

THE NEW LIFE SCIENCES BUILDING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

THIRTEEN departments will be housed by the new Life Sciences Building which is to be erected on the Berkeley campus of the University of California. Floor plans of the building, which is to be 450 by 230 feet, have been prepared and the regents have authorized Supervising Architect George W. Kelham to proceed with the working plans. Construction will start in the spring and the building, it is hoped, will be ready in 1929.

The building will house the following departments: Anatomy, bacteriology, biochemistry, pharmacology, physiology, hygiene, botany, psychology, household science, plant nutrition, zoology, museum of vertebrate zoology and board of health.

The following old wooden buildings will be torn down upon the completion of the new structure: entomology building, Budd hall, plant nutrition, museum of vertebrate zoology, physiology laboratory, hygiene and pathology, botany, botany laboratory, anatomy, psychology, zoology and the public health building.

The new Life Sciences Building, five stories in height, will provide each department with about 60 per cent. more room than it has at present, in all 145,000 square feet of floor space, approximately three acres. It will be in the shape of a hollow rectangle, with the laboratories facing the court inside. An auditorium with seating capacity of 500 will be located at the east end, balanced by the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at the west end. The classrooms will be grouped at the east end, near the library, but the building itself will have a library of 90,000 volumes. There will be no elevators except those for freight service.

With the completion of the working drawings, plans and specifications, bids will be asked. It is expected the building will cost approximately \$1,750,000, the funds to be taken from the \$3,000,000 bond issue voted by the people in 1926.

A SYMPOSIUM AT THE ALFRED L. LOOMIS LABORATORY IN HONOR OF PROFESSOR J. FRANCK

THE arrival of Professor J. Franck in this country was made the occasion of a symposium in his honor at the Loomis Laboratory, Tuxedo Park, on January 6. About ninety physicists attended the symposium as the guests of Mr. Alfred L. Loomis. Opportunity was afforded for visiting the laboratory where the various investigations under way were described and illustrated.

The physical research institutions and university laboratories of the east were well represented, the following being among those present:

Dr. Lyman J. Briggs, Bureau of Standards.
Professor Karl T. Compton, Princeton University.
Dr. W. D. Coolidge, General Electric Company.
Professor Bergen Davis, Columbia University.
Dr. C. J. Davisson, Bell Telephone Laboratories.
Dr. Arthur L. Day, Geophysical Laboratory, Washington.
Professor William Duane, Harvard University.
Dr. Gano Dunn, National Research Council.
Professor R. C. Gibbs, Cornell University.
Professor Karl F. Herzfeld, The Johns Hopkins University.
Dr. C. W. Hewlett, General Electric Company.
Professor John C. Hubbard, The Johns Hopkins University.
Dr. Albert W. Hull, General Electric Company.
Professor Edwin Kemble, Harvard University.
Dr. Irving Langmuir, General Electric Company.
Professor F. Wheeler Loomis, New York University.
Professor J. C. McLennan, University of Toronto.
Dr. Howard McClenahan, The Franklin Institute.
Professor Louis W. McKeehan, Yale University.
Professor George B. Pegram, Columbia University.
Captain E. G. Oberlin, Naval Research Laboratory.
Dean Harold Pender, University of Pennsylvania.
Professor F. A. Saunders, Harvard University.
Professor W. F. G. Swann, Bartol Research Foundation.
Professor Oswald Veblen, Princeton University.
Professor H. W. Webb, Columbia University.
Dr. W. R. Whitney, General Electric Company.
Professor Albert P. Wills, Columbia University.
Professor Robert W. Wood, The Johns Hopkins University.

The following papers were presented:

The electrical and optical phenomena connected with the recombination of positive ions and electrons, by PROFESSOR J. FRANCK.

Some new effects in the optical excitation of mercury, by PROFESSOR ROBERT W. WOOD.

Concepts in quantum mechanics, by PROFESSOR W. F. G. SWANN.

Extreme ultra-violet spectra excited by controlled electron impacts, by PROFESSOR KARL T. COMPTON.

