

The Journal of the American Medical Association announces the death of Dr. Henseval, professor of hygiene and bacteriology at the University of Ghent.

THE International Congress of Physiology opened a five-day session at Stockholm on August 1 under the presidency of Professor J. E. Johansson. There were 567 delegates in attendance, the United States and Germany sending 100 each, and France and England 40 each.

HAVING attained Disko Island, Greenland, northmost point of its itinerary, the Rawson-MacMillan sub-Arctic expedition of the Field Museum is now sailing southward on the first leg of the homeward journey, according to a radiogram received by the director of the museum. All members of the party were well.

THE New York Academy of Sciences offers a Cressy Morrison Prize of the value of \$250 for an essay on the "Interatomic Energy of the Sun." The paper must be presented to the secretary of the academy prior to November 1, 1926.

A LENIN MEMORIAL PRIZE for scientific researches has been founded by decision of the Council of People's Commissaries of USSR. The Lenin Prize will be available for researches in all branches of science, providing that the researches are of considerable practical importance. The award of the prize will be in charge of a committee of experts comprising representatives of the USSR Academy of Sciences, the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, the educational authorities of Soviet Russia and Ukraine, the Scientific Workers' Professional Union and the Scientists' Welfare Committee, with Professor M. N. Pokrovsky as chairman and O. J. Schmidt as vice-chairman. The prizes will be open only to citizens of USSR.

THE Cambridge University Press has recently undertaken to publish *The British Journal of Experimental Biology*. It is the official medium of publication of the Society for Experimental Biology, but its contributors are not limited to members of this society nor to the universities of Great Britain. The editor is Mr. James Gray, of King's College, Cambridge, with the assistance of Dr. Crew, of Edinburgh, and of eight other biologists representative of the different subjects concerned.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

HENRY N. WOLLMAN, a business man of Philadelphia and a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, has offered as a gift to the university a

site comprising 178 acres overlooking Valley Forge Park as a new location for its undergraduate schools. The offer will be considered on behalf of the university board of directors by a committee of five to be appointed by Dr. Charles Custis Harrison.

A TECHNICAL COLLEGE to be known as the General Motors Institute of Technology will be established at Flint, Mich. The new school will absorb the Flint Institute of Technology now scattered throughout the city in small units under the direction of the Industrial Mutual Association. The courses will be conducted on the cooperative plan, with alternate four weeks in the factories and four weeks in the institute.

DR. LEONER MICHAELIS, professor of the applications of physical chemistry to medicine at the University of Berlin, and Dr. Karl Herzfeld, professor of physical chemistry at the University of Munich, have been called to the Johns Hopkins University.

DR. OSKAR SCHMEIDER, lecturer in geography at the University at Bonn, has been appointed associate professor of geography at the University of California.

PROFESSOR CLARENCE VICTOR CHRISTIE, associate professor of electrical engineering at McGill University, Montreal, has succeeded the late Professor L. A. Herdt as Macdonald professor of electrical engineering and head of the department of electrical engineering of the university.

A. C. BAILEY, who received his master's degree this summer from Iowa State College (Ames), goes to the Chulalongkorn University at Bangkok, Siam. He will have charge of the development of the department of physics at the Government University under a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation.

DR. JOSEPH H. SIMONS, head of the department of chemistry of the University of Porto Rico, will join the staff of the department of chemistry at Northwestern University.

G. RICHARD BURNS has resigned his position as research chemist in the dyestuffs division of the du Pont Company to become instructor in chemistry at Yale University next year.

RECENT appointments of fellows in medicine of the National Research Council, to academic positions, are as follows, the department in which they have been working being given in italics: Barry J. Anson, *Dr. F. T. Lewis, Harvard*, instructor in anatomy, Northwestern University Medical School; Sydney W. Britton, *Dr. W. B. Cannon, Harvard*, associate in physiology, Johns Hopkins; W. V. Cone, *Dr. J. W. Jobling, Columbia*, department of surgery, College of

Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University; Benjamin Freeman, *Dr. A. N. Richards, Pennsylvania*, instructor in biochemistry, Western Reserve University; Thomas P. Hughes, *Dr. Hans Zinsser, Harvard*, assistant in bacteriology, Rockefeller Institute; Moses L. Isaacs, *Dr. Gay, Columbia*, department of Public Health, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University; James A. Kennedy, *Dr. Hans Zinsser, Harvard*, instructor in bacteriology, University of Rochester; E. Beatrice Carrier Seegal, *Dr. Wolbach, Harvard*, pathologist, Long Island Hospital, Boston; Fred W. Stewart, *Dr. Mallory, Boston City Hospital*, Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research; Harry B. van Dyke, *Dr. Cushny, Edinburgh*, and *Dr. Trendelenberg, Freiburg*, associate professor in pharmacology, University of Chicago.

DR. H. HAROLD SCOTT has been appointed lecturer on tropical diseases at the Westminster Hospital Medical School. Dr. Scott, who formerly held the appointment of government bacteriologist, Jamaica, and was afterwards government bacteriologist and pathologist, Hong-Kong, is now Milner Research Fellow in comparative pathology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and pathologist to the Zoological Society of London.

DISCUSSION

THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF DE REVOLUTIONIBUS ORBIUM COELESTIUM

REFERRING to the communication by Mr. Drew Bond, published in *SCIENCE*, June 25, relative to the need of an English translation of the immortal work of Copernicus, "*De Revolutionibus Orbium Coelestium*," Libri VI, 1543, the following may be of interest to others as well.

In *Nature* of December 16, 1920, page 515, there appeared a short statement that Professor J. F. Dobson, professor of Greek at the University of Bristol, and Dr. S. Brodetsky, lecturer in applied mathematics at the University of Leeds, have nearly completed their English translation of this epoch-making book. This translation will be accompanied by a life of Copernicus with some account of his influence, and the history of the hypothesis connected with his name.

Being greatly interested in this historic work, and having had occasion to refer to a German edition—the want of an English translation seemed propitious from a librarian's point of view—I therefore wrote these gentlemen stating how needful and appreciative their work would be.

Last December Mr. W. L. Cooper, librarian of the University of Bristol, wrote me that Professor Dobson was revising the proof which would be ready for publication at the end of the year (1925). He also stated

that he was receiving valuable assistance from Dr. Charles Singer, of the University of London, in the references and notes requiring an intimate knowledge of medieval science. The Oxford Press will undertake the publication of this work.

I am sure that the English translation of this most important work in the history of science, since it established the true beginning of modern astronomy, will be received with delight by the historians of science as well as by those whose business it is to know books. It may also be of interest to know that there are three other copies of the first edition of Copernicus in the United States besides the one in the New York Public Library, namely, Boston Athenaeum Library, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University. There was another copy in the possession of the late Professor Louis Derr, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The original edition of this work is now extremely rare and commands a correspondingly high price. And the history of the second and third editions are now attracting the attention of bibliographers and historians.

The second edition was published in Basile 1566 and is almost as rare as the first of 1543. This edition is the first containing the account by Joachim Rheticus, the distinguished student of Copernicus, under whom he studied from 1539 to 1541. It was he who first assumed the earth's rotation as a fact, whereas Copernicus had treated it only as a hypothesis.

The third and last edition in the original Latin, by Nicolai Mulerii, professor in the University of Groningen, was published in Amsterdam in 1617. This edition was the first containing explanatory notes, and it was noteworthy for the correctness of the text, the lack of which was a fault in the two preceding editions. This edition was reprinted in 1640.

Upon the occasion of the four hundredth anniversary of the birth of Copernicus, celebrated at Thorn in 1873, a very fine edition was issued, printed anew from the original manuscripts, preserved in the Nostitz Library of Thorn. Two copies of this work are in the Library of Congress.

The German edition, "*Über die Kreisbewegungen der Weltkörper*," übersetzt und mit Anmerkungen von C. L. Menzzer, durchgesehen und mit einem "Vorwort von Moritz Cantor," was published in Thorn in 1879. This is the only translation into a modern language, besides a Polish edition. The German and the second and third editions are in the private library of the writer.

The English translation of "*De Revolutionibus Orbium Coelestium*" will therefore be an appropriate scholarly contribution to the history of science and