Abbon (and perhaps others). If the labels are multigraphed and in script, there is no reason to doubt their authenticity. Labels (1⅞ by 4 inches) issued at the U. S. National Herbarium and headed "Plants of Mexico," with printed locality, also are authentic. Beware of large (5¼ by 3¼ inches) labels, surrounded by a black frame, with the heading "Plantae Mexicanae," and bearing two names of collectors, Arsène and Nicolás, one or both of which are deleted with pen and ink. Plants with such labels are almost certainly false. Either they were not collected in Mexico, or else they were collected by Pringle at another date and locality than that specified. It is best to destroy all plants bearing such labels. All labels of this type bearing the name "Herrera" as collector are fictitious and should be disregarded.

In closing, I can not state in too strong terms that no blame for this condition of affairs attaches to Brother Arsène; rather, he has been made the victim of an unfortunate conspiracy, if such it may be termed. No more conscientious or industrious collector has ever worked in Mexico, and he has contributed in a very large measure to our knowledge of the Mexican flora.

PAUL C. STANDLEY

U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE HARVARD AFRICAN EXPEDITION

THE Harvard African Expedition began its work in Liberia early in July and left there on November 21. It arrived in Matadi, at the mouth of the Congo, on December 3.

The purposes of the expedition were to make a biological and medical survey of Liberia and to make biological and medical collections there and in the Congo. In the field of medicine the party has obtained valuable data and pathological material which will require prolonged study in the home laboratories. The zoological and botanical collections include biting and parasitic insects, birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, molluscs, flowering plants and fungi. The amphibians and the snakes among the reptiles are particularly well represented. The collections of woody plants and orchids are likewise very comprehensive.

Much of the material has been obtained from parts of the interior in which no scientific collecting has been done before and where no medical studies have hitherto been made. In the course of their work, members of the expedition traversed the country in two directions, traveling on foot more than 500 miles and reaching the eastern and southeastern frontiers. Although some of the party were attacked by fever, all are now in their usual good health.

Dr. Glover M. Allen, having completed the zoological part of the work which was planned for Liberia, has returned to Cambridge to take up his duties at the university. The remaining personnel of the expedition is as follows: Dr. Richard P. Strong, Dr. George C. Shattuck, Dr. Max Theiler and Dr. Joseph Bequaert, of the department of tropical medicine; Dr. David Linder, botanist; Mr. Loring Whitman, photographer, and Mr. Harold Coolidge, assistant zoologist.

The expedition will proceed up the Congo and is expected to reach Mombassa, on the eastern coast of the continent, in April or May.

THE NEW YORK STATE PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL AND INSTITUTE

CONTRACTS for the construction of the new State Psychiatric Hospital and Institute, to be built in New York on a site provided by Columbia University at 168th Street and Riverside Drive, were awarded on December 30 at the final meeting of the State Hospital Commission, which has now been succeeded by the Department of Mental Hygiene.

The institution will be a center for scientific research into causes and prevention of mental disorders and as a teaching center for the training of mental specialists. In it the research work of fourteen civil State hospitals will be coordinated.

The new building will be of eleven stories. The hospital will provide beds for 210 patients of both sexes. An entire floor will be given over to the children's department, with school rooms, work shops and play rooms.

All varieties of adult mental diseases will be studied. There will be the latest diagnostic and treatment facilities, including hydrotherapy, electrotherapy, occupational therapy, light therapy, physiotherapy, gymnastic psychotherapy and special medical and surgical procedures. Most of two floors will be devoted to the out-patient department.

The tower, rising nine stories above the main structure of eleven floors, will house the library, museum record rooms, doctors' offices, staff conference class rooms and various research laboratories designed and equipped for special studies in neuroanatomy, neurophysiology, neuropathology, clinical pathology, chemistry, bacteriology, serology, endocrinology and experimental psychology.

Being close to the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center and medical college, the Institute will provide for psychiatric instruction in connection with virtually all its departments. Its teaching facilities will

be open to the Columbia University Medical School and others, and for the post-graduate instruction of physicians.