The aurora green line, by PROFESSOR G. CARLO.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

FOR the meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science to be held next year in Glasgow from September 5 to 12, under the presidency of Sir William Bragg, the following sectional presidents have been appointed: Section A (mathematical and physical sciences), Professor A. W. Porter; section B (chemistry), Professor E. C. C. Baly; section C (geology), E. B. Bailey; section D (zoology), Professor W. Garstang; section E (geography), Professor J. L. Myres; section G (engineering), Sir William Ellis; section H (anthropology), Sir George Macdonald; section I (physiology), Professor C. Lovatt Evans;

section J (psychology), Professor T. H. Pear; section K (botany), Professor R. H. Yapp; section L (education), Professor A. Smithells; section M (agriculture), Dr. J. S. Gordon. The president of section F (economic science and statistics), has not yet been appointed.

ON February 16, Professor Hugo de Vries will celebrate the eightieth anniversary of his birth. On retiring from his professorship in the University of Amsterdam in 1918 he removed to the small village of Lunteren, Holland, and built for himself a laboratory and an experimental garden for the continuation of his genetical studies on *Oenothera*. He is still prosecuting these studies with a vigor and effectiveness which excites universal admiration. It is to be hoped that American biological organizations and institutions, biological departments in our universities and numerous personal friends and admirers of Professor de Vries will send appropriate messages to him on this occasion. Messages and resolutions timed to leave the Atlantic seaboard in the first days of February should reach him opportunely.

IN recognition of his thirty-five years as an outstanding teacher in the medical school of the University of Michigan and his international reputation as a pathologist, Dr. Aldred S. Warthin has been the recipient of an honor from his colleagues and former students, in the form of a volume entitled "Contributions to Medical Science." This book of 715 pages includes contributions from sixty-four authors, representing his early colleagues and including one or more representatives from each of his thirty-five successive classes.

THE board of directors of the Geographic Society of Chicago at its last meeting unanimously voted to award its gold medal to Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh. It is planned to present this medal to Colonel Lindbergh at the final meeting for the season in Orchestra Hall on April 24. Commander Richard E. Byrd, a gold medalist of the society, has been invited to come to Chicago to make the address of presentation.

JAMES A. PARSONS, metallurgist for the Dur Iron Company, has received the science award of the Harmon Foundation for his research in aluminum bronze, his discoveries on corrosion testing and his developments in duriron.

DR. WILLIAM RICE, dean of the Tufts College Dental School, will receive the 1928 award of the Rhode Island Dental Society at the semi-centennial convention of the society. The medal will be awarded "for his contribution to dental education, and his leadership and inspiration to the students under his guidance."

DR. HENRY CREW, professor of physics at Northwestern University, was elected president of the American Association of University Professors at its recent meeting in Cincinnati.

A. W. BERRESFORD, electrical engineer, was elected president of the American Engineering Council at the recent meeting held in Washington, D. C.

THE managers of the New York Botanical Garden have elected Henry W. De Forest, chairman of the executive committee of the Southern Pacific Company, president, to succeed Professor F. S. Lee, of Columbia University, who has been president for five years.

C. C. WILLOUGHBY, director of the Peabody Museum at Harvard University, has been made emeritus director. The position of director of the museum has been filled by the appointment of Dr. S. K. Lothrop, formerly research associate in the Museum of the American Indian, New York.

AT the fifty-ninth annual meeting of the trustees of the American Museum of Natural History on January 8, Dr. H. F. Osborn, president-elect of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, was elected president for the twentieth successive year; Mr. Baker, first vice-president, for the fifth year; J. P. Morgan, second vice-president, for the seventeenth year; Mr. Perkins, treasurer, for the second year, and Percy R. Pyne, secretary, for the eighth year. Dr. Osborn has accepted the post of curator-in-chief of the division of mineralogy, geology, geography and astronomy, and he has also accepted the honorary curatorship of the department of geology and paleontology. Dr. G. Clyde Fisher has been made curator of the department of astronomy. The new appointments are: Hawthorne Daniel, curator of the department of printing and publishing and editor of *Natural History*; Miss Francesca R. LaMonte, assistant in ichthyology, and Robert T. Hatt, assistant curator in mammalogy.

DR. ARTHUR PIERSON KELLEY, assistant professor of botany in Rutgers University, will go on February first to the Allegheny Forest Experiment Station, Philadelphia, as associate forest ecologist.

DR. DOUGLAS R. SEMMES, of Richmond, Va., has been appointed to the staff of the Alabama state geological survey.

