

and mineralogy at the University of Wisconsin, Roland D. Irving, who sent him to examine the geological formations on the North Shore of Lake Superior. He was engaged on this work in this locality for two years, living in a tent with Indian guides. His experiences on this work were most interesting. About 1883 or 1884 he went into partnership with his older brother Regis, who had a laboratory at Seventh and Pine Streets in St. Louis. The firm name was Regis Chauvenet & Brother. When his brother Regis went to Colorado as president of the State School of Mines at Golden, William remained in St. Louis and although Regis withdrew in a few years from the firm, William ran the laboratory under the old name of Regis Chauvenet & Brother until his death. William made many examinations of mines in the United States and deposits at Trinidad and those on the Orinoco River in South America. He was a most versatile man and, aside from his mining and chemical work, was a poet of no ordinary ability and his water color paintings were excellent. His circle of friends and acquaintances was world wide, and no more charming companion could be found than he.

HERMANN VON SCHRENK

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### JUBILEE OF THE PHYSIOLOGICAL SOCIETY<sup>1</sup>

THE Physiological Society (Great Britain) celebrated its jubilee by a dinner in London on May 13. The society was founded in 1876, and its jubilee was in 1926, but owing to the amount of business resulting from the purchase of the *Journal of Physiology* from Mrs. Langley, it was not possible to arrange for the celebration in that year. The four surviving original members of the society are: Sir David Ferrier, Sir E. Ray Lankester, Sir W. Thiselton-Dyer and Sir E. Sharpey-Schafer, who presided at the dinner. The toast of the society was proposed by Major Elliot, parliamentary under-secretary for health for Scotland, who pointed out the practical benefits that had been obtained as the result of physiological research. The chairman, Sir E. Sharpey-Schafer, in his reply, described how the society was founded as a dining club to defend the members against the attacks of the anti-vivisection societies, and it thus represented the only good that had resulted from the anti-vivisection agitation. Later in the history of the society it became customary to visit one laboratory or another before the dinner, to see demonstrations of work in progress. The development of the society is shown by the present practice, namely, that demonstrations have pre-

cedence over other communications, and that all business, except that of a special general meeting summoned for some specific purpose, is transacted after the dinner which is held with most meetings of the society.

Sir Charles Sherrington proposed the toast of the guests, with which was associated the names of Sir Ernest Rutherford, Professor G. Fano, of Rome, Professor Gley, of Paris, and Viscount Knutsford. Sir Ernest Rutherford pointed out the relation between physics and physiology, in which a physical instrument was perfected for some special recording device such as the Einthoven string galvanometer, and was afterwards used in physical laboratories because of its delicacy and accuracy. He recommended a training in physics as a preliminary to research in physiology. Professor Fano made a delightful congratulatory speech in English and Professor Gley conveyed the best wishes of his French colleagues in a stirring address in French. Viscount Knutsford referred particularly to the gain to humanity by Schafer's method of artificial respiration, and to the Research Defense Society, which does its best to educate the intelligent public as to the benefits obtained from experiments on animals. He suggested that physiologists ought to do their share by joining that society, by furnishing accurate information and by speaking on the subject. Professor Leonard Hill proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman, who, he pointed out, had sent apostles to Ireland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, United States, China and many other parts of the world to promulgate the doctrines of physiology. On May 14 there was an ordinary meeting of the society in Cambridge, with the business dinner meeting in Trinity College. On the following day Professor and Mrs. Barcroft gave a garden party in the fellows' garden of King's College, kindly lent by the provost and fellows of the college.

### AN ENTOMOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE PACIFIC

THE conditions on many of the islands of the Pacific are rapidly changing. Mountains which were formerly covered by native forests are being denuded, or the original vegetation is being replaced by introduced species. With the changing conditions in plant life and the increase of commerce there are accompanying changes in the insect fauna. If entomologists are ever to know the insects of the Pacific area no time can be lost. It would be difficult to overestimate the importance of a thorough knowledge of the native insects of this region either from a purely scientific or an economic point of view.

