

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE following awards have been made by the Royal Society: The Copley Medal to Professor Albert Einstein, for his theory of relativity and his contributions to the quantum theory; the Davy Medal to Sir James Irvine, for his work on the constitution of the sugars; the Sylvester Medal to Professor A. N. Whitehead, for his researches on the foundations of mathematics; the Hughes Medal to Mr. F. E. Smith, for his determination of fundamental electrical units and for researches in technical electricity; the Royal Medals to Professor W. H. Perkin, for his work on the constitution of the alkaloids, and to Professor A. C. Seward, for his researches on the paleobotany of Gondwanaland.

THE following officers were elected at the anniversary meeting of the Royal Society on November 30: *President*, Sir Ernest Rutherford; *treasurer*, Sir David Prain; *secretaries*, Mr. J. H. Jeans and Dr. H. H. Dale; *foreign secretary*, Sir Richard Glazebrook. *Other members of council*, Professor J. H. Ashworth, Professor L. Bairstow, Professor F. O. Bower, Professor S. Chapman, Sir Dugald Clerk, Professor F. G. Donnan, Professor E. J. Garwood, Professor J. P. Hill, Professor J. B. Leathes, Professor J. C. G. Ledingham, Sir Thomas Lewis, Professor F. A. Lindemann, Sir Robert Robertson, Sir Charles Sherrington, Dr. G. C. Simpson and Mr. W. C. D. Whetham.

DR. JOHN J. ABEL, professor of pharmacology at the Johns Hopkins Medical School, will receive the first \$2,500 annual award of the Research Corporation of New York, as an investigator who has made "outstanding contributions to the cause of science without profit to himself."

THE Perkin Medal for 1925 has been awarded to Dr. R. B. Moore, formerly chief chemist of the U. S. Bureau of Mines, who was largely responsible for the development of helium production during the war. The medal is given by the American section of the Society for Chemical Industry and the selection is made by a committee from that organization, the American Chemical Society, the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and the American section of the Société de Chimie Industrielle. The presentation will be made on January 15.

DR. EDWARD ROBIE BERRY, of the General Electric Company, Lynn, Mass., has been awarded the Grasselli Medal of the American section of the Society of Chemical Industry. Presentation of the medal will be made at a meeting of the section in New York City on December 4, when Dr. Allen Robers, of the Pratt Institute, will give reminiscences of Dr. Berry's early days, and Professor Robert W. Wood, of the Johns Hopkins University, will speak on the optical proper-

ties of fused quartz and its use in the study of ultraviolet light.

PROFESSOR CHARLES L. THORNBURG, professor emeritus of mathematics at Lehigh University, was awarded the honorary LL.D. by the university on the occasion of its annual founder's-day exercises.

DR. GEORGE H. MEEKER, dean of the graduate school of medicine of the University of Pennsylvania, received the degree of doctor of laws from Lafayette College at the founder's day exercises on October 21.

DR. J. FRANK DANIEL, professor of zoology at the University of California, while on sabbatical leave last year, attended the meetings of, and was elected to membership in the Société Zoologique de France, which met at Paris, and in the Association des Anatomistes, which met at Turin.

PROFESSOR DAVID EUGENE SMITH is preparing to retire from his active work as professor of mathematics in Teachers College, Columbia University, on February 1. He expects to devote his attention thereafter to writing. Lectures on the history of mathematics at Columbia will be discontinued with his retirement.

DR. KARL FROMME, professor of theoretical physics and geodesy at the University of Giessen, retired on November 1.

THE Bakelite Corporation has established a research fellowship in the research division in the School of Chemistry and Physics at the Pennsylvania State College. Dr. Lyman Chalkley, Jr., formerly research chemist of the Standard Oil Company, Whiting, Ind., has been appointed as senior fellow.

DR. H. L. DOZIER, chief of the division of entomology of the Porto Rico Insular Station, has been appointed entomologist at the Delaware Experiment Station.

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain has appointed Dr. J. H. Burn, pharmacologist in the National Institute for Medical Research, director of the new laboratories to be established by the society to provide facilities for biological tests such as are imposed under the therapeutic substances act, which became law on August 7, 1925.

DR. E. W. SCHULTZ, M. D. (Hopkins, '17), has received a fellowship from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. Dr. Schultz will work on the bacteriophage, in the laboratory of the International Sanitary Council at Alexandria, Egypt.