MORSE SALISBURY, editor of the press bureau of the University of Wisconsin, has been appointed temporarily as chief of the radio service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture pending a new examination. The position has been vacant since the resignation of Sam Pickard to become secretary, and later a member, of the federal radio commission.

DR. B. T. DICKSON, formerly professor of plant pathology in McGill University, arrived in Sydney in November to take up his new duties as senior plant pathologist for the Australian Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

PROFESSOR OSWALD VEBLEN, Henry B. Fine research professor of mathematics, has been granted a leave of absence for the coming academic year to carry on research work at the University of Oxford. Oxford will send to Princeton for the same period Professor Godfred H. Hardy, Savilian professor of geometry and a foreign member of the National Academy of Sciences.

DR. TAMOH IKEDA, in charge of food control for the bureau of public health of Tokyo, is spending the month of January working under the direction of Professor R. A. Dutcher in the vitamine laboratory of the Pennsylvania State College. Dr. Ikeda is visiting the United States under the auspices of the Rockefeller Foundation.

HARLAN H. ZODTNER, of the Smithsonian Institution, is leaving the United States to spend three years in the Chilean Andes, measuring the sun's radiation, as part of the institution's study of the solar constant. He will relieve H. B. Freeman, present director of the Smithsonian Observatory at Mount Montezuma, near Calama, Chile, who has completed three years in the region.

DR. OSCAR RIDDLE, of the Carnegie Institution, during the latter part of January will deliver a series of lectures at the University of Porto Rico on "Sex, Reproduction and Internal Secretions."

PROFESSOR JAMES FRANCK, of the University of Göttingen, upon his recent arrival in New York was entertained by the departments of physics and chemistry of New York University in the Brevoort Hotel. Dr. Franck delivered a series of lectures at Harvard University during the week of January 9.

DR. NIELS G. HÖRNER, of the Swedish Geological Survey, addressed the geological conference at Harvard University on January 17 on "European Inland Dunes and their Climatic Significance."

DR. HAROLD NORINDER, of the Swedish State Power Organization, will give a lecture at the Franklin Institute on January 26 on "Some Electrophysical Conditions determining Lightning Surges."

THE non-resident lecturer in chemistry at Cornell University under the George Fisher Baker foundation for the second term of the present university year will be Professor George Barger, of the University of Edinburgh, who will lecture upon "Some Applications of Organic Chemistry to Biology." The non-resident lecturer for the first term of the university year 1928-

1929 will be Professor Hans Pringsheim, of the University of Berlin, who will lecture upon "The Chemistry of the Monosaccharides and Polysaccharides." The non-resident lecturers are provided with a private research laboratory, and the university extends the privilege of the department of chemistry to visiting chemists who may wish to carry on research under the direction of the lecturers.

DR. CARL F. CORI, from the State Institute for the Study of Malignant Diseases, Buffalo, N. Y., will deliver the third Harvey Society lecture at the New York Academy of Medicine, on Friday evening, January 27. His subject will be "The Influence of Hormones on the Fate of Carbohydrates in the Animal Body."

DR. ALEXANDER WETMORE, assistant secretary of the Smithsonian Institution and retiring president of the Washington Academy of Sciences, gave an address before the 217th meeting of the academy, January 10, on "Prehistoric Ornithology in North America."

PROFESSOR S. R. DETWILER, of Columbia University, lectured to the biological section of the New York Academy of Sciences on January 9, on "Observations on the Growth of Nerves in the Embryo."

A STATUE of the late M. Emile Baudot, the inventor of the telegraph transmission instrument bearing his name, was recently unveiled in the courtyard of the French General Post Office in Paris.

THE Second Church building, now being used to temporarily house the department of zoology of Oberlin College, has been named the Albert A. Wright zoological laboratory, in commemoration of the services to the college of the late Professor A. A. Wright.

A MEETING to commemorate the life and services of the late Charles Doolittle Walcott, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution from 1907 to 1927, will be held in the auditorium of the natural history building on January 24, at 11:00 o'clock. The chancellor of the Smithsonian Institution, the Honorable William H. Taft, Chief Justice of the United States, will preside. Addresses will be delivered by the following representatives of organizations with which Secretary Walcott was actively affiliated: Dr. John C. Merriam, the Carnegie Institution of Washington; Dr. Joseph S. Ames, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics; Dr. George Otis Smith, the United States Geological Survey, and Dr. Charles G. Abbot, the National Academy of Sciences.

