

inorganic chemistry and radioactivity in the university of Vienna. He was then called to the German Technical School in Prag, and in 1919 accepted a professorship in the newly created University of Hamburg. In 1922 he received appointment to the professorship of inorganic chemistry in the University of Berlin, the position which he now holds.

### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. CALVIN W. RICE, secretary of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, has received the degree of doctor of engineering from the Technische Hochschule of Darmstadt. Dr. Rice is now visiting technical and industrial museums in Europe.

DR. JABEZ N. JACKSON, president of the American Medical Association, has received the honorary degree of doctor of science from Park College.

QUEENS UNIVERSITY, Kingston, Ontario, Canada, conferred the honorary degree of LL.D. on Dr. William H. Rankin, officer in charge of the Dominion Laboratory of Plant Pathology, on May 6, who graduated from that institution thirty-seven years ago.

PROFESSOR LUCIEN GALLOIS, of the University of Paris, was presented with the Cullum geographical medal by Ambassador Herrick on May 27. This medal was awarded to Professor Gallois last December by the American Geographical Society for his work in the advancement of geography.

AMBASSADOR J. G. SCHURMAN has arrived in Munich for the purpose of presenting the David Livingstone centenary medal of the American Geographical Society recently awarded to Professor Erich von Drogalski in recognition of his work in the South Polar region.

At the fourth annual meeting of the Virginia Academy of Science, held at the University of Virginia on May 7 and 8, Dr. J. Shelton Horsley was elected president and Dr. E. C. L. Miller, secretary-treasurer, both of Richmond, Va.

DR. GEORGE B. FRANKFORTER, professor of chemistry and for many years dean of the school of chemistry at the University of Minnesota, will retire at the close of the current academic year, after thirty-three years of service.

DR. WILLIAM H. BURNHAM, for twenty years head of the department of pedagogy and the school of hygiene of Clark University, will retire from his professorship at the end of the present university year.

THE fiftieth professional anniversary has recently been celebrated by the emeritus professors, H. Vierordt, Tübingen; M. von Gruber, Munich, and P. Zweifel, Leipzig.

ROBERT T. BOOTH was succeeded on April 1 by Richard H. Goddard as observer-in-charge of the Huancayo Magnetic Observatory (Peru) of the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

GEORGE W. SEARS, of the chemistry department at the University of Nevada, has been appointed consulting chemist in the rare and precious metals, at the Reno Experiment Station, of the Bureau of Mines.

N. A. C. SMITH, assistant superintendent of the Petroleum Experiment Station of the U. S. Bureau of Mines, at Bartlesville, Oklahoma, has been appointed superintendent of the station. He succeeds E. P. Campbell, who recently resigned to accept a position with the Pure Oil Company.

PROFESSOR LEONOR MICHAELIS, of the University of Berlin and visiting professor of biochemistry in the Aichi University of Nagoya, Japan, has been appointed resident lecturer in research medicine in the Johns Hopkins University for a period of three years. Dr. Michaelis has recently arrived from Japan and has begun his research work in biophysics at the Johns Hopkins Hospital.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR CHARLES E. O'ROURKE, of Cornell University, has been granted a leave of absence for at least one year to accept a position as head of the department of structural engineering at Peiyang University in Tientsin, China. He will sail on July 15.

PROFESSOR F. L. WASHBURN, of the University of Minnesota, has returned from the South Pacific with several thousand insect specimens for his institution. Collections were made chiefly in the Tuamotu Archipelago and in the Leeward group of the Societies.

DR. JOHN K. SMALL, head curator of the New York Botanical Garden, has been engaged in botanical exploration in southern Florida and Louisiana.

C. T. GREENE, assistant entomologist in the taxonomic investigations, U. S. Bureau of Entomology, has gone to Panama, where he will collect, rear and associate larvae and adults of fruit flies for the Federal Horticultural Board.

DR. TRUMAN MICHELSON, of the U. S. Bureau of Ethnology, left Washington on May 30 for the Fox reservation at Tama, Iowa, to spend his fifteenth consecutive season of research work with the Fox tribe of Indians.

PROFESSOR MARCUS C. FARR, of the department of geology at Princeton University, will sail for England on June 24 for study at the British Museum.

