

consideration at this meeting should be received by the secretary, at the National Research Council building, B and 21st Streets, N. W., Washington, D. C., by January 1, but may be sent in at any time prior to that date. This meeting is to care for those persons who can not very well await a decision of the board on their applications until the spring meeting. It is proposed that the second meeting for the year be held about May. Definite information on this will be announced after the February meeting.

DR. ROY CHAPMAN ANDREWS, head of the Central Asiatic Expedition of the American Museum of Natural History, arrived in New York on October 6. Dr. Andrews has been invited by the Royal Geographical Society of London to deliver the opening address before the society on November 8. He will leave New York for England about October 25, and will make a formal presentation of the expedition's geographical results to the society. He also will address the Central Asian Society in London on November 10. Returning to New York, about November 20, Dr. Andrews will spend the winter in America lecturing and will leave for China about March 1, 1927. Members of the expedition who have returned to America or are on their way back are: J. B. Shackelford, photographer; Dr. Mont Reid, surgeon, and Dr. W. D. Matthew, paleontologist. Other members have remained in China to carry on field work. They are: Walter Granger, chief paleontologist, and Nels Nelson, archeologist, who are making a reconnaissance in Southwest China in Yun-nan Province; Clifford Pope, who is collecting fish, reptiles and mammals in Fukien Province; George Olsen, assistant in paleontology, who will collect fossils in Szechwan Province; McKenzie Young, chief of motor transport, who remains in Peking to buy and pack supplies of food and gasoline and start a new caravan into the desert by February 1. He will make a search for the caravan that has disappeared as soon as it is possible to do so.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY has announced gifts amounting to \$155,358. These include \$18,000 from the Borden Company for research in food chemistry and nutrition; \$15,000 from the Commonwealth Fund for the psychiatric clinic fund; \$5,000 from the Walker Gordon Laboratory Co. for research in food chemistry and nutrition; \$2,000 from Eli Lilley and Co. for the pernicious anemia fund in the department of pathology; \$1,800 from Mrs. Elsie Clews Parsons for research work in the department of anthropology; \$1,500 from Homer Sargent for research work in the department of anthropology, and \$750 from the E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company for the maintenance of a fellowship in industrial chemistry.

THE TROPICAL PLANT RESEARCH FOUNDATION has undertaken for the wood industries division of the

American Society of Mechanical Engineers a preliminary research on tropical woods, with special reference to their uses in domestic industries, as substitutes for species of native woods now scarce, or, by reason of approaching exhaustion, of poor quality and unsuitable for the finer products. Major George P. Ahren, of the board of trustees, and Mr. Donald M. Matthews, forester of the foundation, are summarizing the present state of our knowledge of tropical hardwoods and preparing a program of constructive work for the future.

ACCORDING to an announcement by Dr. H. A. Gleason, a curator of the garden, a large number of botanical species hitherto unknown to science have been discovered in classifying a collection of nearly 30,000 plants which the New York Botanical Garden has received from British Guiana. Most of the collection, which outrivals any in Europe except that of the Royal Botanic Garden at Kew, was made and sent to Dr. Gleason by an unlettered Indian, La Cruz, after Dr. Gleason had returned to this country from a trip to British Guiana in 1921.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

PRESIDENT MAX MASON, of the University of Chicago, reports that the total gifts to the credit of the development fund amount to \$9,253,654. Since June 10, 1926, when the last report was made to the board of trustees, a total of \$243,177 has been pledged.

BY the will of the late Mrs. Mary E. Larkin Joline, Barnard College receives the sum of \$110,000. A share, which is expected to amount to about \$100,000, of the residuary estate, is left to Princeton University.

THE cornerstone of the new \$300,000 Charles Rebstock Hall of Biology at Washington University was laid by the donor on October 13.

DR. JOHN H. MACCRACKEN has retired as president of Lafayette College, after serving for eleven years. Donald B. Prentice, dean of the School of Engineering, has been appointed acting president.

EDWARD R. WEIDLEIN, director of the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research, University of Pittsburgh, has announced the appointment of Dr. George Denton Beal, of the University of Illinois, to an assistant directorship of the institute.