ALEXANDER E. OUTERBRIDGE, of the William Sellers Company, also lecturer at the University of Pennsylvania, and professor of metallurgy at the Franklin

Institute, died on January 15 at the age of seventy-seven years.

PROFESSOR ELMER E. F. CREIGHTON, electrical engineer of the General Electric Co., Schenectady, died on January 13, at the age of forty-nine years.

W. H. DINES, F.R.S., British meteorologist, well known for his explorations of the upper air, died on December 24, aged seventy-two years.

DR. W. C. F. NEWTON, research student at the John Innes Horticultural Institution, recently died at the age of thirty-two years. A correspondent writes: "The death of Dr. Newton is deplored by those interested in the development of cytology and genetics. His personality attracted the notice of William Bateson under whose sympathetic directorship he worked several years at the John Innes Horticultural Institution, Merton. He will be remembered for his beautiful study of the chromosomes of *Tulipa* and related genera, and for other work much of which is as yet unpublished."

A JOINT meeting of the Optical Society of America and The American Physical Society will be held at Columbia University in New York City on February 24 and 25. Special features will include an invited address by Dr. W. F. G. Swann on "Recent Theories of the Atom" and a demonstration of television at the Bell Laboratories.

THE annual congress on Medical Education and Medical Licensure and Hospitals will take place in Chicago at Palmer House on February 6, 7 and 8.

THE eighth summer term of the American School of Prehistoric Research will open in London on June 28 and close on the Continent the middle of September. Requests for information concerning details of the program and requirements for admission should be addressed to the director, Dr. George Grant MacCurdy, Peabody Museum, New Haven, Conn.

DR. WILLIAM CROCKER, Dr. Waldemar Lindgren and Dr. A. L. Barrows, of the National Research Council, recently conferred with members of the staff of the Biological Survey in the interest of arranging comprehensive cooperative studies of geological, zoological and botanical problems and other related lines of research, in the Aleutian Islands, Alaska. Effort is being made to enlist in this survey such agencies as the Biological Survey, the Bureau of Plant Industry, the Forest Service, the Geological Survey, the Coast and Geodetic Survey, the Bureau of Fisheries and the Smithsonian Institution.

A ROYAL commission to inquire into and report upon all matters relating to the fishing industry of the Maritime Provinces has been appointed and is holding sit-

tings in all the important fishing centers of the Maritimes, so that those engaged in every branch of the industry will have opportunity to attend its sessions and discuss their problems. Subsequently, at the request of the provincial government of Quebec, which for the past few years has been administering the fisheries in all portions of the province, except in the Magdalen Islands, it was agreed that the scope of the investigation should be extended to the mainland of the Province of Quebec and sittings will be held there when the investigation is completed in the Maritimes.

THE council of the British Empire Cancer Campaign is sending invitations to persons and organizations conducting research into cancer to attend the International Convention on Cancer Research next July in London. Receipt of an anonymous gift of \$50,000 to the campaign has been announced. The sum of \$80,000 also has been set up as a permanent trust by the executors of the estate of William Johnston, of Liverpool. The interest will be applied to cancer research work in Liverpool.

AT a special general meeting of the British Institute of Physics held on December 16, and on the recommendation of the board, the Royal Meteorological Society was admitted a participating society of the institute. This is the sixth society to cooperate in the scheme of participation, and an important step is thus taken towards the realization of one of the principal objects of the institute, as expressed at its foundation, namely, to coordinate the work of all existing societies concerned with the science of physics and its applications.

A NEW meteorological observatory has been ordered by the government of India on the advice of its meteorological director, J. H. Field. It will be built at Poona for special research work, with a view to accurate forecasting of southwest monsoons and will be brought into use the coming summer. About \$320,000 has been appropriated for the observatory.

A BEQUEST amounting to about £35,000 has been left by Mr. John Sanderson, manufacturer, of Galashiels, to Edinburgh University for the development of technical and scientific study under the faculty of science.

