will be taken to Elsinore by the East Asiatic Company's motor vessel *Fiona* where the congress will be formally brought to its conclusion in the Knight's Hall of the ancient Kronberg Castle.

THE first step in giving effect to the recommendations of the Indian Royal Commission on Agriculture, according to *The Christian Science Monitor*, has been taken by the government of India, which will shortly set up an Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. The commission recommended that the council should be an independent body to promote, guide and coordinate agricultural and veterinary research throughout India. The government, however, modified this proposal considerably, the alterations tending to bring the council more under governmental control. It is not desirable that the Legislative Assembly should be deprived of its normal constitutional control over an activity which affects the staple industry of the country. The central organization is to have an executive body and an advisory board. The member of the viceroy's executive council in charge of agriculture will be chairman of the board, which will include the principal administrative officer of the council and representatives of the Central Legislature, the Provincial Governments and other bodies. The chief administrative officer will serve also as chairman of the advisory board, which will consist largely of experts and its duties will be to examine all proposals in connection with the scientific objects of the council.

AT the meeting of the Highway Research Board of the National Research Council in Washington, on December 13, R. W. Crum, director, announced that arrangements had been made for conducting an investigation of methods of curing concrete pavement slabs. The work will consist first in making a correlation survey of all available existing data. These data will be analyzed and submitted to a special committee appointed by the board. The further program of the project will depend upon the findings of this committee.

A NATIONAL experimental station, under the auspices of the University of Washington, is planned, designed to aid the Northwest in such problems as reclamation, flood control, hydro-electric development and industrial expansion. The rivers and harbors bill to be enacted by the national congress at its next session authorizes the secretary of war and chief of engineers to establish several such laboratories for determination of fundamental data useful in hydraulic engineering. According to Professor Charles Harris, in charge of the university laboratory, among the problems waiting solution include river and harbor improvement, water measuring devices in connection with seepage problems, methods of bank and pier protection and the study of dams and spillways by means of models. The board of trustees of the Seattle Chamber of Commerce have passed a resolution stating the mutual advantage to the state of Washington, the University of Washington and the federal government to have one of the national hydraulic laboratories established on the Seattle campus, and have directed their Washington, D. C., bureau to assist in obtaining the laboratory.

A FOREST PROTECTION BOARD has been inaugurated by the U. S. Department of Agriculture in order further to aid in the development of general policies for the protection of the forests of the United States and in the preparation of coordinated plans therefor, the informal committee set up by the chief coordinator under date of May 28, 1928, is hereby established as a coordinating agency to be known as the forest protection board. The board will be constituted as follows: The chief of the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, chairman *ex officio;* the chief of the Weather Bureau, Department of Agriculture; the director of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior; the commissioner of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior; the commissioner of the General Land Office, Department of the Interior; the chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey, Department of Agriculture; the principal entomologist in charge of forest-insect investigations, Bureau of Entomology, Department of Agriculture, and the principal pathologist in charge of the office of forest pathology, Bureau of Plant Industry, Department of Agriculture. The forest protection board shall, subject to the approval of the chief coordinator and within the limitations of existing law, coordinate the policies and plans for the prevention and suppression of forest fires and for general forest protection formulated by the several federal bureaus and agencies charged with the protection of the forests of the country.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

SPACE for the division of plant nutrition is being provided at the University of California in the new life science building now under construction at a cost of approximately $1,750,000. An extensive poultry plant has recently been built and equipped at a cost of $80,000.

SIX new buildings, approximating a total expenditure of two and a half million dollars, will be constructed on the campus of the Pennsylvania State College within the next two years, according to plans approved by the board of trustees of the college. Funds for the program come from the $2,250,000

state appropriation and from the emergency building fund raised several years ago by alumni and friends of the college.

THE following changes have been made in the department of chemistry at the University of Chicago. Dr. Thorfin Rusten Hogness, associate professor of physical chemistry at the University of California, has accepted an appointment as associate professor of physical chemistry. He will begin his work on January 1, 1930. Dr. William A. Noyes, Jr., assistant professor of chemistry, has resigned to accept an appointment as associate professor of physical chemistry at Brown University. His resignation will take effect on October 1. Dr. Preston Mayne Harris has been appointed instructor in chemistry. Dr. Harris is a Ph.D. of the Ohio State University and has spent the past year as National Research Fellow with Professor Arthur Compton at the University of Chicago. Dr. David M. Gans has been appointed instructor in physical chemical research, cooperating with Professor Harkins. Dr. Gans is a Ph.D. of the University of Chicago, 1929. The department of chemistry will occupy in September the George Herbert Jones Laboratory for research and graduate work in chemistry.

H. V. MOYER, PH.D. (University of Kansas), National Research Council Fellow at Yale University, and H. L. Johnston, Ph.D. (University of California), assistant in the department of chemistry at the University of California, have been elected to assistant professorships of chemistry at the Ohio State University. M. L. Wolfrom, Ph.D. (Northwestern University), National Research Council Fellow at the university, has been appointed instructor.

DR. F. W. LOOMIS, of the department of physics of New York University, has been appointed head of the department of physics in the University of Illinois.

THE University of Virginia announces the establishment of a chair of public health and hygiene and the appointment of Dr. Kenneth F. Maxcy, of the U. S. Public Health Service, as the first incumbent. Dr. Maxcy graduated at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in 1915 and received the degree of doctor of public health at the Johns Hopkins in 1921.

MR. JAMES HOLMES, lecturer in geography at Armstrong College, Newcastle-on-Tyne, has been appointed professor of geography at the University of Sydney, in succession to Dr. Griffith Taylor, who recently joined the faculty of the University of Chicago.

DR. CLARENCE J. CAMPBELL, formerly professor of physiology at Syracuse University, has been appointed professor of pharmacology at Dartmouth College.

DISCUSSION

PRIORITY IN STRATIGRAPHIC NOMENCLATURE

PRIORITY is a fundamental principle in all types of scientific nomenclature, and it is equally as necessary as it is fundamental. Scientific units, whether they be animals or plants or minerals or chemicals or fossils, need specifically to be named, and, to be of value, this name must have universal adoption, must be in accord with other names for like units and must not be subject to unnecessary change. Professional ethics, if nothing else, has suggested that the first name properly applied to a scientific unit be adopted by other authors, in recognition of the work of the first designator as well as for convenience of description. Since it is not always possible to search out the original term or to understand its exact application, the first name is often undiscovered or unusable, and later names are accepted. This practice of recognizing the first name given to a unit—with the proviso that name and unit can be unmistakably associated—has been dignified in zoological nomenclature into the law of priority (Article 25, International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature).

In stratigraphic geology, to certain rock formations or sedimentary units are given definite names by which they may become known to other workers in geology. In most cases, these names are of geographic derivation, and are taken from the name of that place where the particular rock series is best exposed. Thus we may have the Shady dolomite, named from Shady Valley in Tennessee. But if this same series and sequence of rocks has in nearby regions been also called the Sherwood, Tomstown, Beaver or Aldrich limestone, by what principle should we choose the proper name to use? Since stratigraphers and geologists are more or less familiar with the rules of zoologic nomenclature, it has come to be largely accepted that the law of priority of designation should be applied in the naming of these sedimentary units in much the same way as this law is applied in the naming of fossil forms. In other words, that whatever name was first properly applied to a rock formation should be retained, while any later terms should be put into synonymy and abandoned.

Any system of scientific nomenclature is an artificial and arbitrary scheme, created largely for the