

November 3—*Turbulent motion in fluids*, Dr.¹ T. von Karman, of Aachen, Germany.

November 5—*Heat transfer in moving fluids*, Dr. T. von Karman.

November 12—*The stagger-decalage biplane*, A. A. Merrill.

November 19—*A compound interferometer for fine structure work*, Dr. W. V. Houston.

December 3—*Red stars and their astrophysical significance*, Dr. P. W. Merrill.

December 10—*Mira Ceti*, Professor A. H. Joy.

The lectures on evolution, given under the auspices of Sigma Xi, were:

November 4—*Evolution of life on the earth*, Dr. Chester Stock.

November 18—*Evolution of life on the earth*, Dr. Chester Stock.

December 2—*Evolution of the birds*, Dr. Loye H. Miller.

CHAS. E. ST. JOHN

DINNER IN HONOR OF DR. ERWIN F. SMITH

DR. ERWIN FRANK SMITH, senior pathologist in charge of the pathological laboratory of the Bureau of Plant Industry, a pioneer in the study of the bacterial diseases of plants, was the guest of honor at the annual dinner of the American Phytopathological Society in Philadelphia on December 29. Mrs. Smith shared the honor with him.

In introductory remarks, the president of the society, Dr. I. E. Melhus, professor of plant pathology at Iowa State College, congratulated Dr. Smith upon his extensive contributions to science. Dr. Melhus then called upon Dr. L. R. Jones, chairman of the department of plant pathology of the University of Wisconsin, to speak on Dr. Smith's services to plant pathology. Dr. Jones was followed by Dr. William H. Welch, pathologist of the Johns Hopkins University, who spoke on Dr. Smith's contributions to human and animal pathology. Dr. F. V. Rand, formerly of the Bureau of Plant Industry and now with the publication, *Biological Abstracts*, then, after appropriate remarks, presented to Dr. Smith, in the name of the society, a brochure, in which were engrossed abstracts of the addresses that had just been made, followed by the autographs of the members present.

Dr. Jones said in part:

For leadership in the early study of peach yellows, most stimulating example of dogged work upon a baffling problem, with prophetic assurance that knowledge of tobacco mosaic and aster yellow was pertinent to the solution. For leadership in pioneer studies of bacterial plant pathogens, with classic publications, exacting models for all who followed. For assembled contributions to knowledge of bacteria in relation to disease in plants. For epochal researches in crown-gall. For sympathetic counsel to eager young scientists, from far and near. For

thus exemplifying the Pasteurian characteristics—clear vision, instant action, intuitive judgment, precise method, tireless endeavor, sympathetic patience, self-sacrificing devotion in service through science. For these things we delight to honor you—pioneer, prophet, exemplar, dean of our science.

Dr. Welch said:

I rejoice in this opportunity to speak in behalf of my fellow workers and colleagues and to bear tribute to the importance and significance to human and animal pathology of your studies devoted primarily to plant diseases. No one in our day has done more to bring these two great divisions of pathology into close relation to their mutual advantage. The field which you have cultivated so successfully, and with which your name will always be associated—the relation of parasitic organisms, especially of bacteria, to the diseases of plants—is one of the broadest biological interest. Above all, your studies of tumors of plants, which you have demonstrated to be of bacterial origin, have brought you into the field of ontology in its broadest aspects. Here you take your place in national and international congresses and associations devoted to cancer research or to medicine in general, and here your work is recognized as of the greatest interest and importance. While your name is associated especially with the championship of the parasitic theory of the origin of tumors, your studies of the mechanism of tumor formation, of problems of histogenesis, of formative stimuli and inhibitions of growth, and other kindred subjects, are scarcely of less importance. It would lead far to tell of the whole debt which medicine and pathology owe to you, but I can not forego mentioning the service which you have rendered in making the life and work of Pasteur readily accessible and familiar to students of medicine and the general public.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE gold medal of the Royal Astronomical Society has been awarded to Professor Frank Schlesinger, of Yale University Observatory, for his work on stellar parallax and astronomical photography.

THE Astronomical Society of the Pacific has awarded the Bruce gold medal "for distinguished services to astronomy" to Dr. Herbert Hall Turner, Savilian professor of astronomy at Oxford University. The award was announced at the annual meeting of the society held on January 29. At this meeting Dr. Paul W. Merrill was elected president of the society for the year 1927.

THE Geographical Society of Chicago has awarded its gold medal to Dr. Isaiah Bowman, director of the American Geographical Society, for "eminent service in the promotion of geography in America." Dr. Bowman addressed the society on February 8, on which occasion the medal was presented.

DR. ALBERT F. BLAKESLEE, of the Carnegie Institu-