"THE Lasker Foundation for Medical Research" has been established at the University of Chicago with an initial endowment of \$1,000,000, the gift of Albert D. Lasker and his wife, Mrs. Flora W. Lasker. Mr. Lasker is former chairman of the United States Shipping Board and head of the Lord and Thomas advertising agency. Research under the spirit of the endowment is to be directed toward establishing the causes, nature, prevention and cure of degenerative

diseases. While a definite program has not yet been developed under the foundation, it is said that the first efforts would be made against Bright's disease and heart disease.

ANNOUNCEMENT has been made by the University of Chicago board of trustees of the following subscriptions for the endowment of the Frank Billings Medical Clinic: From Mr. Samuel Insull, \$25,000; Mrs. C. K. G. Billings, \$10,000; Mr. Charles A. Monroe, \$5,000; Miss Margaretta E. Otis, \$5,000; Mr. John W. Fowler, \$3,000; Mrs. Howard H. Spaulding, \$3,000; Mr. John T. Llewellyn, \$2,000; Mrs. Theodore Sheldon, \$2,000; Mr. Walter S. Brewster, \$1,000; Mr. William S. Hay, \$1,000; Mr. George M. Reynolds, \$1,000; Mr. George E. Scott, \$1,000; Mr. and Mrs. William H. Rahmann, \$600; Mr. Charles E. Field, \$200; Mr. Thomas Meighan, \$100, and Mr. R. H. Ritchie, \$100. A total of \$328,723 has already been received for the fund.

THE research ship *William Scoresby*, after being refitted, has left Portsmouth, England, on another cruise to the Antarctic. She returned from a similar expedition a few months ago. The first port of call will be St. Vincent, and the ship will then proceed by way of Rio de Janeiro and the Falkland Islands to the Antarctic. Commander De La Motte is in charge of the ship, and the trip is expected to last twelve months. The *William Scoresby*, which was built to work in conjunction with Shackleton's *Discovery*, is 180 feet long, of about 700 tons and is equipped with the latest scientific apparatus.

THE late Harry W. Loos has bequeathed a fund amounting to approximately \$3,500,000 to Kansas City to be devoted to such charitable, hospital, educational, scientific, literary or research purposes as may be in the public interest.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY announces receipt of the Isabella King endowment of \$30,000 for the establishment of a fellowship or fellowships for special research in biology. The income from this endowment will be available in 1928-29.

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE has received a gift of \$300,000 for a new fine arts building from Frank P. Carpenter.

THE National School of Medicine and Pharmacy, Port au Prince, Haiti, recently dedicated its new building. On the first floor are five classrooms, an assembly room, a dental department, a store room and an office for the dean. There are five laboratories on

the second floor for the medical sciences. The Rockefeller Foundation made an appropriation of \$30,000 for equipment and of another \$30,000 for fellowships for men who are to be trained for positions on the faculty of the medical school. These fellowships have been awarded and the physicians are to study in Paris, Strasbourg, Ann Arbor, Boston, New Haven, Chicago, then return to Haiti to become members of the faculty.

AN offer by the joint committee of the Paviers' Company and of the Institution of Municipal and County Engineers to establish a part-time chair of highway engineering in the University of London for post-graduate students has been accepted.

DR. FRANK J. GOODNOW, president of the Johns Hopkins University, has offered his resignation to the board of trustees, to be effective not later than July 1, 1929.

DR. WILMER KRUSEN, director of the department of health and recently elected president of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, formally assumed his new duties as president of the school on January 3.

DR. JOSEPH S. CHAMBERLAIN, professor of organic and agricultural chemistry, has been appointed head of the department of chemistry of the Massachusetts Agricultural College. Dr. J. B. Lindsey, formerly head of the department, resigned from this position and is continuing his work as head of the department of plant and animal chemistry of the experiment station, in which work he has been engaged for the past thirty-seven years.

DR. FRANK B. MALLORY, pathologist of the Boston City Hospital, has been appointed professor of pathology at the Harvard Medical School.

DR. E. DAVID FRIEDMAN has been appointed professor of neurology and head of the department at the University and Bellevue Hospital Medical College.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE PROPOSED TRANSFER OF GEODETIC WORK OF THE U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

IN connection with House Resolution 7480, introduced in the House of Representatives by Mr. Sinnott on December 15, 1927, my attention has been called to a circular letter containing unfavorable comments upon this measure, and several scientists interested in our work have written me requesting more specific information. These comments state that the proposed transfer could be justified only on one or more of three suppositions: