

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-

judicators, the Royal Society of Arts and the Royal College of Physicians, to Dr. Sydney Smith, Regius professor of forensic medicine in the University of Edinburgh, for his work, "Forensic Medicine." Dr. Swiney, who died in 1844, left a sum of money to the Royal Society of Arts to provide a prize every fifth year for the best published work on jurisprudence. The prize, which consists of £100 and a silver cup of the same value, was offered this year on the eighty-fifth anniversary of the testator's death for a work on medical jurisprudence.

Nature reports that the Council of the Institution of Naval Architects has awarded a premium for the year 1928 to Lieutenant-Colonel V. C. Richmond for his paper on "Some Modern Developments in Rigid Airship Construction," and a joint premium to Mr. E. Leslie Champness and Mr. Frank McAlister for their paper, "Further Notes on the Relative Strength of Fine and Full Cargo Vessels." The premiums will be presented on March 20 at the opening of the annual general meetings.

OFFICERS of the Royal Astronomical Society for the present year have been elected as follows: *President*, Dr. A. C. D. Crommelin; *Vice-presidents*, Sir Frank Dyson, Dr. E. B. Knobel, Professor H. F. Newall and the Reverend T. E. R. Phillips; *Treasurer*, Mr. J. H. Reynolds; *Secretaries*, Professor Herbert Dingle and Dr. H. Knox-Shaw; *Foreign Secretary*, Professor H. H. Turner.

COLONEL CHARLES A. LINDBERGH has been appointed a technical adviser to the aeronautics branch of the Department of Commerce. He will hold no statutory position with a regular salary attached, but will be available when needed by the department for advice, on matters of airway regulation, accident prevention, airport construction, airway equipment, airway mapping and aeronautical research.

DR. JAMES S. MCLESTER, professor of medicine in the University of Alabama, has been appointed to succeed the late Dr. Samuel W. Welch, of Talladega, former State Health Officer, as the representative of the south on the Council on Medical Education and Hospitals of the American Medical Association.

LAWRENCE W. BASS has been appointed executive assistant at the Mellon Institute, Pittsburgh. He was formerly an associate in the division of chemistry of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research.

At Harvard University leaves of absence during part or all of the year 1929-30 have been granted to Associate Professor Arthur Edwin Norton, mechanical engineering; Assistant Professor Harlan True Stetson, of the Observatory, and Associate Professor

Hubert L. Clark, curator of the Museum of Comparative Zoology.

A PORTRAIT of James E. Rice, professor of poultry husbandry in the college of agriculture of Cornell University since 1907, was presented to the university on February 12 in a ceremony in the poultry building. The portrait, done by Professor Olaf M. Brauner, was presented by Dr. Gustave F. Heuser and was accepted on behalf of the university by Dean William A. Hammond. Dean Albert R. Mann presided. A scroll of all the donors was also presented by Dean Mann. The portrait has been hung in the poultry building.

DR. W. K. FISHER, director of the Hopkins Marine Station, Pacific Grove, California, will leave about April 1 to join the Pinchot South Sea Expedition, to be absent until the end of the summer. During the spring quarter Dr. Harold Heath will be acting director of the station and during the summer quarter, Dr. Charles Vincent Taylor.

RALPH S. HOSMER has been granted sabbatical leave of absence from Cornell University for the second term of the present academic year. He expects to work on a book on the history of forestry.

DR. RACHEL E. HOFFSTADT, of the department of bacteriology of the University of Washington, was recently awarded the Mary Pemberton Nourse Memorial fellowship and will spend next year in Europe in study and research in immunology.

J. E. WILLIAMSON, the originator of underseas photography, has been placed at the head of an expedition sent out by the Field Museum of Natural History to photograph marine life in the Bahamas. Mr. Williamson has a fleet of twelve vessels, each designed for a particular phase of the expedition. The chief objective will be to obtain material for ten underseas habitat groups of fishes at the Field Museum. Photographs, motion pictures and color sketches will be made.

DR. JOSEPH C. AUB, associate professor of medicine in the Harvard Medical School, will deliver the sixth Harvey Society lecture at the New York Academy of Medicine on Thursday evening, March 21. His subject will be "Calcium and Phosphorus Metabolism."

