

near to the edge of the ice cap, is about 1,000 feet below the average elevation of the surrounding region. Using the incomplete topographic data and an approximate reduction, the small anomaly indicates fairly normal gravity here. Another determination of special interest, two years later, at St. Michael, Alaska, in latitude $63^{\circ} 28' N.$, adjacent to the great Yukon delta, also shows approximately normal gravity.¹

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SCIENTIFIC EVENTS CONCILIUM BIBLIOGRAPHICUM

THE arrangement whereby the Concilium Bibliographicum (Zurich) has received certain financial support during the last five years from the Rockefeller Foundation through the National Research Council, and whereby the council participated in the management of the concilium, terminated with the end of 1926, a termination provided for by the terms of the arrangement as originally made.

This termination of the arrangement referred to in no way indicates a disapprobation of the concilium's service either on the part of the Rockefeller Foundation, the National Research Council or the American users of the service.

This service, it may be briefly explained to those readers of SCIENCE not already familiar with it, is the preparation and distribution of bibliographic references in current zoology and certain allied fields on cards giving author and title references arranged according to a convenient subject classification. These cards are sent to subscribers at a reasonable rate. Subscription may be for the whole series of cards or for parts of the series referring to particular subjects.

Despite the cessation of the American subsidy, the concilium expects to continue its work, as it has been able to find some special financial support in Switzerland and Germany. It needs, however, more support than it has yet found and would be glad if its American friends could give it further financial aid.

American subscribers who have been paying their subscriptions through the National Research Council are requested to make payments hereafter to the Equitable Trust Company, 77 Wall Street, New York City, "for Concilium Bibliographicum Account, Len & Company, Zurich," and to address all inquiries and

other correspondence directly to Concilium Bibliographicum, 49, Hofstrasse, Zurich.

Concilium Bibliographicum was founded in 1895 by Dr. H. H. Field, of Harvard, and has now for director Professor J. Strohl, of the University of Zurich. The difficulties created by the great war and by the death of Dr. Field soon after the close of the war nearly overwhelmed the Concilium, but the co-operation of the National Research Council, with the financial assistance of the Rockefeller Foundation, and the vigorous and devoted efforts of Director Strohl, saved the situation, and the Concilium was enabled to catch up and go on with its work.

Despite the recent establishment of *Biological Abstracts*, a periodical form of biological bibliographic service urgently recommended by the Union of American Biological Societies and by the National Research Council, and established by the financial aid of the Rockefeller Foundation, there will probably always be a considerable number of American zoologists, especially taxonomic workers, who will find the concilium cards convenient and useful. These zoologists will be glad to learn that the concilium expects to continue its service.

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THE BOTANY SCHOOL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

THE opening of the new botany school in the University of Sydney is an event not only important for the British Empire, but also for the world at large. The building is in modernized perpendicular Gothic and harmonizes with the main structure of the University of Sydney, which presents some interesting resemblances both in its architecture and its origin to the well-known main building of the University of Toronto. The construction is in stone and the building is so arranged that it will be an ornament to the university for many years. Although architecturally attractive, it does not represent the petrification of the science in the Pierian springs of architecture rightly dreaded by Thomas Huxley, for it is thoroughly well lighted, spacious and in every way practical. The entrance is adorned by representations of some of the great masters in the science. The idea of commemorating the great, however, is not confined to the exterior of the building, for the laboratories and other workrooms are named after distinguished botanists. The botanical museum bears the name of Bentham and Hooker and its windows show the portraits of such outstanding botanists as Hofmeister, Grew, Sachs, Nageli, Hooker, Bentham and others. The herbarium, which is spacious and well equipped, is

¹ These notes are a summary, with additions, of paper "The Equilibrium Theory of the Earth's Crust," in the *Journal of the Washington Academy of Sciences*, June 4, 1926, where detailed explanations and references are given.

named for John Ray and in its windows appear effigies of Morrison, Ray, Tournefort, De Jussieu, Linnaeus, Robert Brown, etc. The advanced laboratory is named for Charles Darwin. The research laboratory bears the name of Robert Brown, while the first-year laboratory is named after Sir Joseph Banks, two names so signally connected with the beginnings of Australian botany.

