chemistry and director of the chemical laboratory, for a competent assistant and for the purchase of minerals, chemicals, etc., in a research into the absorbent qualities of certain crystalline substances. It is expected that this work will throw considerable light on the dimensions of molecules of various gases as well as to provide a means of separating certain gases hitherto impossible of separation.

KIRTLEY F. MATHER, associate professor of physiography, to pay the salaries of a draftsman, stenographer and statistician, whose assistance is necessary for the completion of a treatise concerning the "Physiography of South America." Professor Mather has already made several trips to South America and has collected a large amount of material, which forms the subject matter of his course Geography 7—Physiography of South America. The applicant is planning to put the material into final shape for publication during the current year.

WILLIAM HENRY PICKERING, assistant professor of astronomy, *emeritus*, to defray expenses incurred in making computations and drawings in connection with Professor Pickering's researches on Mars and the Moon. During the next two years the southern hemisphere of the planet Mars will be turned toward the earth, and the work will consist largely of making astronomical observations during this period. The work will go toward the construction of a table and map similar to that now in the hands of Professor Shapley for publication in the *Annals* of the observatory.

HARLOW SHAPLEY, Paine professor of practical astronomy and director of the Harvard College Observatory, for two years, to defray expenses connected with making extensive researches which lie in the province of the variable stars. Particularly, the grant is to cover the expense of an investigation of the variability, absolute magnitudes and parallaxes of stars throughout the whole length of the Milky Way, in order to determine the distance and structure of various parts of the galactic system and thus to throw some light on its origin and growth.

WILLIAM HENRY WESTON, JR., assistant professor of botany, to complete an intensive comparative study of a group of parasitic fungi which cause the several downy mildew diseases of important food crops. Professor Weston began this work eight years ago and during this time eight papers have been published on the various phases covered. A comprehensive collection of representatives of all known fungi from various parts of the world has been made. The grant will be used for paying for the part-time services of two well-trained graduate students.

EDWIN BIDWELL WILSON, professor of vital statistics, to pay for the extra clerical assistance needed to conduct a general statistical investigation on all stars for which a large amount of material is available, in accordance with biometric methods involving partial correlation.

CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATION ON AGRICULTURAL MATTERS

AMONG bills touching on agriculture which have been introduced in Congress are the following:

A supplemental estimate of $185,000 for the Department of Agriculture for the fiscal year 1927, to continue the research work of the fixed-nitrogen research laboratory under the Bureau of Soils, has been transmitted to the senate from the president, with an accompanying letter from the director of the Bureau of the Budget. The agricultural appropriation bill, carrying a total of $129,370,468, has been reported to the senate with amendments, by the Committee on Appropriations.

Representative Edwards, of Georgia, has introduced a bill (H. R. 9692) directing the Secretary of Agriculture to cooperate with the various cotton-producing states in investigating the "brown wilt" and other diseases of the cotton plant.

Establishment and maintenance of a forest experiment station in Porto Rico is provided for in a bill (H. R. 9595) which has been introduced by Mr. Davila, of Porto Rico.

The senate has also passed a resolution (S. Res. 146) requesting the Tariff Commission to investigate the cost of producing cream and milk, etc., at home and in competing countries.

A bill (S. 1250) amending the act authorizing donations of public lands to states and territories that provide colleges for the benefit of agriculture and the mechanical arts has been passed by the senate. It provides that income from the sale of such lands must be devoted to agricultural and industrial education.

Another bill (S. 1462) passed by the senate permits an exchange of land for the improvement of the Medicine Bow National Forest.

The first urgent deficiency bill (H. R. 8722), with amendments providing additional amounts for forest fire weather-warning surveys and for fighting and preventing forest fires, has been passed by the senate. All items in the bill affecting the Department of Agriculture have been agreed upon by the two houses.

Representative Haugen, of Iowa, has introduced a bill (H. R. 9458) to authorize the grazing of livestock on national forests, to provide for the establishment of grazing districts on the public lands of the United States and Alaska, and to regulate their beneficial use by livestock, and for other purposes.

Senator Harreld, of Oklahoma, has introduced a bill (S. 3260) "to authorize the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of War to lease lands for game-preserve and game-propagation purposes to state departments or other organizations under state or federal control."