DR. G. W. STEWART, professor of physics at the University of Iowa, gave a series of lectures before the departments of physics and chemistry at Morning-side College, Sioux City, Iowa, on February 14 and 15. The lectures presented the salient features of Professor Stewart's work on "X-ray Diffraction in Liquids."

DR. IRVING LANGMUIR, associate director of the research laboratory of the General Electric Company, president of the American Chemical Society, spoke on March 8 before the New England section of the society on "Contact between Oxygen and Hydrogen in Contact with a Tungsten Filament—an Example of Passivity."

DR. ARTHUR BYRON COBB, professor of mathematics in the University of Illinois, will lecture at the University of Chicago during the summer session.

DR. P. J. HANZLIK, professor of pharmacology, Stanford University School of Medicine, San Francisco, addressed the Portland Academy of Medicine on January 11 on "Antirheumatic Remedies," and the Medical History Society of the University of Oregon Medical School on January 12, on "The One Hundred and Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the Discovery of Morphine by Sertuerner."

DR. J. C. McLENNAN, professor of physics in the University of Toronto, delivered on February 23 an address to the Royal Canadian Institute on "The Relation of Light to Matter."

PROFESSOR HERBERT S. PHILBRICK, head of the department of mechanical engineering at Northwestern University, will give the commencement address at Colby College at the 1929 commencement.

DR. CHAS. N. GOULD, director of the Oklahoma Geological Survey, delivered a lecture at the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences on February 18 on "Geology in Oil Finding."

ABOUT eighty presidents of various national organizations have signed a manifesto inviting Norwegians all over the world to subscribe to a Roald Amundsen memorial fund, which is to be established on the initiative of the Norwegian Press Association, the University of Oslo, the Academy of Sciences and the Geographical Society. The income from the fund will be devoted to the promotion of geographical exploration.

It is proposed to commemorate the memory of Benjamin Neeve Peach, who died in 1926, and of John Horne, his fellow worker, who died in 1928, by the erection of a bronze plaque to be placed in the Royal Scottish Museum in Edinburgh. A committee has been appointed to raise funds for the memorial, of which R. A. Sampson is chairman, and which includes delegates from the Geological Survey of Great Britain, the Royal Scottish Museum, the geological departments of Scottish universities, the Royal Society of Edinburgh, the Scottish Geographical Society, the Royal Physical Society of Edinburgh and the Geological Societies of Edinburgh and Glasgow.

DR. CHAUNCEY J. V. PETTIBONE, associate professor of physiological chemistry in the University of Minnesota, died by suicide at Minneapolis. Dr. Pettibone had been in ill health.

ALEXANDER LEWIS JENKINS, head of the department of mechanical engineering at the University of Cincinnati, died on March 8.

EDWARD HOWE FORBUSH, for thirty-eight years state ornithologist of Massachusetts until his retirement a year ago, died on March 9 at the age of seventy years.

THE death is announced of Miss Abbie Elizabeth Tucker, for thirteen years instructor in the astronomical department of Smith College. For the last thirty-five years Miss Tucker had conducted a college dormitory.

THE seventh annual symposium of Colloidal Chemistry will be held this year at the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md., June 20-22, inclusive. Professor F. G. Donnan, of University College, London, will be the guest of honor. Visitors may secure rooms and meals in the University Dormitory at a total cost of \$6.00 for the entire meeting. Inasmuch as the accommodation of the dormitory is limited to one hundred and fifty, early arrangements are advisable. Address all letters of inquiry to W. A. Patrick, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland.

RAY LYMAN WILBUR, secretary of the interior, will address the New York Health Conference at the Hotels Roosevelt and Biltmore, New York City on March 14 and 15. Other speakers will include Surgeon-General Hugh S. Cumming, Dr. William H. Welch, of the Johns Hopkins University and Dr. Shirley W. Wynne and Matthias Nicoll, Jr., City and State Health Commissioners, respectively. The conference will be under the joint auspices of the United States Public Health Service, the State Department of Health, the City Department of Health, the State Medical Society, the Milbank Memorial Fund, the State Charities Aid Association and the Community Health Council of the Bellevue-Yorkville Health Demonstration.

THE fourth spring meeting of the Oklahoma Academy of Science will be held in the Arbuckle Mountains on May 10 and 11. Field excursions will be held on trees, flowers, grasses, mosses, ferns, insects, birds, vertebrates, ecology, stratigraphy, structural geology and paleontology, and addresses will be given on botanical gardens, grasses, poisonous animals, plant diseases, stars and the geology of the Arbuckle Mountains.

