

ment of Agriculture has a total fund of \$155,059,-968.43 for 1928, the greater part of this can not be classified exclusively as aid to agriculture, since nearly 56 per cent. of the amount is for such purposes as federal-aid highways. Of all revenue of the agricultural experiment stations in 1889, only 18 per cent., in round figures, was obtained from within the states, and 82 per cent. from the federal government; by 1910 and 1925 the proportion of state support had advanced to 62 and 86 per cent., respectively. In 1927, notwithstanding the fact that federal support for each state had been increased by \$30,000 under the Purnell Act, the stations received 77 per cent. of their support from within the states and 23 per cent. from the federal government.

In other words, federal aid for agriculture through scientific research in the experiment stations increased from \$585,000 in 1889 to \$2,880,000 in 1927, or about five-fold, while support for the stations from within the states increased from \$125,000 to \$9,768,000, or seventy-eight fold.

Federal funds for research in the Department of Agriculture in 1927, aside from the support for state experiment stations, amounted to nearly \$10,600,000, exclusive of research in forestry, wild-life conservation and highway construction. In that year federal support for research roughly classified as directly and specifically related to agriculture in the department and in the experiment station amounted to nearly \$13,500,000.

The more controversial subject of federal aid under the "50-50 system" includes agricultural extension, vocational education in agriculture and road construction, which, as already noted, is of general public importance. State funds for these purposes greatly exceed the federal support.

In 1925, nearly \$19,700,000 was spent for cooperative extension work, of which 62 per cent. was derived from sources within the states and 38 per cent. from the federal government. Of the federal contributions of \$7,400,000, the states were required under the terms of the Smith-Lever Act to match only \$5,400,000. Hence, in 1925, the states contributed \$2.27 for every federal dollar that had to be matched to make it available for agricultural extension in the states.

The support for vocational agricultural education under the Smith-Hughes Act in 1927 amounted to \$7,500,000, of which \$2,800,000, or 38 per cent., was supplied by the federal government.

#### RESEARCH IN AVIATION

RESEARCH now being carried on in the fields of aerial communication, instruments and meteorology by various branches of the government and by private concerns will be coordinated by a standing committee

of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics.

Members of the committee have been appointed as follows:

Dr. Joseph S. Ames, of the Johns Hopkins University National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, chairman; Dr. L. J. Briggs, Bureau of Standards; Paul Henderson, National Air Transport, Inc.; Dr. J. C. Hunsaker, American Telephone and Telegraph Company; Captain E. S. Land, Daniel Guggenheim Fund for the Promotion of Aeronautics; Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh, G. W. Lewis, National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics; Professor Charles F. Marvin, United States Weather Bureau, and C. N. Young, aeronautics branch of the Department of Commerce. J. F. Victory, secretary of the advisory committee, also is secretary of the committee.

The subcommittee studying problems of aerial communication, headed by Dr. J. C. Hunsaker, will cooperate with other organizations at present conducting research along the same lines, including the American Telephone & Telegraph Company, the Bureau of Standards, the War Department, the Navy Department and the Radio Corporation of America.

Dr. L. J. Briggs will be in charge of the subcommittee studying instruments, which hopes to bring about by its research the development of better and more accurate instruments for aerial navigation.

A subcommittee studying meteorology, headed by Dr. Charles F. Marvin, plans to work with the committee recently established by the Guggenheim Fund to study the problem of fog landing. There already are three extending major committees of the Advisory Committee. These are the committees on aerodynamics, power plants for aircraft and materials for aircraft.

#### AN AKELEY MEMORIAL IN THE BELGIAN CONGO

THROUGH Prince Albert de Ligne, ambassador to the United States, the Belgian government, as reported in the New York *Evening Post*, has requested permission to place a commemorative tablet of bronze on the tomb of Carl Akeley, African explorer, who lies buried where he died in the Belgian Congo.

M. Caspar, prime minister of Belgium and minister of the colonies, said in making the request: "This action is desired as a token of the admiration of the Belgian government for the great American scientist."

Carl Akeley died suddenly on November 17, 1926, on the slopes of Mount Mikeno, in the Parc National Albert of the Belgian Congo, where he and Mrs. Akeley had undertaken to fulfil a mission from Albert, King of the Belgians. Mrs. Akeley, aided by the other members of the party and her black boys, prepared his grave in the solid volcanic rock and, using the only available materials, built a coffin of

native mahogany, metal-lined and upholstered with soft woolen blankets.

