

Forestry—R. S. Hosmer, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

Genetics—C. E. Allen, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis.

Horticulture—A. J. Heinicke, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

Physiology—O. F. Curtis, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

Pathology—Donald Reddick, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

Pharmacognosy and Pharmaceutical Botany—H. W. Youngken, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy, Boston, Mass.

Taxonomy—The name of secretary will be announced later.

Mycology—H. M. Fitzpatrick, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

The secretaries of the sections have been appointed by the national societies or sections of societies with corresponding interests. In many instances the societies or sections of societies have selected as secretary a resident of Ithaca to facilitate cooperation in the matter of local arrangements, etc. Shaping the programs of the sections is in every case a matter of consultation of the secretaries with their respective colleagues. General program arrangements are in the hands of a program committee (J. R. Schramm, *chairman*; L. W. Sharp, *secretary*; secretaries of the sections, cooperating).

Participation in the formal programs will be by invitation. Every effort will be made to secure, on an objective scientific basis without reference to geographical location, the outstanding active leaders in fundamental research and teaching in the respective fields.

In addition to the formal programs there will be time available in each section for round tables, scheduled either in advance or upon decision of the individual sections after the congress convenes. Gatherings of this type will afford opportunity for a wider participation of plant biologists in the sectional activities. Also, ample facilities are being arranged for non-commercial exhibits, providing another effective medium for individual participation in the scientific activities of the congress.

The plans for the congress further provide for excursions, collecting trips, inspection tours to local and nearby experimental work in progress, etc.

Communications regarding the congress should be addressed as follows:

(1) Concerning round tables and other strictly sectional matters—to the appropriate sectional secretary.

(2) Concerning exhibits and general program matters—to the undersigned.

(3) Concerning excursions, collecting trips, inspection tours, local arrangements, transportation, etc.—H. H. Whetzel, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

(4) Concerning the congress in general—B. M. Duggar, Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, Mo.

L. W. SHARP,

Secretary Program Committee

STONE HALL, CORNELL UNIVERSITY,

ITHACA, N. Y.

GEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE IN WESTERN TEXAS

DURING the week of October 19 to 24 a field conference was held in western Texas for the purpose of working out various problems of the upper Permian red beds. The main object of the conference was to correlate certain members of the Double Mountain formation of Texas with known ledges in Kansas and Oklahoma. Those attending the conference were E. H. Sellards, director of the Bureau of Economic Geology of Texas; Chas. N. Gould, director of the Oklahoma Geological Survey; J. W. Beede, an authority on the American Permian, and the following geologists, the greater number of whom are connected with oil companies:

C. L. Cooper, R. L. Clifton, C. W. Tomlinson, W. A. Riney, J. V. Howell, L. E. Trout, F. K. Foster, Wallace E. Thompson, M. M. Garrett, T. Davis, R. T. McNalley, U. B. Hughes, J. P. Bowen, John A. Kay, Archie R. Kautz, Louis Franklin, W. M. Nolte, C. W. Clark, D. J. Wolff, T. F. Newman, A. V. Jones, P. A. Meyers, F. E. Russell, Lester Luecke.

The results of the observations may be summarized as follows:

The general stratigraphic units of the upper Permian red beds are continuous in Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. The gypsum-bearing formations are more pronounced in Texas than in states to the north.

The Double Mountain formation of Texas includes the following formations in Oklahoma (oldest beds named first): Duncan, Chickasha, Blaine, Dog Creek, Whitehorse, Day Creek, Cloud Chief and Quartermaster.

One formation, the Blaine, and probably others also, may be traced continuously from southern Kansas across Oklahoma as far as the vicinity of San Angelo on the Concho River, west central Texas. The outcrop of the Blaine in the three states approximates 600 miles.

THE LANE MEDICAL LECTURES AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY

THE twentieth course of Lane Medical Lectures will be delivered by Dr. Vittorio Putti, November 9, 10,

11, 12 and 13, in Lane Hall at the Stanford University Medical School in San Francisco.

