

for the chemical treatment of carbon will have special attention. The exhibition will be held in five halls situated on the exhibition grounds at Essen, which have been completely renovated for the purpose.

THE opening of the Museums of the Peaceful Arts in New York City took place on April 20, following a dinner meeting of the American members of the Newcomen Society. The Museums of the Peaceful Arts, of which Dr. F. C. Brown was recently appointed director, occupy temporary headquarters at the Scientific American Building, 24 West Fortieth Street, where a start has been made in organizing a great industrial technical museum for the city, made possible by a bequest from the late Henry R. Towne. The Newcomen Society is organized for the study of history and technology. Its headquarters are in London, but it has an active group in America. Charles Penrose, American member of the council, presided at the meeting which followed dinner at the Engineers' Club. This meeting was held simultaneously with a meeting in London, and a paper on Marc Sequin and the invention of the tubular boiler was read at both gatherings. Following the dinner the group adjourned to the museums, where they were greeted by Dr. George F. Kunz, president, and surveyed the exhibits so far collected, which include a portion of the lightning rod which Benjamin Franklin erected on St. Paul's Cathedral.

ACCORDING to *Nature* a Danish scientific expedition, under the leadership of Professor C. Olufsen, and supported by the Carlsberg fund, is now on its way to Senegal to explore the upper region of the valley of the River Niger, the Upper Volta, and the south part of the Sahara, especially Air (Asben or Agadiz). The expedition, the main purpose of which will be to collect objects of ethnological interest for the Danish Museums, is to return via Zinder and Kano, through Nigeria, to the Guinea Coast, and thence by sea to Dakar. Professor Olufsen will be accompanied by two Danish scientific workers, Oluf Hagerup (botanist) and Harry Madsen (zoologist).

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

UNION COLLEGE, Schenectady, dedicated its new physics laboratory on April 30. The exercises were held in the building, which is nearing completion.

THE will of the late Dr. Walter B. James includes bequests of \$25,000 to Columbia University to the endowment fund of the College of Physicians and Surgeons; \$25,000 to the New York Academy of Medicine, and \$25,000 to the Trudeau Sanatorium, Saranac Lake.

It was announced, April 9, that Samuel Mather has subscribed \$1,000,000 toward the campaign to raise \$6,000,000 by the university hospitals of Cleveland for additions to the medical center. Thirteen years ago, Mr. Mather and his associates secured the land for the medical center, and his gifts to its institutions already total millions of dollars.

PROMOTIONS announced by Columbia University include the following from the grade of associate professor to full professor: Dr. Albert T. Poffenberger, psychology; Dr. Samuel R. Powers, natural sciences; Dr. William D. Reeve, mathematics; Dr. William E. Caldwell, clinical obstetrics and gynecology; Dr. William W. Herrick, clinical medicine, and James K. Finch, civil engineering.

DR. ROSS V. PATTERSON, dean of Jefferson Medical College, has been elected to a full professorship in medicine in the college. Other promotions include Dr. C. E. G. Shannon, to be professor of ophthalmology, and Dr. Fred J. Kalteyer, Dr. E. J. G. Beardsley, and Dr. Elmer H. Funk, professors of medicine.

DR. SIDNEY S. NEGUS, professor of organic chemistry at the University of Richmond, has been appointed to a similar position in the Medical College of Virginia, Richmond.

DR. J. R. HAAG, assistant professor of agricultural and biological chemistry at Pennsylvania State College, has been appointed to a position in the Oregon Experiment Station.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR ETHEL M. TERRY-MCCOY has resigned from the staff of the department of chemistry at the University of Chicago.

DR. CECIL MCLAREN WEST has been appointed professor of anatomy in the University College of South Wales, in succession to Professor D. Hepburn, who retires from the beginning of October.

E. FOEX, director of the Central Station of Phytopathology, Paris, has been appointed professor of plant pathology at the National Horticultural School.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

NaOH VERSUS Na₂CO₃

As a result of recent investigations upon alkali soils in the division of agricultural chemistry of the Arizona Agricultural Experiment Station, it has been shown that very few black alkali soils actually contain sodium carbonate, under field conditions. The alkalinity of such soils is due to the presence of sodium hydroxide, which in turn is derived from the hydrolysis of sodium zeolite.

The erroneous idea that many soils contain excessive amounts of sodium carbonate has arisen from