An eight-foot stockade of mahogany posts was erected around the burial plot to prevent the encroachment of the jungle. A great slab, made of cement, which Mrs. Akeley caused to be brought from a government post, a hundred miles distant, bears the explorer's name and the date of his death.

The bronze tablet which the Belgian government now proposes to dedicate to Mr. Akeley's memory will surmount this cement slab. On a future expedition Mrs. Akeley plans to supervise the placing of the tablet on her husband's grave.

After her husband's death Mrs. Akeley was made leader of the expedition by the American Museum of Natural History. She remained at an altitude of 12,500 feet for seven weeks on Mount Mikenjo in a camp by her husband's grave, there to complete the survey of the Parc National Albert and to proceed with scientific observations on the mountain gorilla and his environment begun by Mr. Akeley in 1921.

In recognition of her successful completion of the mission, Mrs. Akeley on her return to Brussels was decorated by the King of the Belgians with the cross of Knight of the Order of the Crown. She is now an adviser in the Carl Akeley African Hall work at the American Museum of Natural History.

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## SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

PROFESSOR ALBERT A. MICHELSON, of the University of Chicago, is now in Pasadena, where he is recovering from a surgical operation that he recently underwent in Chicago. He expects to resume soon his work on the measurement of the velocity of light.

DR. SHIRLEY W. WYNNE, deputy health commissioner of New York City, has been appointed commissioner, to succeed Dr. Louis I. Harris, who recently resigned to accept the position of consultant to the National Dairy Products Corporation.

DR. GEORGE C. RUHLAND has been appointed commissioner of health of the city of Syracuse, at a salary of \$10,000, succeeding Dr. Herman G. Weiskotten, dean of the college of medicine of Syracuse University, who resigned on August 1. Dr. Ruhlman, who since 1924 has been deputy commissioner, is to give his whole time to the work.

DR. EDWIN O. JORDAN, professor of bacteriology and chairman, department of hygiene and bacteriology, University of Chicago, has been appointed Cutter lecturer on preventive medicine at Harvard University for the year 1928-29.

THE National Tuberculosis Association awarded the Trudeau medal to Sir Robert W. Philip at the time of the annual meeting held recently in Portland, Oregon. Sir Robert W. Philip is a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh.

A FAREWELL dinner has been given at the University Club, Cleveland, by members of the staff of St. Luke's Hospital to Dr. Henry R. Muller, who is leaving for the Rockefeller Institute, New York, to take up some of the work in which Dr. Noguchi was engaged at the time of his death.

IN honor of the seventieth birthday of Dr. Sidney Young, professor of chemistry at Trinity College, Dublin, the following address was presented to him in the presence of a group of distinguished scientific men: "We, your fellow chemists, colleagues and students, past and present, desire to convey to you our congratulations on attaining the age of seventy years, and to wish you a more prolonged enjoyment of good health and the occupation of your chair. We desire also to put on record our appreciation of your fundamental researches in physical chemistry, more especially those concerning pure liquids by fractional distillation, and your determination of their critical contents; nor would we leave unmentioned your lectures in Bristol and in Dublin."

THE honorary degree of doctor of philosophy has been conferred upon William E. Weiss, of Wheeling, W. Va., one of the founders and general manager of Sterling Products, Inc., by the University of Cologne, Germany, in recognition of his services as an intermediary between German and American pharmaceutical staffs.

DR. F. AGUILAR, founder of the dental school in the College of Medicine of Madrid, has been given the title of Viscount de Casa Aguilar by the government. This is said to be the first time that a physician has been so honored.

E. P. WIGHTMAN, research chemist at the Eastman Kodak Co., Rochester, N. Y., has been admitted to a fellowship in the Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain.

DR. SARA E. BRANHAM, for the past year associate in bacteriology in the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry and formerly instructor in bacteriology at the University of Chicago, has been appointed associate bacteriologist in the Hygienic Laboratory of the United States Public Health Service, Washington, D. C.

CAPTAIN EMORY S. LAND, assistant chief of the bureau of aeronautics, of the Construction Corps of