

A. Vening Meinesz, of the Netherlands Geodetic Commission, that the latter would be willing to instruct representative scientists in the United States in the technique of his methods of determining gravity at sea, if afforded the opportunity. A conference of those interested followed and the Secretary of the Navy designated the Naval Observatory as his agency in arranging for an expedition of instruction. The problem of securing Dr. Meinesz's invaluable services without too much international formality was happily solved by the Carnegie Institution of Washington, with the approval of whose president it was made possible for Dr. A. L. Day, the director of the Geophysical Laboratory, to extend an invitation to Dr. Meinesz to visit the United States with his entirely unique pendulum apparatus and supervise the instruction in its use so highly desirable before this country should participate in the oceanic gravity determination work which the International Geodetic and Geophysical Union is fostering.

The Secretary of the Navy has assigned the United States Submarine S-21 to conduct the sub-surface work of the expedition and has set aside a period of about two months for the expedition which will establish a series of gravity stations embracing the Atlantic continental shelf south of the Chesapeake Capes, the Gulf of Mexico, with emphasis on the Mississippi delta, the Bartlett Deep south of Cuba, and particularly the Nares Deep adjacent to Porto Rico. Besides Dr. Meinesz, who will supervise the pendulum determinations, there will accompany the expedition Dr. Frederick E. Wright, of the Geophysical Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution, and Elmer B. Collins, principal scientist, of the Hydrographic Office, Navy Department. The S-21 is being accompanied by the United States Eagle Boats Nos. 35 and 58, and Lieutenant-Commander T. L. Nash, U. S. Navy, commands the expedition, while Lieutenant J. L. Fisher, U. S. Navy, commands the submarine itself.

Before the departure of the expedition from the Washington Navy Yard, an opportunity was given to members of the various scientific bodies in Washington to view the pendulum apparatus in place aboard the S-21, while Dr. Meinesz explained its workings.

Upon his return from the expedition in December, Dr. Meinesz will deliver a lecture in Washington on the apparatus, the general character of its results and on the features of scientific interest that develop during the current cruise.

Since the above was written word has reached the Navy Department of a successful run from Hampton Roads to Key West of the naval gravity determination expedition, consisting of the submarine S-21 and two Eagle boats acting as tenders.

Provisional results obtained by Dr. Vening Meinesz, the distinguished Dutch geodesist, from his comparisons made in Washington between his special apparatus and the standard pendulum apparatus used by the Coast and Geodetic Survey show variations only in the millionth place of the computations, which is naturally very satisfactory, especially as the results are subject to still greater refinement, when the rates of the clocks employed are more exactly determined.

Three gravity stations were established off the Atlantic Coast during the cruise south to Key West. On Thursday, October 11, the expedition left Key West for Galveston via the Sigsbee Deep in the western part of the Gulf of Mexico. The expedition was due in Galveston on the 17th instant for refueling and minor overhaul work.

Dr. Meinesz expresses his special gratification over the cooperation of officers and men of the expedition.

C. S. FREEMAN

U. S. NAVAL OBSERVATORY

DEDICATION OF THE SHANKLIN LABORATORY OF BIOLOGY AT WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

THE Shanklin Laboratory of Zoology forming the third quarter of the new Johnston quadrangle at Wesleyan University was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies on October 12.

Professor Charles M. Child, of the University of Chicago, delivered an address on "The Individual as a Biological Problem." Immediately afterward the memorial tablet opposite the main entrance on the first floor of the laboratory was unveiled by a member of the late President Shanklin's family.

Following is the inscription on the memorial tablet in the new building:

SHANKLIN LABORATORY OF BIOLOGY

A MEMORIAL TO

WILLIAM ARNOLD SHANKLIN, D.D., LL.D.

PRESIDENT OF WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

1909-1923

Professor Edwin G. Conklin, of the department of biology at Princeton University, delivered an address in the evening on "Biology and Human Life" in Memorial Chapel.

President James Lukens McConaughy presided at the ceremony in the afternoon in the Shanklin Laboratory. A brief description of the new science hall was given by Professor Edward Christian Schneider, professor of biology, followed by the introduction of Professor Child, a member of the class of 1890.

