

THE AMERICAN SCHOOL OF PREHISTORIC RESEARCH

DR. GEORGE GRANT MACCURDY returned to Yale University on October 5 after three months in Europe conducting the eighth summer session of the American School of Prehistoric Research, of which he is director. The season's work was confined to England, France and Spain.

Dr. MacCurdy announces that the school is to carry on field work during the late autumn and spring. This is being done through joint cooperation with two British institutions: (1) the Percy Sladen Fund; and, (2) the British School of Archeology at Jerusalem. The autumn expedition to Iraq is already in the field, the American School's representatives being Robert A. Franks, Jr., and Francis Turville-Petre. The representatives of the Percy Sladen Fund are Miss Dorothy A. E. Garrod and Mrs. Neil Baynes, O. B. E. All four have had experience in field work. Turville-Petre was the discoverer of the Neanderthal skull from Galilee; and it was Miss Garrod who discovered the remains of a Neanderthal child at Gibraltar in 1926. The district to be covered is Sulaimanieh, lying to the northeast of Bagdad.

The second cooperative project will be with the British School of Archeology at Jerusalem, the site being the cave of Shukbah on Mt. Ephraim, some seventeen miles northwest of Jerusalem. Miss Garrod, with the help of two former students of the American School of Prehistoric Research, has already dug one season at Shukbah, which turns out to be a station exceedingly rich in remains of both the Paleolithic and the Mesolithic Period.

Dr. MacCurdy brought back with him two tools of rock crystal that were fashioned by Neanderthal artisans perhaps a hundred thousand years ago, and dug from the "Abri des Merveilles" in the Dordogne by two of the students.

THE AMHERST MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

ON September 12 the American Astronomical Society, at its annual meeting at Amherst, elected to honorary membership Henri Deslandres, director of the Paris Observatory. The constitution of the society permits only one such election a year and only seven living astronomers have been thus honored. Deslandres has been a pioneer in both stellar and solar spectroscopy. He was the first to see the necessity of controlling the temperature of a stellar spectrograph, and did so by allowing water from the city mains to flow around the instrument. He discovered the binary character of Delta Orionis. He invented simultaneously with Hale, and independently, the spectroheliograph; and shares with Hale the credit for the discov-

ery of solar flocculi. He has also invented another instrument of somewhat similar character, which he has called the "spectrograph enregistreur," by which the radial velocities at all points of the solar surface can be measured. He founded the observatory at Meudon for the investigation of solar physics and has been its only director. In 1926, when B. Baillaud retired as director of the Paris Observatory, Deslandres was chosen to succeed him, and under his direction the two observatories of Paris and Meudon are now combined.

The following officers of the society for the ensuing year were elected:

President: E. W. Brown.

Vice-president: V. M. Slipher.

Secretary: R. S. Dugan.

Treasurer: Benjamin Boss.

Councillors: F. B. Littell, F. E. Ross.

Member Division of Physical Sciences, National Research Council: W. S. Eichelberger.

PRESENTATION OF A CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL TO MR. EDISON

UNDER a resolution of Congress approved May 29, 1928, the Secretary of the Treasury was authorized and directed to cause to be struck and presented to Thomas A. Edison a gold medal. Several designs were submitted to the treasury for consideration. Secretary Mellon has approved the design executed by John R. Sinnock, Philadelphia, Pa., and such approval is concurred in by the Commission of Fine Arts. The medal is now being prepared in the United States Mint at Philadelphia.

Formal presentation of the medal will be made in Mr. Edison's laboratory, West Orange, N. J., on Saturday evening, October 20. Preceding the ceremonies in West Orange a short address will be broadcast by President Coolidge over a nation-wide hookup of radio stations, contributed by the General Electric Company, and the program will then be transferred to the Edison laboratory at West Orange, from which the remainder of the program will be broadcast. Presentation of the medal will be made by Secretary Mellon, and the ceremony in West Orange will also include an address by a person of national prominence. The ceremonies will probably occupy the period of one hour, beginning at 9 P. M., Eastern Standard time.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Morris Liebmann Memorial Prize of the Institute of Radio Engineers has been awarded to Professor W. G. Cady, head of the department of physics at Wesleyan University, for his investigations in the field of piezo-electric phenomena. The prize will be

presented to Professor Cady at the November meeting in New York.