THE FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF ARTHUR D. LITTLE, INC.

ARTHUR D. LITTLE, INC., celebrated its fortieth anniversary at a banquet in its laboratories on December 30, which was attended by one hundred or more present and former members of its staff.

Dr. James F. Norris, retiring president of the American Chemical Society, presented the congratulations of the chemical profession, and greetings were read from former associates, many of whom are now prominent in chemical and engineering fields.

Dr. A. D. Little, president of Arthur D. Little, Inc., briefly reviewed the history of his organization, which began business on October 1, 1886, as a firm under the style of Griffin & Little, with office and laboratory on the top floor at 103 Milk Street, Boston. The business which first came to the firm was chiefly analytical, though for a number of years special emphasis was also given to consulting work in the pulp and paper industry in which Dr. Little had previously been active, his initial job having been that of superintendent of the first sulphite pulp mill in the United States.

Mr. Roger B. Griffin, Dr. Little's partner and father of Mr. Roger C. Griffin, chief chemist of the present organization, died in 1893 as the result of an explosion in the laboratory. Six years later the laboratory was moved to somewhat larger quarters at 7 Exchange Place, and the scope of the business was extended.

Shortly after, in 1900, the firm of Little & Walker was organized. The partnership was dissolved five years later, when Dr. William H. Walker assumed the professorship of chemical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

In 1902 another move was made—this time to 93 Broad Street. Here the firm occupied at first half and later the entire sixth floor, but soon the fifth floor also was taken over, and then the fourth, as new departments were established and an organization developed.

In 1909 the concern was incorporated as Arthur D. Little, Inc. There were by this time many specialists on the staff, and departments were maintained for analyses and tests, research, fuel engineering, lubrication, forest products, biology, textiles and chemical engineering.

DR. COOLIDGE AND THE EDISON MEDAL

THE Edison Medal for 1926, which was awarded in December to Dr. William D. Coolidge, assistant director, research laboratory, General Electric Company, "for the origination of ductile tungsten and the fundamental improvement of the X-ray tube," has been declined by Dr. Coolidge for the reason given in the following letter:

SCHENECTADY, JAN. 17, 1927

MR. GANO DUNN, chairman Edison Medal Committee, American Institute of Electrical Engineers, New York City.

My Dear Mr. Dunn:

Judge Morris has just handed down a decision to the effect that my ductile tungsten patent is invalid. This decision, coming from a man of Judge Morris's standing, proves to me that the best of men could question my right to the Edison medal which your committee has been good enough to award to me.

My appreciation of that great pioneer Mr. Edison, in whose honor the medal was established, and my admiration for its former recipients are such that I would not, for the world, do anything that could in any way detract from the luster of that medal, which should stand for generations to come as one of the most coveted prizes for meritorious work in the electrical field.

In the light of the above facts, I can not accept the medal. Allow me to take this opportunity to thank you and the other members of the committee and to express my deep appreciation of the great honor which you did me. Very sincerely yours,

W. D. COOLIDGE

The *Electrical World*, from which we take the above, reports further that at a specially called meeting of the Edison medal committee, held January 21, it was resolved, ". . . with profound regret, to acquiesce in the decision of Dr. Coolidge, which nullifies the award." There will, therefore, be no award of the Edison medal for 1926.

The case referred to by Dr. Coolidge was that of the General Electric Company *vs.* the DeForest Radio Company and the Robelin Piano Company, a suit charging contributory infringement in the manufacture and sale of radio tubes having ductile tungsten filaments, and the court held that the discovery of the cold ductility of the metal was not an invention and that therefore the patent was void. An unusual feature of the judgment was that by it Judge Morris reversed a former finding of his own, made when sitting in New Jersey, which upheld the patent. If his later decision stands, the effect it will have on lamp manufacture has become a subject of considerable speculation.

One of the contentions of the defendants in the suit was that Dr. Colin G. Fink, head of the department of electrochemistry at Columbia University, New York, and a former associate of Dr. Coolidge's in the General Electric laboratories, was the real originator of the process in dispute. Dr. Fink himself made this