

VISIT OF MME. CURIE TO THE UNITED STATES

MME. CURIE will arrive in this country on the *Ile de France* on October 15 to accept the second gram of radium which her admirers in this country have purchased for her. According to a press notice she will make a trip to St. Lawrence University, Canton, N. Y., to dedicate the Hepburn Hall of Chemistry, before which a statue of her has been erected by the gift of Mrs. A. Barton Hepburn.

The first gram of radium, which was purchased by American admirers of Mme. Curie, was presented to her when she paid a visit to this country in 1921. At the same time a fund was raised which provided an annual income of about \$3,500 for Mme. Curie. This gram of radium has been in constant use during the last eight years in the Curie Institute of the University of Paris.

The income of \$3,500 a year was intended for the private use of Mme. Curie, who had been living in very humble surroundings, where she was provided barely with the necessities of life. The endowment, however, had no strings on it. Free to use it as she wished, Mme. Curie spent nothing on herself, but devoted the entire income toward the rental of a gram of radium for the Warsaw Cancer Hospital. Warsaw was her native city.

Because Mme. Curie had thus frustrated their effort to make her own life more easy and comfortable, American women friends planned to start another fund to assist her. Mme. Curie, however, vetoed the plan. She said that she was deeply indebted for what this country had done for her and that she could not permit any further solicitation of funds in her behalf.

Her wishes were respected to the extent that no public appeal was made, but a small private agitation

was carried on and an amount sufficient to buy a second gram of radium for her use was raised. In the mean time the price of radium has fallen, partly because of economies that Mme. Curie has developed in the technique of obtaining it from radium-bearing minerals.

The gram that was presented to Mme. Curie in 1921 cost \$110,000. The second gram cost \$50,000. The canvass for this amount was carried on by Mrs. Robert G. Mead, Mrs. Henry Breckinridge, Mrs. Nicholas F. Brady and Mrs. William Brown Meloney.

During her stay in this country Mme. Curie will visit the General Electric laboratory at Schenectady. She will go to Detroit for the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of Mr. Edison's invention of the incandescent light and will attend a conference on cancer in New York on October 31. The dedication of the new Hepburn Hall of Chemistry at the St. Lawrence University will be held in the latter part of October. She will leave for France on November 8.

It is not intended to hold any public reception for Mme. Curie, because her health will not permit it. The effect of working so long with radioactive substances has been to make her hands extremely tender, and handshaking is an ordeal which she can not undergo. She will pass a day in Washington with the President and Mrs. Hoover, both of whom are old acquaintances.

The gram of radium which is to be presented to her is intended to replace the gram which she now rents for the Warsaw Hospital, thus releasing for her private use the endowment income which now pays the rental for the gram of radium. The first gram of radium was intended as an outright gift to Mme. Curie, but she insisted that papers be drawn making it the property of the Curie Institute at the University of Paris.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE hundredth anniversary of the birth of August Kekulé was celebrated in Bonn on September 7 by the German Chemical Society.

THE honorary doctorate of the Technical Institute at Karlsruhe has been conferred on Mr. Hoover.

JAPAN will join with American and other nations in honoring Thomas A. Edison by sending a delegation to this country with a message of thanks to the inventor for the incandescent lamp. The delegation will be made up of seventeen representatives of Japan's chief electrical organizations.

THE American Ophthalmological Society has awarded the Lucien Howe medal to Dr. Theodor Axenfeld, of Freiburg-i-Br.

DR. WALTER LEHMANN, director of the Museum of Ethnology at Berlin, and Professor Konrad Theodor Preuss have been elected honorary members of the Anthropological Society of Washington.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL LYTLE BROWN has been appointed chief of the Corps of Engineers of the Army. General Brown, who will be automatically promoted from the grade of brigadier-general to major-general, succeeds General Edgar Jadwin. Three new assistants will serve directly under him, one in charge of the flood control work in the lower Mississippi Valley, another in charge of the work on the tributaries to the Mississippi and a third in charge of the work on the Great Lakes.