The library and reading rooms provide abundance of space, but the shelves are as yet meagerly lined with books. It is hoped that this shortcoming may, before long, be remedied in view of the great interest which the public in Sydney has begun to take in botanical science.

A physiological laboratory is also among the rooms in the botany school and it supplies excellent facilities for the prosecution of that important side of the science. Numerous research rooms for the staff and advanced students are included in the plan of the building and last, but not least, the lecture theater is capable of seating 200 students.

The building was formally opened on November 6, in the presence of the governor of New South Wales, the vice-chancellor of the university and Professor Anstruther Lawson, the head of the school. Professor E. C. Jeffrey, of Harvard University, was present as guest of honor to deliver an address and also the formal felicitations of Harvard University.

The opening of the new botany school in Sydney University is a scientific event of the first magnitude because it supplies an equipment in the Southern Hemisphere in every way adequate for the carrying on of botanical investigation. The facilities provided by the botany school, in fact, compare most favorably with those which are offered by the larger universities in the Northern Hemisphere. In his remarks the guest of honor referred to the great advantages which Australasia presents to the students of plants, combining as it does, a great variety of environment with healthful conditions of existence and a stable and well-organized government. Australasia, in fact, unites to a large extent the advantages of the tropics with the comfort and salubrity of temperate regions. The flora of Australia is quite as interesting as its fauna, but not nearly as well known. It was suggested, further, that it would be a great advantage if every student of botany in the Northern Hemisphere could some time or other visit Australasia. Professor Lawson, in the name of the university, offered the full hospitality of the botanical laboratory to visiting botanists and expressed the hope that more and more of these would feel encouraged to make the journey to Australasia, with the knowledge that there they would find facilities equal to those of the best tropical gardens.

The botany school of the University of Sydney is a monument to the zeal, capacity and artistic sense of its head, Professor Anstruther Lawson. It is to be hoped that he may live long to preside over the department which he, himself, has created and that botanists in numbers from other parts of the world may have the opportunity of enjoying the delightful hospitality of Sydney and its university. It has already a large and growing body of students and a highly creditable list of published researches.

E. C. J.

THE INSTITUTE OF CHEMISTRY OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

FORMATION of the Institute of Chemistry of the American Chemical Society, which, beginning this year, will bring together every summer at a center of technical education chemists from the nation's laboratories of industry and education, has been announced following action by the executive committee of the society.

George D. Rosengarten, president of the society, has made the following statement:

The American Chemical Society has approved the suggestion that an Institute of Chemistry be held annually as one of its projects for the promotion of the science in America.

The Chemical Foundation, Inc., and the Pennsylvania State College have agreed to furnish the funds to put the plan in operation for the first session, to be held during July, 1927, at Pennsylvania State College. Northwestern University has requested the privilege of being the second university to cooperate with the society and the session of 1928 is to be held at Evanston. Places for the third and subsequent sessions remain to be chosen.

The purpose of the Institute of Chemistry is to offer a series of lectures and demonstrations whereby those in attendance may be brought quickly up to date in fields both within and outside their own specialty, and to afford facilities for teachers to acquire the latest information in chemical science as well as to benefit from the contacts with the industrial and consulting professional chemists.

It is planned that teachers and others desiring to do so can take the stated courses in chemistry throughout the summer school and receive credit therefor, so that in a combination of the Institute of Chemistry of the American Chemical Society and the regular summer school courses of Pennsylvania State College the requirements will be met.

The contacts between groups of individuals we consider an important factor in the attractiveness of the plan. There are very few chemists, whether they be in industry or academic life, who have not longed for such an opportunity to meet the leaders of their profession. The most profitable contacts are those formed during periods of leisure and relaxation, provided by the institute plan.