PROFESSOR F. L. STEVENS, of the University of Illinois, will spend the summer studying type speci-

mens of fungi, mainly in Paris, Berlin, Brussels and London, and will read a paper to the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

DR. LEON VELASCO BLANCO, of the University of Buenos Aires, visited the University of Minnesota in April to arrange for an exchange of professors of the medical schools of the two universities for next year.

PROFESSOR J. SCHMIDT, director of the Carlsberg Laboratory in Copenhagen, is in the United States on his way home to Copenhagen after several months spent in the South Pacific studying the migration habits of eels. Professor Schmidt is giving a lecture at the Smithsonian Institution on June 4.

At the University of Washington, on May 4 and 5, Professor R. A. Millikan delivered three addresses. On the evening of May 4 he spoke on "The Nature of Radiation," in the forenoon of May 5 on "The Constitution of Matter" and in the evening of the same day on "The Birth of Two Ideas." The last lecture was the annual joint address of the University of Washington chapters of Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi.

At the regular meeting of the New York University chapter of Sigma Xi, held at the Faculty Club, University Heights, on May 21, Dr. John C. Merriam, president of the Carnegie Institution, delivered a lecture on "The Meaning of Evolution in Individual Experience."

DR. MICHAEL I. PUPIN, professor of electromechanics at Columbia University, will be the principal speaker at the graduation exercises at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on June 8.

DR. MARTIN H. FISCHER, head of the department of physiology, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, will deliver the address at the graduating exercises of the University of Tennessee College of Medicine on June 7.

DR. RALPH W. CHANEY, research associate in paleobotany, Carnegie Institution, gave a public lecture at the Carnegie Institution on May 25 on "World Migration as illustrated by Distribution of the Redwood Tree."

DR. WALTER TIMME, clinical professor of neurology in Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, recently gave the Emmerling Memorial Lecture before the Pittsburgh Academy of Medicine on "The Nature, Character and Treatment of Pituitary Migraine."

DR. R. W. HEGNER, professor of protozoology in the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health, presented an address on the "Biology of

Host-Parasite Relationships among the Protozoa" at a meeting of the Royal Society of Medicine, London, on May 13.

PROFESSOR ERNST COHEN, director of the Van't Hoff laboratories at the University of Utrecht, gave an address on May 29 on the "Metamorphosis of Matter and the Allied Alleged Constancy of our Physico-Chemical Constants," before a joint meeting of the Washington Academy of Sciences, the Philosophical Society of Washington and the Chemical Society of Washington, at the Cosmos Club.

DR. FRANK NELSON COLE, professor of mathematics at Columbia University since 1895 and secretary of the American Mathematical Society for twenty-five years, died on May 26, aged sixty-five years.

DR. HENRY SKINNER, vice-president of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, entomologist and physician, died on May 30, aged sixty-five years.

DR. RICHARD W. HICKMAN, a former division chief in the U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry, died on April 30, aged seventy-four years.

APPLICATIONS for fellowships in medicine of the National Research Council, in order to receive consideration at the September meeting of the medical fellowship board, should be filed on or before August 1. Communications should be addressed to the chairman of the Medical Fellowship Board, National Research Council, Washington, D. C.

THE United States Civil Service Commission announces an examination for senior ordnance engineer (projectile and bomb), receipt of applications for which will close on June 22. The examination is to fill a vacancy in the Ordnance Department at large, Picatinny Arsenal, Dover, N. J., at \$5,000 a year, and vacancies occurring in positions requiring similar qualifications.

THE Iowa Academy of Science convened in its fortieth annual meeting at Coe College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on April 30 and May 1, 1926. There were 200 in attendance at the meetings, and 184 papers were presented. The presidential address, "The Ministry of Science," was delivered by Mr. R. I. Cratty, curator of botany and the museum, Iowa State College. Dr. Joel Stebbins, of the Washburn Observatory, University of Wisconsin, addressed the academy at a public lecture, "The Twinkling Stars." Officers were elected as follows: *President*, C. E. Seashore, State University; *vice-president*, L. D. Weld, Coe College; *secretary*, P. S. Helmick, Drake University; *treasurer*, A. O. Thomas, State University; *editor*, Willis DeRyke, State University; *representative* to the American Association for the Advancement of Science, D. W. Morehouse, Drake University.

