

Shreve, of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, spoke on the history and work of the Desert Laboratory at Tucson. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Desert Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, the Boyce Thompson Institute of Plant Research, Southwestern Arboretum, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Biological Survey of the Bureau of Entomology and Forest Service, Arizona Agricultural Experiment Station and the department of biology of the University of Arizona. Meetings are to be held at frequent intervals in the future, but formal organization was considered inadvisable. Dr. J. G. Brown, Dr. Forrest Shreve and Mr. W. G. McGinnies were named as a committee to arrange for future meetings.

EFFORTS of the last two years have culminated in an agreement whereby the *Index Medicus*, published since 1879 under various auspices, and the *Quarterly Cumulative Index*, published since 1916 by the American Medical Association, will be combined and issued as a single publication to be known as the *Quarterly Cumulative Index Medicus*. The new bibliographic principles, including primarily classification of subjects and authors in one alphabet, will be maintained in the new publication. It will, moreover, include the extensive bibliographic material of the library of the Surgeon-General's Office in Washington, D. C., covering, instead of the three hundred periodicals to which the *Quarterly Cumulative Index* was formerly limited, practically the entire medical literature of the world. The publication will be printed on the presses of the American Medical Association. The Carnegie Institution, which has in recent years supported the *Index Medicus*, will bear a portion of the expense. The first issue of the new periodical will appear in April, 1927, and will cover the literature received during the first three months of that year.

Industrial and Engineering Chemistry states that in order to encourage work in the field of synthetic rubber, the Presidium of the Supreme Council of National Economy of the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics announces two prizes for processes for the preparation of synthetic rubber. Two prizes are offered for the best methods found to satisfy the conditions of the contest: a first prize of \$50,000 and a second prize of \$25,000. All contestants must present complete descriptions and reports of their processes, including 2 kgs of the synthetic rubber preparation, not later than January 1, 1928.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

MRS. ISAAC H. CLOTHIER, of Wynnewood, has given Swarthmore College \$100,000 towards the erec-

tion of an auditorium or other memorial to her husband, who was for forty-eight years a member of the board of managers of the college.

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, JR., has made a gift of \$150,000 to Princeton University for the purpose of enlarging the university gymnasium.

COLONEL R. W. LEONARD, of St. Catharine's, Ontario, has made a gift of \$35,000 to Dalhousie University, Halifax.

BROWN UNIVERSITY has completed plans and will proceed with the erection of its proposed new chemical laboratory, which is expected to cost about \$100,000 with equipment. A contract for the building has been let.

APPOINTMENTS of former fellows in medicine of the National Research Council to academic posts have been announced as follows: Dr. Louis Leiter, assistant professor of medicine, University of Chicago. Dr. Leiter is at present on leave of absence in Munich. Dr. William H. Chambers, instructor in physiology, Yale University. Dr. Jay McLean, assistant attending surgeon and lecturer in surgery, the Polyclinic Hospital of New York City. Dr. Clarence A. Mills, associate professor of medicine, Peking Union Medical College. Dr. Bernhard Steinberg, director of laboratories and research, Toledo Hospital, Ohio. Dr. Charles S. Woodall, physician to the Walter E. Fernald State School, Waverley, Massachusetts.

DR. FREDERICK W. OWENS, assistant professor of mathematics at Cornell University, has been appointed head of the department of mathematics at Pennsylvania State College.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

SAND FLOTATION IN NATURE

IN connection with the articles on sand flotation which have appeared in *SCIENCE* during 1926 (63: 405-406, 571; 64: 138), it may be interesting to note that I have observed this phenomenon on Douglas Lake in Cheboygan County, Michigan, on more than a dozen days during each summer for the past fifteen years. The best explanation in these cases is that given by Edwin H. Hall (*SCIENCE* 63: 571) that at a time when the shore is dry, ripples of water lapping dry sand take down with them a certain amount of sand which remains in the surface film until the particles are entirely wetted, whereupon they sink. At Douglas Lake it has always been noted at times when there was an offshore wind, but never when this wind was strong; usually only when the wind is hardly more than perceptible, if at all. The ripples that