A ROOSEVELT medal for distinguished service has been awarded to Dr. Frank M. Chapman, of the American Museum of Natural History.

At the convocation of Queens University, at Kingston, Ontario, the doctorate of laws was conferred on Dr. William H. Nichols, manufacturing chemist, of New York City.

JOHN HAYS HAMMOND has been elected to honorary membership in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

VILHJALMUR STEFANSSON has been awarded the Carl Ritter medal of the Geographical Society of Berlin. As Mr. Stefansson was unable to visit Berlin to receive the medal, the presentation was made at the recent meeting of the Congress of Americanists in New York by Professor Albrecht Penck, president of the society.

A subscription dinner will take place on November 10 in honor of Dr. William A. White, on the occasion of the completion of his twenty-fifth year as superintendent of St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Washington, D. C.

DR. T. L. DE BRUIN, professor of physics at the University of Amsterdam, has been appointed a fellow of the International Education Board. He will spend a year at the Bureau of Standards on problems of spectral analysis and atomic structure.

DR. P. LECOMTE DU NOÛY, formerly associate member of the Rockefeller Institute, has been appointed a member of the Pasteur Institute of Paris. He has been put in charge of a new department of biophysics.

DR. W. T. H. WILLIAMSON, senior assistant lecturer in agricultural chemistry at the Edinburgh and East of Scotland College of Agriculture, has been appointed director of the chemical section of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture at Cairo, in succession to Mr. W. S. Gray, who died on August 31.

HOWARD R. TOLLEY has been appointed assistant chief in charge of research of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Department of Agriculture. Mr. Tolley has been connected with the Department of Agriculture for 13 years.

J. R. VAN PELT, JR., has resigned from the staff of the department of geology in the University of Chicago to become curator in charge of the division of geology, mining and metallurgy in the recently organized Rosenwald Industrial Museum of Chicago. Mr. Van Pelt was formerly professor of geology at Cornell College, Mount Vernon, Iowa, and geologist

of the Ranger-Naturalist organization of Yellowstone National Park. He has also been engaged during the past two years in field research in west-central Illinois for the Geological Survey of that state.

DR. GUSTAVUS ELIOT has resigned as dean of the Connecticut College of Pharmacy and has been made dean emeritus. He has served as dean of the college since it was founded four years ago.

BURNETT SMITH, PH.D. (Pennsylvania), has resigned the professorship of paleontology at Syracuse University.

PROFESSOR LAFAYETTE B. MENDEL, Yale University, has been appointed a member of the Committee on Training in the Medical Sciences of the Commission on Medical Education.

PROFESSOR ROBERT MUIR, F.R.S., Sir John Herbert Parsons, F.R.S., and the Right Honorable Sir Charles Philips Trevelyan, M.P., have been appointed members of the British Medical Research Council, filling the vacancies caused by the retirement of Professor Georges Dreyer, Sir Archibald Garrod and the Right Honorable William Graham, M.P. The new appointments became effective on October 1.

DR. GILBERT N. LEWIS, dean of the college of chemistry at the University of California, has returned after attending a congress of physicists in Russia in which twenty-five foreign nations took part.

DR. C. G. ABBOT, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, returned to Washington on September 23 after an expedition to Mount Wilson, where he made bolometric observations of the infra-red solar spectra and radiometric observations of the spectra of many stars.

DR. L. C. GRAY, in charge of the division of land economics of the bureau of agricultural economics of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, has been selected as the temporary delegate of the United States to the ninth general assembly of the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome. The assembly convenes on October 10 and continues in session for a period of about two weeks. Dr. Gray sailed for Cherbourg on September 19. He and Asher Hobson, permanent delegate of this country to the institute, will probably be the only representatives of the U. S. Government this year, instead of the usual delegation of eight or ten in former years.

DR. A. J. CARLSON, of the University of Chicago, will give the first Harrington lectures at the University of Buffalo on November 15 and 16 on the "Function of the Stomach in Health and Disease."

THE Lane medical lectures, which are to be delivered by Professor Walther Straub, of Munich, at the Stanford University Medical School, San Francisco, have been definitely scheduled for April, 1929. The titles of the lectures are as follows: "The Pharmacology of Heavy Metals," "The Chemistry and Pharmacology of Digitalis and its Derivatives" and "Recent Development in Narcosis."