THE Sigma Gamma chapter of Sigma Pi Sigma, national physics fraternity, was formally installed at Pennsylvania State College on May 17. Professor W. W. Wood, of the Sigma Alpha chapter at Davidson College, was in charge of the installation. The chapter has eighteen charter members.

CUMMINGS C. CHESNEY, manager and chief engineer of the General Electric Company's works at Pittsfield, Mass., was, in accordance with the membership ballot by mail ratifying the directors' nominees, elected president of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers at the annual business meeting held in the Engineering Societies Building, New York, on May 21. Other officers elected were: *vice-presidents*, H. M. Hobart, Schenectady, N. Y.; George L. Knight, Brooklyn, N. Y.; B. G. Jamieson, Chicago; A. E. Bettis, Kansas City, Mo.; H. H. Schoolfield, Portland, Ore.; *managers*, F. J. Chesterman, Pittsburgh; H. C. Don Carlos, Toronto; I. E. Moulthrop, Boston; *treasurer*, George A. Hamilton, Elizabeth, N. J. (reelected).

ACCORDING to the *Electrical World*, Professor Harold B. Smith was the toastmaster at the banquet of the regional gathering of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers at Niagara Falls. The chief speaker was Edward D. Adams, who spoke on "The Pioneer Development of Hydro-electric Power at the Cataract." Mr. Adams was preceded by seven speakers, these being Paul A. Schoellkopf, president Niagara Falls Power Company; President Pupin, former President Osgood, former Vice-president Facioli, Secretary Hutchinson, Vice-president-elect Hobart and President-elect Chesney, of the institute.

AN institution similar to Science Service of Washington, for the purpose of supplying to the press readable and reliable knowledge of scientific progress, has been formed in Paris under the title of "Office d'Information Scientifique et Technique," at the instigation of M. le duc de Gramont. The board of control consists of J. L. Breton, director of the National Office of Scientific and Industrial Research and Inventions; Charles Fabry, professor at the Sorbonne and Polytechnic School; Armand de Gramont, president of the council of the Institute of Optics; Paul Janet, director of the Superior School of Electricity; Louis Lumiere, of the Academy of Sciences; Louis Mangin, director of the Museum; Emile Picard, permanent secretary of the Academy of Sciences; Georges Roger, dean of the faculty of the Academy of Medicine; Emile Roux, director of the Pasteur Institute. The director of the office is Lt.-Colonel J. Raibaud. The new institution will cooperate with Science Service of Washington in the exchange of news of scientific and industrial progress in France and the United States.

A FELLOWSHIP of \$1,000 for a Swedish student to study one year in an American university or technical school as a memorial to John Ericsson, inventor of the screw propeller and of the Civil War craft *Monitor*, has been established, according to an announcement by the American-Scandinavian Foundation. The fellowship is given by the John Ericsson Society of Engineers in New York and the selection will be made by a jury acting for the foundation in Stockholm. A similar \$1,000 fellowship has been given by Captain A. P. Lundin, New York, president of the John Ericsson Society, for an American student to be sent to a Swedish university for the year 1926-27. This is in addition to twelve similar fellowships recently awarded by the foundation to American students for graduate work in Sweden, Norway and Denmark. The Ericsson monument was unveiled in Washington on May 29 by the Crown Prince of Sweden and President Coolidge. As the granite has not yet been completely carved only the plaster model has been put in place. Three figures, Invention, Adventure and Labor, rise above the seated figure of Ericsson, who is represented as though deep in thought.

MAJOR MARTIN J. CONNOLLY, of Washington, D. C., has given \$15,000 to Saint Louis University to build and equip a first-class seismographic station for the study of both local and distant earthquake shocks.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY MEDICAL SCHOOL recently received \$1,000 from Dr. Morris Herzstein for the establishment of a lectureship on the diseases of the Pacific Basin.

UPON the recommendation of the Finnish Academy of Science, the government of Finland has made an official grant of 5,000 marks towards the maintenance of the international periodical for psychology, *Scandinavian Scientific Review*, edited by Dr. Martin L. Reymer, aided by an advisory board in each of the Scandinavian countries.

JULIUS ROSENWALD, of Chicago, who has been touring Europe to get ideas for an industrial museum in Chicago, has donated \$5,000 to the Deutsches Museum of Munich.

