

June, 1924, the University of Pittsburgh conferred upon him the honorary degree of Sc.D. in recognition of his attainments and services to the community.

Dr. Stewart accompanied by his family spent the summer of the year 1925 in European travel, and visited the leading museums of London, Cambridge, Paris, Brussels and Berlin. He was everywhere received with the greatest courtesy. He returned apparently greatly invigorated by his trip and full of ideas bearing upon the future of the institution of which he was the head.

Dr. Stewart was a member of the American Archaeological Society, a member of the American Association of Museums, serving at the time of his death as one of the governing Council, he was a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He was an active member of many of the scientific societies in Pittsburgh. For a long time he served as president of the Stage and Play Society in Pittsburgh. After his return from Washington he accepted the duties of chancellor of the Belgian Consulate in Pittsburgh under the appointment of his chief, Dr. Holland, who from 1918 to 1922 was the Consul for Belgium for western Pennsylvania.

Mr. Stewart added to his other accomplishments a good knowledge of music, and was a proficient violinist. He possessed a happy and cheerful disposition and was a favorite in the social circles in which he moved. He was devoted to his family and was most happy in his home, where his gracious wife and he loved to entertain a wide and interesting circle of friends and acquaintances.

He left his office on the evening of Thursday, the 15th of April, apparently in good health and the best of spirits. On the following day he was reported from his home as being slightly indisposed. He took to his bed, but no special anxiety was felt until in the evening of Tuesday, April 20, when alarming symptoms suddenly developed. He died of heart failure on the evening of the following day. His funeral took place at Calvary Protestant Episcopal Church on Friday, April 23, at 3:00 p. m., Rt. Rev. Alexander Mann, Bishop of the P. E. Diocese of Pittsburgh, officiating. He is buried in Allegheny Cemetery.

He leaves his wife and two young daughters and an innumerable company of friends to mourn his loss. He lived a noble, useful and inspiring life, and was "every inch a gentleman." His death ends a career which was full of the richest promise for the future, and inflicts a heavy loss, not only upon the institution which he so long and faithfully served, but upon the cause of science in America.

W. J. H.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### AWARDS OF PRIZES BY THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

At a quarterly meeting of the council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England on April 15, as already recorded in *SCIENCE*, the Walker Prize of £100 was awarded to Dr. William Ewart Gye in recognition of his work in advancing the knowledge of the pathology and therapeutics of cancer during the past five years. The award was made in pursuance of the following report from the committee appointed to advise the council in the matter:

The work of Dr. Gye, which has been very materially assisted by the optical researches of Mr. J. E. Barnard, F.R.S., promises to throw light upon the hitherto unsolved problem of the causation of malignant disease. Taking as his starting-point the pioneer work of Peyton Rous upon fowl sarcoma, Dr. Gye produced from this tumor, by different methods, two fluids. Neither of these fluids when inoculated alone produced a tumor, but an inoculation of the mixed fluids in a healthy fowl was followed by the appearance of a sarcoma. The experimenter inferred in his further work that to produce a malignant growth two factors are necessary, first a living virus which appears to be of extreme minuteness, and secondly a chemical factor peculiar to each species of animal and effective only in that species. Dr. Gye has succeeded in cultivating this virus *in vitro*. Further, by a series of substitution experiments, he has shown that there can be obtained from human carcinoma and from malignant tumors of the rat and mouse a virus capable of acting with the "specific factor" of the fowl to cause fowl sarcoma.

These experiments, pursued with great patience and acumen over a long period and still in progress, suggest new and hopeful lines of attack upon the problem of the cause of malignant disease. Though it can not yet be said that they have found practical application, they have already given to cancer research such a great stimulus, and such a new direction, as to justify the committee in recommending Dr. Gye for the Walker Prize.

The Cartwright Medal, with an honorarium of £85, was awarded to Dr. James Sim Wallace, L.D.S., for his essay on "Variations in the Form of Jaws with Special Reference to their Etiology and their Relation to the Occlusion of the Dental Arches." The subject for essays for this prize for 1926-30 will be "The Etiology, Pathology, and Treatment of Periodontitis."

### THE FIFTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF SOIL SCIENCE

FOREIGN governments will be invited by the United States to be represented by delegates at the Fifth International Conference of Soil Science to be held

at Washington, D. C., during 1927, as the result of Congressional action authorizing such invitations.