THE non-resident lecturer in chemistry on the George Fisher Baker Foundation of Cornell University for the first semester of the academic year 1928-1929 is Professor Hans Pringsheim, of the University of Berlin, one of the leading investigators in the field of the sugars. His introductory public lecture given on October 4 was entitled "Twenty-five Years of Biochemistry."

THE Norman Lockyer lecture of the British Science Guild will be given this year by Professor J. Arthur Thomson, Regius professor of natural history, University of Aberdeen, on "The Culture Value of Natural History." The lecture will be delivered on the afternoon of Wednesday, November 28, in the Goldsmiths' Hall, London.

Nature notes that the following foreign men of science were expected as guests of the Faraday Society at the discussion held at Cambridge on September 28 and 29 on "Homogeneous Catalysis": Professor H. Bäckström, Princeton; Professor J. Böeseker, Delft; Dr. E. J. Bigwood, Brussels; Professor J. N. Brönsted, Copenhagen; Professor H. Copaux, Paris (president of the Société de Chimie et Physique); Professor H. Dufraisse, Paris; Professor H. von Euler, Stockholm; Professor F. Giordani, Naples; Professor C. Moureu, Paris; Dr. Henri Moureu, Paris; Professor M. Polanyi, Berlin; Professor F. O. Rice, Johns Hopkins University, U. S. A. Professor J. W. McBain, a vice-president of the Faraday Society, now at Stanford University, California, also attended the meeting.

THE death at the age of sixty-one years of L. W. Dowling, professor of mathematics at the University of Wisconsin, is announced.

ED. H. WEBSTER, chief of the dairy division of the Bureau of Plant Industry, died on August 24 at the age of fifty-seven years.

DR. HOMER E. SMITH, the well-known oculist, died in Norwich, N. Y., on October 5, at the age of seventy-three years.

THE death at the age of forty-six years is announced of Dr. Wilhelm Wien, professor of experimental physics in the University of Munich, known especially for his work on cathode and canal rays.

THE Committee of One Hundred on Scientific Research of the American Association for the Advancement of Science has been authorized to undertake a study of present conditions with reference to influences that may favor or hamper research in this country. Several subcommittees have presented communications based on their work at previous meetings of the association. At New York the subcommittee on the "Economic Status of Scientific Workers" will present a program based on a study of the salary conditions in academic institutions and the ways in which these salaries are expended. Since inadequacy of salaries is often met with, ways in which this deficiency is supplied will be considered. The competition of other lines of employment in the matter of pay will be indicated in a discussion of pay scales of trained men and women in several lines of employment. The work of this committee will be presented at a general session of the association to be held in New York during the holiday week. Prominent educators and students of the problems will present papers and conduct the discussion.

THE Pasteur Society of Central California met at the Hotel Stewart in San Francisco on the evening of September 25. The subjects of the general symposium on the latest developments in milk control were as follows: "Bacteriological Tests and Controls," by Dr. C. S. Mudge, division of dairy industry of the college of agriculture of the University of California; Davis, discussed by Mr. A. M. Besemer, Golden State Products Company, San Francisco; "Undulant Fever from Milk," by Dr. E. C. Dickson, Stanford University Medical School, discussed by Dr. J. Traum, division of veterinary science, University of California; "The Latest Developments in the State Legal Control of Milk," by Dr. C. U. Duckworth, director of the bureau of dairy control of the State Department of Agriculture, Sacramento, discussed by Dr. W. H. Kellogg, director of the bureau of communicable diseases of the State Board of Health. The papers were followed by a general discussion.

THE submarine S-21, tended by Eagle boats 35 and 58, left the Washington Navy Yard on October 2 for its scientific expedition to determine the gravity of the earth undersea and its relation to earthquakes. Preparatory to the taking off, Secretary Curtis D. Wilbur, accompanied by Admiral Charles F. Hughes, chief of naval operations; Rear Admiral R. H. Leigh, chief of the Bureau of Navigation; Elmer B. Collins, of the Hydrographic Office of the Navy, and Dr. Fred E. Wright, of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, inspected the submarine. Professor F. A. Vening Meinesz, inventor of the pendulum apparatus with which the studies will be made, exhibited the device

to the party, and held "open house" to other scientists in the vicinity of Washington. The purpose of Dr. Meinesz' visit is to extend the gravity determination network now covering the land areas of the United States until it shall include the coastal waters of the Atlantic to the east and Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean waters to the south.