An entomological survey of the Pacific is being

<sup>1</sup> From *Nature*.

planned by a group in Hawaii. The Bishop Museum and the Hawaiian Sugar Planters Association have each pledged financial support over a period of five years, and it is likely that the Association of Hawaiian Pineapple Cannery will join with them. A local committee has been organized with Dr. C. M. Cooke, of the Bishop Museum, as chairman, assisted by John E. Russell, chairman of the experiment station committee of the Hawaiian Sugar Planters Association, Charles R. Hemenway, chairman of the board of regents of the University of Hawaii, Charles S. Judd, executive officer of the Board of Agriculture and Forestry, and A. L. Dean, director of the Experiment Station of the Association of Hawaiian Pineapple Cannery. This committee, no one of whom is an entomologist, has secured Dr. C. F. Baker, dean of the Agricultural College of the University of the Philippines, to be the scientific head of the survey. Dr. Baker will have his headquarters in Honolulu. The present plans contemplate one or more field parties which will send all collections to Honolulu where some material will doubtless be identified, but much of it will be sorted and sent to specialists to work up. According to the present plan Dr. Baker will devote all his time during the first year to the work of the survey, and in subsequent years divide his time between that and the University of Hawaii.

A. L. DEAN

#### ALASKAN EXPLORATIONS

THE U. S. Interior Department has announced that plans have recently been approved for further geologic and topographic surveys by the U. S. Geological Survey during the coming field season in the Alaska Range in the vicinity of Mount Spurr. This is part of one of the large unexplored regions of Alaska lying between the head of Cook Inlet and the Kuskokwim basin. Although its eastern edge borders on the coast, the rugged glaciated mountains that occupy most of the area are almost untraversable and are separated from the shore by a high marshy lowland that is difficult to cross and that so far has discouraged exploration of the inland region.

This project is part of the general program of mapping our northern territory that has been carried forward by the Geological Survey for the last 30 years as rapidly as funds and personnel have been available and that has resulted in the publication of accurate maps and definite knowledge of the mineral resources of a large part of Alaska. The object of this party is to map as much as possible of the tract of country lying between the region north of Mount Spurr, which was surveyed during the field season of 1926, and the areas covered by earlier surveys in the vicinity of Tuxedni Bay and Lake Clark. The work will be done

by a surveying party in charge of S. R. Capps, geologist, with R. H. Sargent, topographic engineer, and four camp hands. The party will probably reach Anchorage early in June and then, together with the necessary pack horses, supplies and provisions for four months, will embark on a launch and a barge, proceed to the west shore of Cook Inlet, and land on the beach near the West Foreland. From that time as long as forage for the horses lasts or until snow flies, which will probably be about the middle of September, the party will be entirely out of communication with the rest of the world and will travel into the mountains, carrying with them their entire store of supplies and equipment and mapping the land forms and geology as they go.

It is expected that as a result of this expedition information will be obtained concerning several thousand square miles of the public domain, about which at present almost nothing is known.

#### DEDUCTION OF TRAVELING EXPENSES TO SCIENTIFIC MEETING FROM TAXABLE INCOME

PROFESSOR A. SILVERMAN, head of the department of chemistry at the University of Pittsburgh, has won a decision from the Federal Board of Tax Appeals making traveling expenses to conventions deductible as expenses ordinary and necessary to the teaching profession. The text of the decision follows:

#### UNITED STATES BOARD OF TAX APPEALS

ALEXANDER SILVERMAN, Petitioner,

*v.*

COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REVENUE, Respondent.

Docket No. 10389. Promulgated May 12, 1927.

Amounts expended by petitioner, a professor of chemistry and a member of the faculty of the University of Pittsburgh, in connection with the carrying on of his profession, in attending scientific meetings and conventions, constitute an ordinary and necessary business expense.

S. Leo Ruslander, Esq., and A. E. James, Esq.,  
for the petitioner.

D. D. Shepard, Esq., for the respondent.

This proceeding results from the determination of a deficiency in income tax for the year 1921 of \$55.88 by reason of disallowance of a deduction of \$558.75 claimed by petitioner as ordinary and necessary business expense for the taxable year in carrying on his duties as a professor of chemistry and a member of the faculty of the University of Pittsburgh. The facts are found as stipulated.

#### FINDINGS OF FACT

The petitioner is a resident of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He keeps his accounts on the basis of actual receipts and disbursements. Prior to and during the year 1921 he was