

MOTION PICTURE FILMS OF MEXICAN OIL FIELDS

"THROUGH the Oil Fields of Mexico" is the title of a new educational motion picture film prepared by the Department of Commerce, through the U. S. Bureau of Mines in cooperation with one of the large oil-producing companies, and now released for distribution. The film, which is in three reels, visualizes the drilling of oil wells in the Mexican jungles and depicts the various stages in the transportation, storage and refining of petroleum in the sister republic to the south. Many picturesque scenes illustrating Mexican life and customs and numerous striking scenic effects appear in the film, which was produced under the direct supervision of the Bureau of Mines. The location of the principal Mexican oil fields is made plain by the use of specially-drawn maps.

The first scenes show what has been called the "Hill of Tar," where the seeping of oil through the surface first called attention to the petroleum possibilities of Mexico. Next follow scenes of the Cerro la Piz well, the first commercial oil well in Mexico, which attracted the pioneers of the industry. A glimpse of the first oil-burning locomotive to be operated in that country is shown.

Views are presented of the Cerro Azul camp on the site of one of the richest oil pools of history. Here it was that in 1916 the Cerro Azul No. 4 well was drilled in, probably the most spectacular and best-known oil well in the world.

Especially attractive are the scenes showing the snow-capped peak of Orizaba, towering to a height of 18,000 feet, and the mountains, including the famous Popocatepetl, overlooking the Mexican capital. Quaint bits are introduced showing typical Mexican village markets; Mexican women carrying water jars upon their heads; the use of the humble burro for transport, etc.

It is pointed out that one and a quarter billion barrels of oil have been produced in Mexico and that one and one half billion dollars, much of which is American capital, have been spent by the industry in the recovery and handling of Mexican petroleum.

Copies of the film "Through the Oil Fields of Mexico" may be obtained for exhibition purposes by addressing the Pittsburgh Experiment Station of the U. S. Bureau of Mines, Pittsburgh, Pa. No charge is made for the use of the film, but the exhibitor is asked to pay the costs of transportation both ways.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. HENRY P. WALCOTT, who celebrated his ninetyeth birthday on December 23, resigned as president

of the Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, at the annual meeting of the trustees on February 6, and was elected honorary president. The following resolution in tribute to his work was adopted at the meeting: "Fortunate indeed the institution which for more than a third of a century can command the devoted interest of so distinguished a citizen."

THE formal presentation of the Distinguished Flying Crosses, awarded by Act of Congress, approved December 18, 1928, to Mr. Orville Wright and posthumously to his brother, Wilbur Wright, was made on February 27 by the Secretary of War. The citation accompanying the award to Mr. Orville Wright reads: "Mr. Orville Wright. By his vision, perseverance, courage and skill, he, in collaboration with his brother, Wilbur Wright, designed, constructed and operated the airplane which at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, December 17, 1903, made the first successful flight under its own power and carrying a human operator, thereby making possible the achievements which are now stirring the emotions and pride of the world." The posthumous award to Wilbur Wright was in similar terms.

PROFESSOR A. L. KROEBER, chairman of the department of anthropology of the University of California, has been elected a fellow of the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland.

MAURICE HOLLAND, director of the division of engineering and industrial research of the National Research Council, has been elected to membership in the Masaryk Academy of Prague.

THE Chancellor's medal of the University of Buffalo was conferred at the convocation exercises on February 22 on John J. Albright for his work in hydro development and as a patron of art.

CARL B. EIELSON, of Hatton, N. D., pilot for Captain G. H. Wilkins on his North Pole flight, has been awarded the Harmon trophy for 1928, given to the flyer making the greatest contribution to aviation during the year.

SIR GEORGE HUBERT WILKINS, who arrived in Havana on March 9, was awarded the Grand medal of the Cuban Geographical Society for the most noteworthy exploration of the year, in a reception at the Academy of Science. With him aboard the steamer *Ebro* were his Antarctic companions, Carl Ben Eielson, Orville H. Porter and Joseph E. Crosson. The explorers were welcomed by Cuban government officers and the staff of the British Embassy.

THE *British Medical Journal* reports that the Swiney prize for 1929 has been awarded by the ad-