Chester R. Longwell. Though of interest chiefly to geologists and physiographers, it contains much information about the Colorado River region adjacent to the proposed Boulder Dam site and supplies some sidelights useful to those who are following the Boulder Dam discussion.

THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE

IT is stated in the London *Times* that the ninth general assembly of the International Institute of Agriculture, in its closing session at Geneva, voted a number of resolutions, strongly supported by the British and American delegations, tending to bring the institute more into line with modern ideas of the organization of international institutions. A resolution was passed "recommending that the meetings of the permanent committee should, as far as possible, take the form of quarterly sessions."

The provisional agreement reached between the League of Nations and the institute was also approved, and the permanent committee was invited to continue negotiations with the least possible delay with the object of reaching a definitive arrangement.

Resolutions were also passed on the subject of collaboration with the International Wine Office, on convening an international conference on meat, and on promoting the forthcoming world agricultural census. As regards the question of the institute's program of work, the assembly approved of the following amended text of the British delegation's proposal.

"That, having regard to the situation in which the institute finds itself owing to its restricted income, the main work of the institute shall be concentrated upon the preparation and presentation of (1) statistics of the world's agriculture, with such documentation and discussion as will render them of prime authority, and (2) economic reports and inquiries that may arise out of statistical works or throw light upon it; that, for the same reasons of economy, the scientific and technical work shall be directed principally to publishing reports on particular developments of importance to agriculture, to be obtained from competent authorities in any country."

ORGANIZATION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

A NEW division, the Division of Soil Chemistry and Physics, has been formed in the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, with Dr. Horace G. Byers, lately professor in charge of the department of chemistry of Cooper Union, New York City, as chief. The new division combines the bureau's divisions of soil chemistry and soil physics. The functions of the merged divisions were formerly quite distinct, but recent intensive studies of colloids and the newer development of soil science brought the work of the two units into close relations. Dr. Byers is a graduate of Westminster College, New Wilmington, Pennsylvania, and received a Ph.D. from the Johns Hopkins University. For some years he was professor of chemistry at the University of Washington. During the war he served as a captain in charge of the emergency unit of the pyrotechnic section of chemical warfare. In 1919 he entered the Department of Agriculture and was placed in charge of soil chemical investigations, but resigned to become head of the department of chemistry of Cooper Union.

Dr. Eugene C. Auchter, of the University of Maryland, was appointed principal horticulturist in charge of the newly created office of horticultural crops and diseases, to take office November 16. As principal horticulturist in the Bureau of Plant Industry, Dr. Auchter will assume general supervision not only of the vegetable gardening, pomological and related lines of the present office of horticulture, but also of the physiological project of the office of plant geography and physiology, as well as the work of the pathological laboratory and of the office of vegetable and forage diseases, and the entire office of fruit diseases and the office of crop physiology and breeding.

Grouping these related offices under one head, it is believed, will facilitate the cooperative research upon the many complicated problems of horticulture, not only among the specialists of the new organization, but also with the specialists of the state agricultural experiment stations and of the horticultural industries. The total budget for the new organization is approximately $1,000,000 annually.

A NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH

LAST April the executive committee of the American Association for the Advancement of Science gave formal endorsement to the principles of the Ransdell bill now before the United States Senate. This bill contains three features: First, the creation of a National Institute of Health, which would replace the present Hygienic Laboratory of the United States Public Health Service and greatly enlarge its research activities; second, the establishment of a system of fellowships for the conduct of research, either in the Washington laboratories of the institute, or in universities or endowed institutions either in this country or abroad; third, authorization of the acceptance of "gifts by will or otherwise for study, investigation and research in the fundamental problems of the diseases of man and matters pertaining thereto."

Hearings were held on this bill before the Committee on Commerce on May 25, 1928, at which there

were offered resolutions of approval by many national scientific organizations, testimony was given by leading scientists, and letters of approval from men prominent in the scientific and industrial life of the nation were placed in the record.

In the light of these hearings, the Committee on Commerce reported "favorably thereon, with the recommendation that the bill do pass without amendment."

The bill is now on the regular calendar of the Senate, and will be brought up for action during the coming winter session.

The most interesting feature of the progress of this bill in the Senate has been the fact that throughout all the discussions and the hearings emphasis has been laid upon the need of *fundamental research*, and not a single objection was made by any member of the Senate to the fact that fundamental research was being sought. This is a new thought in connection with congressional appropriations for research. It may be that this in part represents more advanced average thinking by the nation on research; frankly, however, I believe Congress is ahead of the average thought of the nation in this matter. Certainly it portends better things for the future.

CHAS. H. HERTY

THE CHEMICAL FOUNDATION
NEW YORK CITY

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

IT is announced that the Nobel prize for medicine for 1928 has been awarded to Professor Charles Nicholle, the director of the Pasteur Institute in Tunis, in consideration of his work on typhus, more especially on the part played by lice in carrying the disease.

DR. WILLIAM S. THAYER, professor emeritus of medicine at the Johns Hopkins University, has received the degree of doctor *honoris causa* from the University of Paris.

AT the thirty-ninth annual meeting of the British Institution of Mining Engineers held in London on October 24, the president, Professor Henry Louis, presented the medal of the institution to Sir Henry Hall "in recognition of his long and distinguished services in the advancement of the science and technology of mining."

DR. WILLIAM C. WHITE, U. S. Public Health Service, has taken up his work as chairman of the division of medical sciences of the National Research Council for the ensuing year, succeeding Dr. Howard T. Karsner, of the school of medicine of Western Reserve University, Cleveland. The vice-chairman of the division is Dr. Ludvig Hektoen, of the University of Chicago.

DR. GANO DUNN, president of the J. G. White Engineering Corporation, of New York City, recently chairman of the National Research Council, has been elected twentieth alumni trustee of Columbia University to serve until 1934.

IN recognition of Professor Edward L. Rice's thirtieth year as a member of the faculty of Ohio Wesleyan University, thirty of his students in the field of botanical and zoological science have created an Edward L. Rice scholarship fund. A presentation of the fund to the university was made by Dr. Dwight M. DeLong, professor of zoology and entomology at the Ohio State University, at the chapel service on October 27, as a feature of the annual home-coming celebration. The fund will provide a scholarship each year for at least one advanced student, enabling him to do graduate summer-school laboratory work at one of the biological stations. Professor Rice went to Ohio Wesleyan as the head of the department of zoology in 1898. He is the son of Dr. William North Rice, three times acting president and now professor emeritus of geology at Wesleyan University.

DR. ROBERT A. LAMBERT, director of the School of Tropical Medicine in San Juan, Porto Rico, which is under the auspices of Columbia University, has resigned to accept a post as associate director of medical education with the Rockefeller Foundation. Dr. Earl B. McKinley, formerly a member of the staff of the International Health Division of the Rockefeller Foundation, has been appointed professor of bacteriology in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, and succeeds Dr. Lambert as director of the School of Tropical Medicine.

NORMAN R. BLATHERWICK, who for the past eight years has been biochemist and director of chemical research at the Potter Metabolic Clinic, Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital, California, has resigned to become director of the Biochemical Laboratory of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, New York, N. Y.

PROFESSOR JUSTIN S. DE LURY, head of the geological department of the University of Manitoba, has been appointed commissioner of mines for the province of Manitoba, in succession to Professor H. G. Wallace, who has recently been appointed president of the University of Alberta.

DR. FLORENCE BASCOM, professor of geology at Bryn Mawr College, having reached the age of retirement will continue her work at the U. S. Geological