The Lane Medical Lectures were founded in 1896 by the late Dr. Levi Cooper Lane. They consist of a free course of lectures on medical subjects by men distinguished at home or abroad for their work in either medicine or surgery, and are intended for medical students and the medical profession at large.

The lecture on November 13 will be on "The University of Bologna in the history of medicine." Dr. Putti, who will give the lecture series, is professor of orthopedic surgery at the University of Bologna and director of the Rizzoli Institute of Bologna, Italy.

The previous lectures have been given by Dr. Simon Flexner, director of the laboratories at the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, who in 1917 discussed the "Physical basis and present status of specific serum and drug therapy"; Alonzo Englebert Taylor, professor of physiological chemistry at the University of Pennsylvania, who in 1919 spoke on "The feeding of the nations at war." In 1921 the late L. Emmett Holt, of Columbia University, discussed "Growth and nutrition," and last year Dr. Ludwig Aschoff, professor of pathology, University of Freiburg, Germany, delivered the lecture series on "Selected topics in pathology."

SELECTION OF THE CHIEF OF CHEMISTRY DIVISION OF U. S. BUREAU OF STANDARDS

THE United States Civil Service Commission states that the position of chief of the chemistry division of the Bureau of Standards of the Department of Commerce is vacant, and that, in view of the importance of the position in the whole field of chemical research, and to insure the appointment of a thoroughly qualified man for the work, an unusual method of competition will be followed to fill the vacancy. Instead of the usual form of civil service examination, the qualifications of candidates will be passed upon by a special board of examiners composed of Dr. George K. Burgess, director of the Bureau of Standards; Dr. F. G. Cottrell, director of the Fixed Nitrogen Research Laboratory of the Department of Agriculture; Dr. W. A. Noyes, dean of chemistry of the University of Illinois; Dr. W. R. Whitney, chief of the research laboratory of the General Electric Company, and Mr. Frederick W. Brown, examiner of the United States Civil Service Commission. For the purposes of this examination all these men will be examiners of the Civil Service Commission.

The examination will consist solely of a consideration of qualifications by this special board. The minimum qualifications for consideration are a doctor's

degree in chemistry from a college or university of recognized standing, and at least ten years' experience in the direction and performance of chemical research of a character to show the required degree of chemical knowledge and ability, executive capacity of the highest order, thorough familiarity with chemical literature and scientific maturity.

The duties of the position are to act as the scientific and administrative head of the chemistry division of the Bureau of Standards; to determine and execute the policies of the bureau relating to work in chemistry; to be responsible for the maintenance and operation of the division; to direct or to perform research in the field of chemistry, and to prepare reports and data for publication. These duties involve high administrative responsibility, contact with the chemical industry and with the technical experts in the field of chemistry and particularly the ability to plan, direct and coordinate research, investigation and testing of the most advanced character. The opportunities for research and development are practically unlimited, and the laboratory equipment and other facilities are unexcelled.

The entrance salary for this position is \$5,200 a year. Promotion may be made without change in assignment up to \$6,000 a year. The present director of the Bureau of Standards was advanced through promotion from the \$6,000 grade.

Qualified persons who wish to be considered for this vacancy should apply to the United States Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C., for form 2118, which must be executed and returned, with a list of the applicant's technical publications and reprints of such of these publications as are available, to the office of the Civil Service Commission at Washington not later than Saturday, December 5.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. CHARLES D. WALCOTT, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, received the honorary degree of doctor of laws at the annual convocation exercises of the University of the State of New York on October 16. On this occasion Dr. Walcott gave an address on Joseph Henry, which is printed in this issue of SCIENCE.

DR. J. B. WHITEHEAD, professor of electrical engineering and dean of the faculty of engineering of the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, has been awarded the triennial prize, for the year 1925, of the Fondation George Montefiore of Liège, Belgium, for the best original work contributing to scientific advancement in the technical applications of electricity. The prize is awarded for his series of papers entitled "Gaseous ionization in built-up insulation." The