PROFESSOR H. H. WHETZEL, of Cornell University, and Dr. F. J. Seaver, of the New York Botanical Garden, will sail early in January for a five-weeks

collecting trip in Bermuda. They are preparing a fungous flora of these islands for the Bermuda government. They will be the guests of the director of agriculture, Mr. E. A. McCallan.

DR. C. P. RICHTER and Dr. G. B. Wislocki, of the Johns Hopkins University, have returned from Central America where they studied tropical animal life. Most of their time was spent at the Institute for Research in Tropical America.

DR. S. F. BLAKE, of the U. S. Bureau of Plant Industry, returned from abroad in November, where he has been examining types of South American Compositae at the principal European herbaria.

PROFESSOR PAVLOV, the Russian physiologist, has left Leningrad for Paris, where he intends to work in the Sorbonne for some time.

DR. JAMES F. NORRIS, president of the American Chemical Society, is visiting a number of cities from November 17 to December 15, during which period he will give addresses before about twenty meetings of local sections of the American Chemical Society.

DR. EDWIN E. SLOSSON, director of Science Service, will address the Columbia University chapter of the Sigma Xi on December 8 on "A chemical interpretation of history."

ON November 13, in connection with his visit to the Illinois Geological Survey at Urbana, Ill., Dr. David White, chairman of the division of geology and geography of the National Research Council, spoke before a joint seminar meeting of the staffs of the survey and the department of geology of the University of Illinois on "Lines of geologic investigation of especial promise."

DR. CHARLES R. STOCKARD, professor of anatomy at the Cornell University Medical College, gave, on November 17, the second annual lecture of the Biochemical Society of the Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, on "Recent advances in our knowledge of internal secretion." Professor H. Gideon Wells, of the University of Chicago, is announced as the third lecturer for 1926.

DR. IRVING LANGMUIR, of the Research Laboratory of the General Electric Company, Schenectady, gave an address on "Pure science in industrial research," at the Faculty Club of New York University, on November 20.

PROFESSOR JAMES KENDALL, of the department of chemistry of Columbia University, delivered his retiring address as chairman of the New York section of the American Chemical Society at the November meeting of the section at the Chemists' Club on

November 6. The subject of his lecture was: "The separation of the rare earths."

HARALD U. SVERDRUP, in charge of the scientific work of the *Maud* expedition to the Arctic, gave an illustrated lecture on the scientific work of the expedition at the Carnegie Institution of Washington, on December 1.

DR. ANNIE J. CANNON, of the Harvard College Observatory, will give an illustrated lecture on "Starlight and its message," before a meeting of the American Philosophical Society, in Philadelphia, on December 4.

DR. LIBERTY HYDE BAILEY, of Cornell University, gave a lecture on "Botanical gardens," before a meeting of the Ohio Botanic Garden Society, which met in Cincinnati, on November 20.

MISS H. NEWELL WARDLE, assistant curator of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, on November 19 addressed a meeting of the Philadelphia Natural History Society on the "Life of the eastern woodland Indians before the discovery of America."

PROFESSOR YANDELL HENDERSON, of Yale University, lectured at the Royal Society of Medicine, London, on October 22 and 23 on "The control of respiration in anesthesia by inhalation of carbon dioxide and on absorption and elimination of volatile substances through the lungs." The lectures were repeated at the University of Manchester on October 26 and 27, and at the University of Edinburgh on October 29 and 30. They were delivered under the auspices of the Dental Board of the United Kingdom. On November 30 and December 1 Professor Henderson lectured at University College, London, on the "Efficiency of the heart, and its measurement."

DR. ALBERT SAUVEUR, professor of metallurgy and metallography of the Harvard Engineering School, gave a series of three public lectures on November 30, December 1 and 2 at the Carnegie Institute of Technology on "Directional properties and dendritic segregation in steel" and "Hardening of steel."

DE LAMAR lectures at the Johns Hopkins University have been given as follows: November 16, by Dr. David Marine, "The prevention of simple goiter as a public health problem"; November 30, by Dr. Alice Hamilton, "The present status of industrial toxicology in the United States."