A CONFERENCE on the possibilities of oil and gas power will be held as the second national meeting of the Oil and Gas Power Division of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers at Pennsylvania State College in conjunction with the third annual oil and power conference of the college from June 24 to 27. One of the features will be an exhibition of oil engines, parts and accessories. Over twenty companies participated in the exhibit last year, the first of its kind ever held in the United States, the total attendance being over 500. Practically every representative manufacturer of Diesel-engines is expected to attend the conference. Another feature will be a discussion of uniform fuel-oil specification standards.

A SPECIAL program is being arranged for geological members of the British Association for the Advancement of Science in connection with the South African meeting next summer that they may cooperate with the International Geological Congress, which will be meeting in Pretoria concurrently with the association in Johannesburg. The agricultural members will be afforded opportunity for meetings with their colleagues in the Pan-African Agricultural and Veterinary Congress, which is to be sitting in Pretoria at the same time. After the meetings the majority of the visiting members, expected to number about 400, are to divide into three main parties. Each of these visits the Victoria Falls, and two subsequently make extended journeys through the Union territory, visiting the eastern Transvaal and Lourenço Marques, Portuguese East Africa, and ending their journeys at Durban and Cape Town, respectively. The third main party is to proceed from the Victoria Falls to Beira, visiting *en route* the ruins at Great Zimbabwe, where it is hoped that Miss Caton-Thompson will have brought to a successful issue the investigation of the ancient remains which she is about to undertake at the instance of the association.

CABLE advices from the *Carnegie* after her arrival at Callao on January 14 state that on January 8 a new submarine ridge, which has been named Merriam Ridge, was discovered. At the point of crossing, Merriam Ridge is ten miles wide and rises 3,000 meters above the 4,000-meter depth on either side. The top of the ridge, in latitude $24^{\circ} 57' S.$ and longitude $82^{\circ} 15' W.$, is at 1,168 meters, this value being checked by three sounding methods, namely, sonic, wire and thermometer, to within 20 meters. When 60 miles west of Callao, the surface temperature, which had been at $21.5^{\circ} C.$, dropped to $19^{\circ} C.$ and remained at that value until arrival at Callao. Captain Ault's report shows that the activities in the various observational programs are being successfully continued, the work

between Easter Island and Callao (December 12, 1928, to January 14, 1929) including 38 declination stations, 15 horizontal-intensity and inclination stations, 17 oceanographic stations, 72 sonic depth stations, 12 pilot balloon flights, 25 complete photographic 24-hour potential-gradient records, 4 24-hour series of other atmospheric-electric observations, 20 biological stations, 6 evaporation series. The vessel is expected to leave Callao about February 3 *en route* to Papeete, Tahiti, Society Islands, where she is due to arrive early in March.

THE Premier of Ontario, Mr. Ferguson, at a luncheon attended by one hundred members of the Ontario Research Foundation, announced that he would ask the Provincial Legislature to vote a dollar for each dollar subscribed privately toward the foundation funds. Private subscriptions already amount to \$1,600,000 (£320,000). The Dominion government also has been considering the recommendations of Mr. J. H. Grisdale, deputy minister of agriculture, who represented Canada on the Empire Research Agricultural Committee, that it should participate in an empire-wide scheme of agricultural research, involving the establishment of eight new bureaus. It is understood that the government is ready to seek the necessary financial authority from Parliament for the Dominion's contribution.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

A NEW Science Building at University and Exposition Park, Los Angeles, housing the departments of physics, botany and zoology on its first three floors, respectively, has been completed at the University of Southern California, at a cost of approximately \$350,000. Ample space on the fourth floor of the building has been given over to experimental marine biology and survey work, with installation of running sea-water aquaria, research laboratories and other appropriate facilities promoting course and graduate work. Invertebrate zoology and marine survey courses for credit are included in the summer school offerings, and space and facilities for research may be had by a limited number of independent investigators who have definite problems in hand. Inquiries should be addressed to Professor Francis Marsh Baldwin, director of experimental biology, in care of the university.

MRS. HELEN M. A. BALDWIN, widow of Mr. C. Kemble Baldwin, who was vice-president of the Robins Conveying Belt Company, has presented to Lehigh University the sum of \$10,000, to be supplemented on her death by an additional \$15,000, for the