A buffet supper was served for specially invited guests.

Shanklin Laboratory is the fourth of four recent building additions to the University, including Olin Memorial Library, Hall Laboratory of Chemistry, and the Harriman dormitory. The new structure, built of Harvard brick and Imperial Danby marble, presents a striking effect on the hill east of Hall Laboratory along Wesleyan Place. The building is 124 feet long and fifty-five feet wide, containing four floors. A greenhouse which is also used as a vivarium is attached to the south end. Outdoor pools for fish and aquatic vegetation are in an open air court surrounding the greenhouse.

A lecture room seating 160 men is on the east side of the ground floor, and adjacent to this a preparation room in which charts, lantern slides and other illustrative materials will be stored. An herbarium room, drafting room, aquarium room and a research room are included in the ground floor. The research room is equipped with apparatus for maintaining constant temperature. Special rain-water storage has been arranged so that tanks and the greenhouse may use pure water, for it is found that city water is injurious to certain kinds of aquatic life.

Accommodations for fifty-six men in general biology classes are included on the second floor in two laboratories. A comparative anatomy laboratory will care for advanced courses of invertebrate and vertebrate zoology. A departmental museum and rooms for teachers and students are included. Histology and embryology rooms are on the third floor, and a suite for bacteriology. A sterilization and media room, an incubator room and refrigerating room adjoin. Besides recitation rooms and a library there is a chemical laboratory for nutrition work. In a well-ventilated area under the roof are two animal rooms, one for small animals such as mice and guinea-pigs and the other for larger animals.

THE NEW YORK MEDICAL CENTER

THE new Medical Center at Broadway and 168th Street, said to be the largest and most modern in the world, was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies on October 12.

After an invocation by the Reverend Dr. Raymond C. Knox, chaplain of Columbia University, General William Barclay Parsons, chairman of the Joint Administrative Board of the Medical Center and of the trustees of Columbia University, explained how the idea of the joint enterprise on the part of the university and the Presbyterian Hospital originated eighteen years ago.

According to the report in the *New York Times*, he said:

Endless details remained to be solved and, hardest of all, great sums of money to be raised. For the latter we are indebted to many friends, the Carnegie Corporation, the General Education Board, the Rockefeller Foundation and countless others, who made gifts, both large and small, that these buildings might be erected, but the outstanding gift that made the plan possible was that of this site of more than twenty acres by Edward S. Harkness and his mother. To each and every friend I take this public opportunity of again expressing our heartfelt appreciation. . . .

The fruits of eighteen years of labor stand before you. No claim is made that the work is finished, because to the man of science progress has no end, no horizon. The allied institutions offer this first effort as an initial contribution to the relief of suffering humanity in all forms and for all time. As further needs develop a hearty welcome is extended to other institutions to join the group, so that this center shall increasingly represent the high ideals and broad achievement worthy of this city, this state and nation.

General Parsons then named the recipients of honorary degrees as Edward Stephen Harkness, doctor of laws; Dean Sage, president of the Presbyterian Hospital, doctor of laws; James Gamble Rogers, architect of the Medical Center, doctor of science in architecture, and Otto Marc Eidlitz, contractor and builder, doctor of science in construction, and the degrees were conferred by Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, president of the university. The dedicatory address was then made by Dr. Samuel W. Lambert, dean emeritus of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University and president of the New York Academy of Medicine.

The twelve units composing the Medical Center are the Presbyterian Hospital, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University, the Sloane Hospital for Women, the New York State Psychiatric Institute and Hospital, the Babies' Hospital, the Squier Urological Clinic, Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing, the Neurological Institute and Hospital, the Stephen V. Harkness Patient Pavilion, the School of Dental and Oral Surgery, the Vanderbilt Clinic and the De Lamar Institute of Public Health.

Ground for the erection of the Medical Center was first broken nearly four years ago. Since that time the towering buildings have been erected at a cost of about \$25,000,000. Further construction, already contemplated, will bring the ultimate cost of the center to \$40,000,000.

THE MICHELSON MEETING OF THE OPTICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

THE thirteenth annual meeting of the Optical Society of America, to be held in Washington, from October 31 to November 3, under the joint auspices of the