THE medical school of St. Thomas's Hospital, London, has received a gift of £15,000 from the Rockefeller Foundation towards the building of new laboratories for the use of students. The laboratories will be situated within the hospital and will be easily accessible from the wards.

THE public bill committee of the Quebec legislature assembly has favorably reported a bill to incorporate the Association of Professional Chemists of Quebec, according to the *Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry*. This bill provides that only members of the association will be entitled to use the

term "professional chemist," the restriction to become effective on September 1, 1926. This act will not prevent others from practicing the profession of chemistry, so long as they do not endeavor to use the title "professional chemist." An amendment to the original bill provides that nothing in the new legislation shall be interpreted as affecting the rights and privileges granted to the members of the corporation of professional engineers of Quebec, those who hold diplomas issued by the Montreal Polytechnic School or by the faculty of applied science of McGill University, those who have a diploma of pharmacy or medicine, or members of the two latter professions who shall be allowed as in the past to practice chemistry under whatever name they wish, provided they do not take the title "professional chemist."

ACCORDING to the *Electrical World* the Swiss national committee of the World Power Conference, with the permission of the international executive conference, will hold a sectional meeting in Basle, Switzerland, this year from August 31 to September 12. European countries have been asked to participate in an organized way. Other countries have been invited to have representatives in attendance, and papers submitted through their national committees will be incorporated in the proceedings. O. C. Merrill, the chairman of the American national committee, has not determined as yet whether it will be possible to submit a national paper to this conference. The main subjects to be considered embrace railway electrification, electricity in agriculture, exchange of electrical energy between countries, utilization of water power and inland navigation, and the economic relation between electrical energy produced hydraulically and that produced thermally.

## UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

It is announced that a chemistry building costing \$1,200,000 will be erected with a portion of the \$20,000,000 fund now being raised by Princeton University. The building will be in the collegiate Gothic style to harmonize with other buildings recently constructed.

CONSTRUCTION of the new chemistry building to be erected at the University of Maryland will begin almost immediately. The entire sum appropriated by the state legislature (\$210,000) will be employed in constructing the building itself. Sums necessary to equip the various laboratories have been donated by Dr. and Mrs. M. L. Turner, of Berwyn, Maryland; Dr. H. A. B. Dunning, of Hynson, Westcott and Dunning; Dr. Samuel W. Wiley, of Wiley and Co.

Inc., and the Alumni Association of the university. The new building will be ready for occupancy February 1, 1927.

A CAMPAIGN is in progress to raise an endowment fund for the Medical College of the State of South Carolina under the chairmanship of Dr. D. Lesesne Smith, Spartanburg. An organization is to be formed in every county in the state.

DR. WILLIAM LORENZO MOSS has been appointed acting dean for the first half of the year 1926-27 and assistant dean for the second half of the year in the school of public health at Harvard University.

DR. FREDERICK L. REICHERT, of the Johns Hopkins University Medical School, has been appointed associate professor of surgery in the Stanford University Medical School.

At Yale University Dr. John Spangler Nicholas, assistant professor of anatomy at the University of Pittsburgh, has been appointed assistant professor of biology and Dr. Arthur Edward Ruark, of the U. S. Bureau of Standards, assistant professor of physics.

ROBERT F. FIELD, instructor in physics at Harvard University, has been appointed assistant professor of applied physics.

DR. C. R. MEGEE has been appointed acting professor of agronomy in the college of agriculture of Rutgers University.

PROFESSOR JOHN A. FERGUSON, head of the department of forestry at Pennsylvania State College, has been named visiting professor of forestry at Yale University for 1926-27. Professor Ferguson will take over the work in forest management while Professor Herman H. Chapman is on leave to participate in a government investigation of forest taxation which is being conducted by Professor Fred R. Fairchild, of Yale.

## DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

### WHY THE TEMPERATURE OF THE AIR DECREASES WITH INCREASE OF HEIGHT

THE decrease of atmospheric temperature with increase of height is a phenomenon of unusual philosophic fascination, if one may so infer from the frequent explanations he sees of it, and from the further fact that nearly always these "explanations" are either utterly erroneous, or, at best, wholly inadequate. And the pity of it is that some of the worst of these come from high authorities, through hasty or heedless writing, for surely they know better.

One eminent scientist, in a great treatise now appearing, explains this decrease of temperature with