

THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

THE U. S. Geological Survey, one of the veteran bureaus of the government, celebrated on March 21 its fiftieth anniversary. Members of the survey were received by President and Mrs. Hoover at noon. During the afternoon a meeting was held at the National Museum and addressed by Ray Lyman Wilbur, secretary of the interior; Henry Fairfield Osborn, John C. Merriam, Arthur E. Morgan and other distinguished scientists. Director George Otis Smith presided. This meeting was followed in the evening by a dinner at the Washington Hotel in which some six hundred friends of the survey participated.

Summarizing the growth of the bureau in these fifty years, speakers pointed out the fact that it came into being with the appointment of its first director, Clarence King, on March 21, 1879. Thirty-five years ago President Hoover was a member of its staff working as a field assistant in geologic mapping in the Sierra Nevada between college terms at Stanford University. During its half century of activity, it was said, the survey has graduated thousands of trained engineers and scientists who are now working in all parts of the world.

The appropriations for the work of the survey have increased from \$100,000 for the fiscal year 1880 to over \$2,000,000 for the fiscal year 1930. The total expenditures during the life of the survey have been about \$75,000,000, including nearly \$10,000,000 of state cooperative funds. The published reports by which the Geological Survey's work are made available aggregate over 400,000 pages and occupy 120 feet of shelf space. Other organizations which are in a real sense children of the Geological Survey, their work having been started by the survey, include the Bureau of Reclamation, the Bureau of Mines, the Bureau of American Ethnology, the Forest Service and the Geophysical Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE executive committee of the American Association for the Advancement of Science will hold its regular spring meeting at the Cosmos Club in Washington on Sunday, April 21, with a forenoon, an afternoon and an evening session. Business to come before the committee at this meeting should be in the permanent secretary's office in Washington by April 15.

ROBERT RIDGWAY, curator of the division of birds in the U. S. National Museum since 1876, died on March 25, in his seventy-ninth year.

ARTHUR MASTICK HYDE, formerly governor of Missouri, who was appointed Secretary of Agriculture by President Hoover, took the oath of office in the administration building of the department in Washington on March 6, in the presence of the outgoing secretary, William M. Jardine.

ON the occasion of the fiftieth birthday of Professor Albert Einstein on March 14, the city of Berlin presented to him a tract of land on Havel Lake near Potsdam where a summer home will be erected. Among the scientific honors conferred upon Professor Einstein on his anniversary was his election to honorary membership in the natural science faculty of the University of Paris.

PROFESSOR FRANK SCHLESINGER, director of the Yale University Observatory, has been awarded the Bruce medal of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific for his work on photographic parallaxes and in other departments of astronomy. The medal is awarded on the recommendation of the directors of the Harvard Observatory, Lick Observatory, Yerkes Observatory, the Observatory of Berlin, the Observatory of Greenwich and the Observatory of Paris. It will be presented to Professor Schlesinger at a special meeting of the society which is to be called at New Haven on April 12.

DR. CHARLES F. BRUSH, of Cleveland, Ohio, distinguished for his work on electric arc lighting, celebrated his eightieth birthday on March 17.

THE Iron and Steel Institute, London, has awarded the Bessemer gold medal to Sir Charles A. Parsons, in recognition of his distinguished services in advancing the science of engineering as applied to the manufacture of iron and steel.

FELLOWS of the Royal Society of Edinburgh have been elected as follows: Dr. S. G. Barker, director of research, British Research Association for the Woolen and Worsted Industries, Leeds; Dr. F. Bath, lecturer in mathematics, University of St. Andrews; Mr. G. Bennet, lecturer in mechanical engineering, Heriot-Watt College, Edinburgh; Dr. A. Calder, assistant in the animal breeding research department, the university, Edinburgh; Dr. G. Coull, pharmaceutical chemist, Leith; Professor E. W. H. Cruickshank, physiology department, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia; Mr. David Kennedy Fraser, psychologist to the education authority, Glasgow; Mr. T. Henderson, actuary of the Savings Bank of Glasgow; Dr. Sunder Lal Hora, senior assistant superintendent, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta; Professor J. Kendall, F.R.S., chemistry department, Uni-