be president, Professor Liljestrand, honorary secretary, and Professor Santesson, honorary treasurer.

A CHARTER of the Sigma Pi Sigma Physics Fraternity has been granted to Duke University, Durham, N. C. The chapter was installed there on May 14 by a representative from the Davidson College Chapter, Davidson, N. C.

ON May 15 and 16 a conference on geography was held at Clark University at which Harvard, Yale, Dartmouth, Middlebury, Wellesley, Mount Holyoke and Clark were all represented. A series of round-table discussions on the organization of geography work for colleges was conducted. A special paper was presented by Dr. Kirtley F. Mather, of Harvard University; one by Professor Ellsworth D. Elston, of Dartmouth, and one by Professor Phelps N. Sweet, of Middlebury. Professor Wallace R. McConnell, of Miami University, and Dr. Ellsworth Huntington, of Yale University, also contributed to the program. Dr. William C. Alden, of the United States Geological Survey, delivered an illustrated lecture on "The physical features of central Massachusetts," and conducted a half-day field trip for the entire party. On the evening of May 16 Dr. Preston E. James, of the University of Michigan, presented a paper on "A geographic reconnaissance of Trinidad."

THE American Association of Instructors and Investigators in Poultry Husbandry will hold its seventeenth annual convention at the Kansas State Agri-

cultural College, from August 12 to 15. The officers of the association are: *President*, B. F. Kaupp, Raleigh, N. C.; *First vice-president*, Roy E. Jones, Storrs, Conn.; *Second vice-president*, L. E. Card, Urbana, Ill.; *Secretary-treasurer*, L. F. Payne, Manhattan, Kansas.

A NEW honorary society for the promotion of scholarship among advanced students in the veterinary sciences has been organized, being called Phi Zeta. The Alpha Chapter is at Cornell University, the charter members consisting of members of the faculty and the senior class. Dean Veranus A. Moore is president of the society, Professor Howard J. Milks is vice-president and Professor William A. Hagan is secretary and treasurer. President Farrand and Emeritus Professors Simon H. Gage and Walter L. Williams are honorary members.

THE annual meeting of the members of the Royal Institution, London, was held on May 1, when the report of the Committee of Visitors for the year 1924, testifying to the continued prosperity and efficient management of the institution, was read and adopted. The report of the Davy Faraday Research Laboratory Committee was also read. Seventy-eight new members were elected in 1924, and 63 lectures and 19 evening discourses were delivered. Amongst the officers elected for the ensuing year were the following: *President*, The Duke of Northumberland; *treasurer*, Sir James Crichton Browne; *secretary*, Sir Arthur Keith. At a meeting of the members on May 4, Sir J. J. Thomson was reelected honorary professor and Sir Ernest Rutherford professor of natural philosophy.

THE Salters' Company have issued a booklet relating to the Salters' Institute of Industrial Chemistry. The institute was founded in 1918 with the object of giving help in the training of young men for careers in the special industries with which the company is associated. Its functions are, by means of fellowships, to enable young men from universities or other institutions to undergo a special training for industrial chemistry; by grants in aid to enable young men employed in chemical works in or near London to improve their chemical knowledge, and to give advice to persons who propose to enter on careers in chemical industry. The office of the institute, at the Salters' Hall, St. Swithin's-lane, E.C.4, is open daily.

A CORRESPONDENT writes: "A recent letter from Japan reports the destruction by fire on May 1 of the pathological laboratory of the Imperial University of Kyoto. Only a few museum specimens were saved. Professor A. Fujinami, the director of this laboratory, lost much important unpublished material both of his own work and that of his students. Dr.

Fujinami has many friends among the pathologists and parasitologists of the United States. He was a member of the Japanese medical commission which visited the medical centers of the United States in the spring of 1923 as guests of the Rockefeller Foundation."

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

G. E. MERRICK has donated a tract of land of 160 acres and \$5,000,000 toward establishment of a university in Miami, Florida. The university, which was granted a charter on April 5, will be non-sectarian and coeducational. Recitation and study rooms will be built on lines of open pavilions. A \$250,000 conservatory of music, \$200,000 for the arts department and a chapel have already been assured since the Merriek gift.

THE board of regents of the University of Maryland has approved a recommendation of President Albert F. Woods to appoint Dr. H. J. Patterson, who has been connected with the Maryland Agricultural College since 1888, director of the agricultural experiment station, as dean of the college of agriculture, and Professor P. W. Zimmerman, who has headed the latter department, assistant dean.

DR. ALFRED WORCESTER, of Waltham, has been appointed Henry K. Oliver professor of hygiene at Harvard University, to succeed Professor Roger I. Lee. Dr. Worcester will be also head of the department of hygiene and physical education.

At the University of Minnesota, Dr. William A. Riley has been appointed head of the department of animal biology, succeeding Professor Henry F. Nachtrieb, who is retiring at the close of forty years of service. Dr. Royal N. Chapman succeeds Dr. Riley as chief of the division of entomology and economic zoology. Both Dr. Chapman and Dr. Riley retain their double membership in the two departments and their work will be closely correlated. Dr. Clarence E. Mickel has been appointed assistant professor of systematic entomology and curator of the insect collection. Dr. Maynard S. Johnson, of the University of Illinois, has been appointed assistant professor of economic vertebrate zoology, and Harvey L. Sweetman, of the Iowa State College, as instructor in economic entomology.

DR. ADOLPH H. SCHULTZ, research associate of the department of embryology of the Carnegie Institution, has been appointed associate professor of physical anthropology at the Johns Hopkins University.

C. L. STEARNS, Ph.D., astronomer in the Yale University Observatory, has been elected research associate in astronomy in Wesleyan University. Dr.

Stearns will devote most of his time to observations with the 20-inch telescope of the Van Vleck Observatory in collaboration with Professors Slocum and Sitterly.

At the University of Colorado, Associate Professor P. G. Worcester has been promoted to a professorship of geology, and Russell Gibson to an associate professorship.

MAJOR K. W. BRAID, assistant in the herbarium, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, has been appointed to the chair of agricultural botany in the West of Scotland Agricultural College, Glasgow.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE LABORATORY METHOD IN THE TEACHING OF BOTANY

I HAVE just read in your valued journal an article on William James Beal by Professor Ernst A. Bessey in which occur several historical errors which in the interest of the accuracy of the history of American education should not go uncorrected.

In the opening sentence it is said that the late Dr. Beal "began his botanical studies at a time when the idea of laboratory work by the student of botany was unheard of." Below the middle of the second paragraph it is stated that Louis Agassiz "introduced Dr. Beal to the laboratory method of study, a method not then used at Harvard by either Eliot or Gray." As a matter of fact, William James Beal began the study of science at Harvard in the year 1862-63 and took the degree of Bachelor of Science in 1865. When he entered the university Asa Gray had been teaching botany by the laboratory method for many years to advanced students who sought his instruction, using for the purpose the Botanic Garden and his own invaluable Herbarium. I was in charge of the Chemical Laboratory of the Lawrence Scientific School and had been for more than a year, and my teaching was given wholly by the laboratory method without formal lectures or recitations from books. From the year 1850 on I had been a pupil of Professor Josiah P. Cooke, as a pupil in his own private laboratory, and there was taught by him by the laboratory method only. He also took me with him on his frequent excursions to collect specimens for the Mineral Cabinet of Harvard of which he was the curator—again the laboratory method, though in the field.

In the last sentence of the second paragraph of Professor Bessey's article occurs the following statement: "it was not many years until Dr. Beal introduced the laboratory method of instruction for botany, at a time when this was a startling innovation." Considering the facts, that is a very misleading statement.