DR. A. C. HEILAND, who for the past two years has been connected with Askania Verke, manufacturers of geophysical instruments in Berlin, has been appointed professor and head of the newly established department of geophysics at the Colorado School of

Mines. This is said to be the first time that a course in geophysics has been introduced into an American college or university.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR F. W. OWENS, of Cornell University, has been appointed head of the department of mathematics at Pennsylvania State College.

DR. A. F. O. GERMANN has resigned his position with the Laboratory Products Company, where he was in charge of development and research, in order to organize work in chemistry at Valparaiso University, Indiana.

PROFESSOR A. C. SEWARD, master of Downing College and professor of botany in the University of Cambridge, has relinquished the office of vice-chancellor of the university which he has held for the past two years. He is succeeded by the Rev. George Arthur Weeks, master of Sidney Sussex College.

DR. J. H. SIMONS, head of the department of chemistry at the University of Porto Rico, has joined the staff of Northwestern University, where he will continue his researches in physical chemistry.

ERNEST CLARE BOWER, associate astronomer at the U. S. Naval Observatory, has been appointed assistant professor of astronomy and mathematics in Ohio Wesleyan University.

DR. S. B. CHANDLER, of Northwestern University, and Dr. Gordon H. Scott, of the University of Minnesota, have been appointed to assistant professorships in anatomy in Loyola University School of Medicine, Chicago.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE USE OF PITH DUST IN A KUNDT'S TUBE

DURING the summer of 1924, while experimenting at Indiana University with a Kundt's tube, I discovered that the striae could be most readily observed by using pith dust in the tube.

I obtained the pith dust by grinding dry pith from sunflower on a fine-grained emery wheel. By the use of this dust I was able to obtain discs that extended completely across the tube and having the same diameter as the inside of the tube.

These striae were obtained by the ordinary method used with a Kundt's tube, but for demonstration purposes I found the following to be an excellent way to produce them: Some pith dust was placed in a glass tube of any convenient length and diameter. In one end of the tube a stopper was placed and the open end of the tube was inserted in the open end of a sounding organ pipe. When the tube was inserted the proper distance the striae formed at regularly

spaced intervals and showed the nodes and loops in an excellent way. Discs apparently but one particle in thickness were formed and when the tube was carefully adjusted with regard to distance to which it was inserted into the organ pipe the separate particles remained almost motionless. Often they wove themselves into thin sheets and when the air was turned off they fell over, maintaining the sheet form.

Also I obtained these striae by passing an electric spark across the end of a glass tube (either open or closed) into which some pith dust had been placed. The howl produced by a telephone receiver excited excellent striae in a glass tube. Some photographs of the striae were made.

Pith dust being lighter than cork dust gives striae of greater height than the latter. As it does not adhere to the tube I find its use for this purpose better than lycopodium powder.

ROLLA V. COOK

BETHANY COLLEGE

TWO INTRODUCED PLANTS OF RARE OCCURRENCE IN THE UNITED STATES

Two plants of very rare occurrence in the United States have come to the writer's attention in this section in the last few years and it seems worth while to broadcast the news for interested botanists.

Two specimens of *Tagetes minuta*, L., were found in a field of Rhodes grass in Riverside, California, in 1921. Thinking them to be marigolds the rancher transplanted them by his house, where they grew to be ten and eleven feet high with a spread of five to six feet. They were identified by Miss Alice Eastwood, of the California Academy of Sciences, and the Smithsonian Institution later reported that the plant had been reported only once before in this country, from North Carolina—probably having been introduced upon ballast in some boat. The Rhodes grass seed used for planting the field in which the plants were found at Riverside was imported from Australia.

Three plants of an unrecognized *Erodium* were found in the cover crop of a lemon orchard at Corona, California, on February 26, 1923. Purple vetch had been sown as a cover crop, the seed doubtless coming from Washington or Oregon, but its germination was very poor and the majority of the cover crop growth was made up of our common *Erodium cicutarium*.

Only a flower specimen of the plant was saved in 1923. Owing to a very dry winter there was practically no cover crop growth in this orchard in 1924, but in 1925 about twenty plants of the new *Erodium* were found and it was identified by Miss Alice Eastwood, of the California Academy of Sciences, and by Dr. I. M. Johnston, at the Gray Herbarium, as *E.*