THE EVOLUTION OF MAN

THE following minute has been adopted by the Council of the American Anthropological Association:

In view of the dogmatic objections raised against the theory of evolution the council of the American Anthropological Association have thought it advisable to formulate the present position of scientific inquiry.

The plants and animals belonging to early periods of the earth's history show that the forms have not remained the same for any length of time. The changes that have occurred are of such character that we are compelled to

consider the later forms as descendants of older forms. No form of living being has remained the same through the ages. The evidence of past times is corroborated by the structural and developmental analogies observed in related forms, proofs of a gradual differentiation from common ancestral forms.

The minute structure of all living matter is alike and shows that all organisms, from the lowest to the highest, must be considered as a unit.

Man has succeeded in producing a variety of forms of domestic animals and cultivated plants which differ from their ancestors. Our success, accomplished in a very short period, indicates that in long periods nature will produce more fundamental changes.

Man is part of the animal world. In all respects his anatomical structure conforms to that of the rest of the animal world. His prenatal life closely parallels that of the higher mammals. The same influences that control their development after birth control him and he responds in a like manner to the environment in which he is placed. Prehistoric archeology has shown that, in the course of the ages, man has undergone great changes in physical type and that ancient man differed from modern races, the more so the more ancient the remains.

Local types of man have developed on every continent and their existence proves that changes in the heritable characteristics of racial groups are effected in the course of time.

We must conclude that the bodily form of man as well as that of animals and plants has changed and is still changing, not in the course of centuries, but in long periods.

The exact cause of changes in the form of organisms and the conditions under which they occur, as well as the causes making for stability, are still imperfectly known. The principle of change has been so well established that it should become the common property of mankind.

THIRD PAN-PACIFIC SCIENCE CONGRESS

IN response to the invitation of the Japanese National Research Council to participate in the Third Pan-Pacific Science Congress which will be held at Tokyo, October 27 to November 9, 1926, a number of American scientific men have already decided to attend. Among these are:

President Wallace W. Atwood, Clark University, and Mrs. Atwood.

Dr. Caroline E. Furness, chairman of the department of astronomy, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York.

Dr. Herbert E. Gregory, professor of geology, Yale University.

President F. S. Harris, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah.

Dr. Andrew C. Lawson, head of the department of geology, University of California.

Dr. C. K. Leith, professor of geology, University of Wisconsin, and Mrs. Leith.

Dr. G. W. Littlehales, U. S. Hydrographic Office, Washington, D. C.

Dr. George F. McEwen, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, California.

Dr. George H. Parker, professor of zoology, Harvard University, and Mrs. Parker.

Rev. Father Roque Ruaño, faculty of civil engineering, University of Santo Tomas, Manila, P. I.

Dr. W. A. Setchell, head of the department of botany, University of California.

Dr. T. Wayland Vaughan, director, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, California.

Dr. Victor C. Vaughan, chairman, division of medical science, National Research Council, Washington, D. C., and Mrs. Vaughan.

If there are others who are planning to go to Japan for this congress next fall, it is requested that word be sent to the National Research Council, Washington, D. C., to be forwarded to the National Research Council of Japan.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE council of the British Association for the Advancement of Science will nominate Sir Arthur Keith, Hunterian professor in the Royal College of Surgeons and secretary of the Royal Institution, as president of the association for the meeting in Leeds in 1927. At the Oxford meeting this year Professor F. O. Bower will preside over the botanical section in place of the late Dr. William Bateson.

DR. MICHAEL I. PUPIN, professor of electromechanics at Columbia University, was awarded the honorary degree of doctor of laws by the University of California on March 23, at the annual charter day exercises of the university. Dr. Pupin gave the principal address on this occasion.

DR. SIMON FLEXNER, director of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, has been elected an honorary member of the Microbiological Society of Leningrad, Russia.

DR. MONTROSE T. BURROWS has been elected to succeed Dr. W. B. Cannon as chairman of the committee on protection of medical research of the American Medical Association. Expressions of appreciation were recorded by the board of trustees "for the very valuable service rendered by Dr. Cannon in the position which he held so long."

THE John Burroughs Bronze Medal will be formally presented to William Beebe, the naturalist and author, at the annual meeting of the John Burroughs Memorial Association, to be held on April 3, at 3 P. M. in the auditorium of the American Museum of Natural History.

PROFESSOR ERNEST H. WILSON, assistant director of Arnold Arboretum, has received the Veitch Memorial gold medal awarded to him by the British Royal