The first international conference of soil science was held at Budapest in 1908. Prior to that conference the scientists met in international conference as a branch of the International Congress of Geologists. The second conference took place at Stockholm, Sweden, in 1910, and at that meeting it was agreed to hold the third conference in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1913. Owing to the difficulties in Russia during the summer of 1913, the Russian government requested the representatives of the soil scientists of that country to notify affiliated bodies in other nations that it would be inconvenient to hold a conference in Russia at the time scheduled. The third conference finally met at Prague in April, 1922, and the fourth conference at Rome in May, 1924.

The International Conference of Soil Science is made up of specialists from a number of countries in which soil investigations are carried on in an intensive way. The conference is concerned with the establishment, through discussion and agreement, of uniform methods of procedure in the handling of soil problems of like character in all the countries represented, with the aim of eventually effecting a correlation of the soils of the whole world.

It is believed by the Department of Agriculture that the holding of such a conference in the United States will prove especially advantageous in promoting this branch of science, since a much larger number of American representatives interested in soil science, both those associated in Federal government activities and those connected with state colleges and other institutions in work along these lines, will thereby be enabled to participate in the conference and benefit by the exchange of ideas with the leading students of soil problems in foreign nations concerning the latest developments in experimental, educational and teaching work.

No expense will be incurred by the government in extending invitations to the delegates of foreign countries, but probably an appropriation of a small sum, not exceeding \$5,000, will be requested in the future by the Department of Agriculture for the publication of the proceedings and reports of the conference and for miscellaneous printing items, as was done by the governments of other countries in which the previous meetings have taken place.

#### INSTALLATION OF A CHAPTER OF SIGMA XI AT CINCINNATI

INSTALLATION of a chapter of Sigma Xi at the University of Cincinnati took place on April 29, in the woman's building at the University of Cincinnati. Dr. Forrest R. Moulton, of the University of Chicago

and president of the National Society, and Dr. H. P. Ward, of the University of Illinois, former president of the society and acting for the national secretary, were the installing officers.

Following the installation, a banquet was held where the address of welcome was given by Dr. Frederick C. Hicks, president of the University of Cincinnati. Dr. H. M. Benedict was toastmaster. Responses were made for the chapter by Dr. Nevin Fenneman and by Dr. Herman Schneider, dean of the College of Engineering. Dr. Ward gave a short address on "Yesterday and To-morrow," being a discussion as to the history and objects of the society. The main speaker was Dr. Moulton, who gave an illustrated address on modern ideas in astronomy.

The officers of the new chapter are:

*President:* Dr. O. C. Von Schlichten, Department of Geology.

*Vice-president:* Dr. G. D. McLaughlin, Department of Leather Research, Tanners' Council of America.

*Secretary-treasurer:* Dr. Saul B. Arenson, Department of Chemical Engineering.

The petitioning group consisted of about forty, practically all being members elected at other chapters.

#### AWARD OF MEDALS BY THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE

A SPECIAL meeting was held at the Franklin Institute on May 12 when medals were presented in accordance with the following program.

Presentation of the Longstreth Medal to Mr. James John Denny, MacIntyre Porcupine Mines, Ltd.

Presentation of the Wetherill Medals to Mr. Frank Twyman, F.R.S., F.Inst.P., managing director, Adam Hilger, Ltd.; The Wagner Electric Corporation, Mr. W. A. Layman, president.

Presentation of Levy Medals to Mr. Frank W. Peek, Jr., General Electric Company; Professor Ernest G. Coker, D.Sc., F.R.S.E., University of London.

Presentation of Cresson Medals to Dr. George Ellery Hale, Ph.D., D.Sc., LL.D., honorary director, Mt. Wilson Observatory; Dr. Charles Sheldon Hastings, Ph.D., professor emeritus of physics, Yale University.

Presentation of the Franklin Medal and Certificate of Honorary Membership to Professor Niels Bohr, Ph.D., director of the institute for theoretical physics, Copenhagen, Denmark. Received by the Minister of Denmark to the United States.

Presentation of the Franklin Medal and Certificate of Honorary Membership to Samuel Rea, Sc.D., LL.D., former president, Pennsylvania Railroad.

A paper by Professor Niels Bohr on "Atomic Structure" was presented by Dr. Karl T. Compton. Mr. Samuel Rea gave an address on "Engineering Reminiscences."