ON the afternoon of October 10 the president and trustees of the American Museum of Natural History threw open to view the new Rotifer Group in the Darwin Hall on the first floor of the museum. This group, the specimens for which have been formed in glass, represents a cubic half inch of pond bottom magnified one hundred diameters. It is so constructed as to represent a huge magnifying glass through which the observer gazes into a jungle of water plants peopled by hundreds of tiny animal forms. The group has been modeled in glass by Hermann O. Mueller, of the museum. The coloring of the models and background has been executed by W. H. Southwick. The features of the pond bottom, constructed in wax, were modeled by Chris E. Olsen, and the field sketches from life were prepared by Dr. George H. Child. All of the work was designed and directed by Dr. Roy Waldo Miner, curator of marine life in the museum.

THE University of California Medical School sponsored two public motion picture films at the University Hospital, in San Francisco, on October 8, exhibited by Robert J. Ruth, of E. R. Squibb and Sons. The subjects were "Sunshine from the Sea," which presents the subject of cod-liver oil. The second, "How Science Aids in Controlling Infectious Diseases," will depict methods employed in the manufacture and control of biologic products.

THE Yugoslav government, desiring to make Belgrade a center of Russian science abroad, has opened in Belgrade a "Russian Institute." Its members will be selected from among exiled Russian professors in many countries. The fourth congress of Russian professors abroad opened in Belgrade in September. There were over 150 delegates from various countries. The three former congresses were held in Prague.

THE Chile station of the Lick Observatory, maintained since 1900 in order to observe stars in the southern part of the sky, has been sold, according to a report given out by Science Service, to the Catholic University of Chile. Dr. Robert G. Aitken, associate director in charge of the observatory, explained that the abandonment of the branch observatory, which was equipped with a 37-inch reflecting telescope, did not mean that they had lost interest in the southern hemisphere, but that if adequate support were obtained at some future date another southern station might be

established. Probably this would be either in Australia or South Africa. Professor Fred J. Neubauer, who has had charge of the Chile station, will remain there until May 1, 1929, as professor extraordinary in the Catholic University. During this time he will instruct the future workers in the use of the instruments. Following that he will return to Mt. Hamilton. Thousands of photographic plates made in Chile are preserved at Lick Observatory for future study.

THE board of directors of the American Electrochemical Society has established an annual award of one hundred dollars in gold for the best paper printed in the two volumes of any year of the *Transactions* by a student or young graduate under twenty-seven years of age. The judges to pass upon the merits of the manuscript are to be the members of the publication committee, this committee being at liberty to invite the opinion of members not on the committee. The first prize of \$100 is to be awarded for the best paper presented at the spring and fall meetings in 1929. This prize is to be known as the American Electrochemical Society prize—to be available at all American or foreign technical schools and colleges, to students and young instructors—the object being "to stimulate original work and encourage participation in the proceedings of the society by scientifically and technically trained men at an age when normally modesty keeps them in the background."

THE following awards for the year 1928-29 are reported in *Nature* to have been made by the Salters' Institute of Industrial Chemistry and approved by the Court of the Company: Fellowships have been renewed to: Mr. C. G. Akhurst (Fellow, 1927-28, at the Rothamsted Experimental Station) for one year at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad; Mr. F. Witt (Fellow, 1927-28, at the Gas Institute, Karlsruhe) for one year in a German industrial fuel undertaking. Fellowships have also been awarded to: Mr. H. K. Cameron, University College, London; Mr. H. Diamond, University College, London; Mr. F. L. Gilbert, University College, Nottingham, and Cambridge; Mr. C. H. Lea, University of Liverpool; Mr. A. H. Loveless, of the Imperial College, London; Mr. H. Smith, of the Imperial College, London. Seventy grants-in-aid have also been awarded to young men and women employed in chemical works, to facilitate their further studies.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

THE new physics building of the University of Washington, Seattle, erected at a cost of \$464,000, will be occupied for the first time this fall. It has