THE Huxley memorial lecture before the Royal Anthropological Institute was given this year by Sir Arthur J. Evans, F.R.S., at the rooms of the Royal Society, November 24, on the subject of "Early Nilotic, Libyan and Egyptian relations with Minoan Crete."

THE hundredth annual course of Christmas lectures for children at the Royal Institution will be delivered this year by Sir William Bragg on "Old trades and new knowledge." The trade of the sailor is the title of the first lecture, to be given on December 29, and the following five lectures will be on the trades of the smith, the weaver, the dyer, the potter and the miner.

PROFESSOR E. P. CATHCART delivered the Chadwick public lectures at Reading, England, on October 30 and 31, his subject being the nature and composition of food and its relation to the energy needs of the body.

SIR DAVID PRAIN, F.R.S., formerly director of Kew Gardens and of the Botanical Survey of India, gave a lecture on some useful plants of India at a meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain on November 10.

IN memory of Dr. Norman Lothian (British) and Dr. Darling (American), the two members of the Malaria Commission of the League of Nations who were killed in a motor accident near Beirut last May while investigating malaria conditions in Syria, the League's Health Committee has decided to create a "Lothian Scholarship" and a "Darling Prize," which will be awarded periodically for the encouragement of malariological study.

A MEMORIAL to Sir James Dewar, consisting of a bronze plaque, was unveiled at the Royal Institution of Great Britain on November 10.

DR. FREDERICK B. PECK, professor of mineralogy and geology at Lafayette College, died on November 2, aged sixty-five years.

DR. JOHN LEWIS HILDRETH, formerly professor of clinical medicine and dean of Tufts Medical College, Boston, died on November 27, in his eighty-seventh year.

PROFESSOR J. MASSART, professor of botany in the University of Brussels, has died, aged sixty years.

DR. PAUL HEGGER, from 1873 to 1907 professor of physiology at the University of Brussels, and afterwards honorary professor and president of the university, has died, aged seventy-nine years.

DR. MORITZ RETHY, professor emeritus of mathematics at the Budapest School of Technology, has died at the age of seventy-nine years.

THE deaths are announced of Dr. Y. V. Samoilov, a Russian professor of mineralogy, and B. V. Davydov, hydrographist and leader of a number of expeditions to Wrangle Island.

THE president of the executive committee of the International Research Council has summoned a

meeting of the general assembly of that body to be held at Brussels on June 29, 1926. The object of the meeting will be to discuss the advisability of removing from the statutes the restrictions which have hitherto stood in the way of admitting the Central Powers of Europe to the Research Council.

THE board of directors of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers has, on the recommendation of the committee on coordination of institute activities, adopted the following schedule of meetings for 1926: Midwinter convention, New York, week beginning February 8; annual business meeting, New York, May 21; annual convention, probably June 21-25, place to be determined by the committee; Pacific Coast convention, Salt Lake City, date to be decided later; regional meetings: Middle Eastern District, Cleveland, March 18-19; Northeastern District, Niagara Falls, latter part of May or early in June.

THE Biological Laboratory of the Long Island Biological Association at Cold Spring Harbor has recently acquired a forty-five foot motor launch. The boat, which is the gift of Dr. Walter B. James, a member of the board of directors of the biological laboratory, is capable of carrying sixty persons to marine collecting grounds in the vicinity of the laboratory. Its shallow draught of less than three feet will permit of its entering inlets and estuaries, while its seaworthiness, due to its 9½ foot beam and general construction, will make practicable collecting trips to the rocky Connecticut shore across the sound. It is equipped with a standard heavy duty marine motor, developing a speed of ten miles an hour. Apparatus, suitable for dredging in Cold Spring Harbor, Oyster Bay and Long Island Sound, will be installed.

A SHIPMENT consisting of seventy mammal skins and skulls has been received by the U. S. National Museum, collected by Dr. Hugh M. Smith, in Siam. These specimens make an important addition to the collection of mammals as they come from a region not represented in the collections of Malayan mammals previously made for the museum by Dr. W. L. Abott and C. B. Kloss.

A CORRESPONDENT writes: "L'Institut Océanographique, founded by the Prince of Monaco, had already published seven volumes of its *Annales* before the interruption caused by the breaking out of the European war. Since 1922, however, the publication of these *Annales* has been continued under the direction of Professor Joubin, of the Museum d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris. It has just been learned that there is scarcely an institution, library, museum or university in this country which has up to the present time

subscribed to these resumed *Annales* which, at the present state of foreign exchange, cost less than three dollars a volume. This lack of interest on the part of American scientists in the scientific work of this French institution is the more to be wondered at, since European countries on the economic footing of Austria, Russia and Germany have found the ways and means to resume their normal subscriptions for their learned institutions."

THE U. S. Public Health Service will make an extensive survey in Polk, Hillsborough and Citrus counties, Florida, of malaria. Headquarters of the investigation will be at Lakeland under the direction of Bruce Mayne, assistant technical engineer, who investigated the malaria situation in this community in 1917. The present survey will require several months.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY has received a gift of \$600,000 from the Nichols Foundation, Inc., established by Dr. William H. Nichols, which is to be used to erect a new chemistry building at University Heights. Chancellor Brown announced the members of the chemistry building committee as follows: General John J. Carty, Dr. W. H. Nichols, Professor A. E. Hill, Professor Collins P. Bliss and LeRoy E. Kimball.

THE late Miss Helen Culver has bequeathed \$600,000 to the University of Chicago. According to the terms of the will this bequest is to be added to the Helen Culver Fund, founded in 1895.

THE General Education Board of the Rockefeller Foundation has made a gift of \$350,000 for neurological teaching and research at Harvard University. This amount is to be added to the approximately similar amount employed by the university for this purpose and it is to be used in connection with the work at the Boston City Hospital as the new buildings there are developed. The work is to be under the charge of Dr. Stanley Cobb, professor of neurology in the university.

IT is announced that Princeton University within the next two years will expend a half-million dollars in the construction of a new engineering laboratory.

PROFESSOR WILLIAM D. FUNKHOUSER, head of the department of zoology at the University of Kentucky, has been made dean of the graduate school.

HAROLD J. BARRETT, instructor in chemistry at the Ohio State University, has been appointed assistant professor at the South Dakota State College.

THE Siamese government has recently completed negotiations for the appointment of Dr. Everett C. Albritton, of the department of physiology at the

University of Buffalo, as professor of physiology at the Chulalongkorn University at Bangkok.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR W. L. MISER, of the Armour Institute of Technology, was recently appointed professor of mathematics at Vanderbilt University.

DR. FRIDJOF NANSEN, the Arctic explorer and Norwegian statesman, has been elected rector of the University of St. Andrews.

PROFESSOR RICHARD GANS, of the University of La Plata, has been appointed professor of physics at the University of Königsberg.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

A NEW UNITED STATES WEED: HYMENOPHYSA PUBESCENS¹

THE U. S. National Museum received recently for identification from Mrs. M. E. Soth, of Pocatello, Idaho, specimens of a cruciferous plant evidently not described in the manuals covering the Rocky Mountain region. The plant was determined from descriptions as *Hymenophyssa pubescens* C. A. Mey., but since no herbarium material of the genus was available for comparison, a specimen was forwarded to the Berlin Botanic Garden, where Dr. O. E. Schulz confirmed the writer's tentative determination.

The genus *Hymenophyssa* is reported to consist of three species, two of them described from Persia and Turkestan. *H. pubescens*, the original species, is a native of the Altai region of central Asia, where it grows in moist subsaline places on the desert plains. Concerning its occurrence at Pocatello, Mrs. Soth supplies the following information:

The colony of this plant has increased greatly in extent and density since I discovered it two seasons ago. It occurs at the edge of a grain field which previously had been in alfalfa for several years. There has been so little cultivation of the area that the colony has not been disturbed very much, and has spread among the grass and weeds toward the ditch bank that borders the field, until it occupies a space about twelve by eighteen feet. The habit of the plant in shooting up flowering branches from the lower parts after the first fruits ripen makes it conspicuous at this season (September). I should not expect this colony to be eradicated easily by any ordinary process of tillage. My guess as to its origin would be that the seeds were mixed with those of alfalfa or possibly some sort of imported grain seed. I have found a few plants in other localities, to which seed probably was carried with hay from this field. I have no doubt that we are recording the first stages in the establishment of another weed that will be quite common in a few more seasons.

Hymenophyssa pubescens is a perennial, but flowers the first year from seed. In general appearance and

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