

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE jubilee celebration in honor of Mr. Edison culminated on October 21 when the Edison School of Technology was dedicated at Dearborn with addresses by Mr. Hoover, Mr. Ford, Mr. Young and Mr. Edison. The addresses, including one from Professor Einstein in Berlin, were broadcast over the world.

MR. HOOVER will make an address on October 30 when Mme. Curie will be presented with a gram of radium at the Academy of Sciences building in Washington. Mme. Curie will be a guest of Mr. and Mrs. Hoover at the White House on October 29 and 30.

DR. EDWIN E. SLOSSON, director of Science Service, formerly professor of chemistry in the University of Wyoming, and later literary editor of the *Independent*, died in Washington on October 15, in his sixty-fifth year.

AT the annual meeting of the American Electrochemical Society, which opened in Pittsburgh on September 21, the medal of the society was awarded to Edward Goodrich Acheson for his basic inventions.

PROFESSOR JAMES HENRY BREASTED, director of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, was awarded the gold medal of the Geographic Society of Chicago on October 8 "for eminent achievement in recovering the lost civilization of the ancient Near East." On this occasion Professor Breasted made an address on recent researches by expeditions now in Egypt, Palestine, Assyria and the Hittite country, and their bearing on the growth of modern civilization.

THE Manly medal for achievement in aeronautical engineering for 1928 has been awarded to Samuel D. Heron, power plant engineer of the material division of the air corps at Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio. The medal is bestowed upon the person considered to have made the most important contribution during the year to aeronautical engine development. The award is named in honor of Charles M. Manly, chief engineer for Samuel P. Langley in the design and building of his radial engine for the early Langley monoplane.

PROFESSOR EDWIN B. WILSON, of Harvard University, has been elected to the presidency for 1929-30 of the Social Science Research Council with offices at 230 Park Avenue, New York. Dr. Wilson has been granted a leave of absence for one year from his professorship of vital statistics in the Harvard Medical School.

AT the annual meeting of Delta Omega, the honorary public health society, held in Minneapolis on October 2, during the convention of the American Public Health Association, Dr. C. C. Young, director

of the bureau of laboratories of the Michigan State Department of Health, was elected national president; Dr. John A. Ferrell, of the Rockefeller Foundation in New York, was elected national vice-president, and Dr. James A. Tobey, of New York, was reelected national secretary-treasurer.

DR. HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, of the Bureau of Biological Survey, was honored by a dinner given on October 9 at San Antonio, Texas, by the Izaak Walton League and the Academy of Science. These organizations took advantage of his visit to show their appreciation for his leadership in the wild-life conservation of the survey and especially for what he has done in preserving a record of Texas birds.

THE nominating committee of the American College of Surgeons has nominated the following as new members of the board of governors: Dr. Edward J. Ill, of Newark, N. J.; Dr. Burton J. Lee, of New York; Dr. Southgate Leigh, of Norfolk, and Dr. Arthur M. Shipley, of Baltimore.

THE University of Virginia announces the opening of a laboratory where a series of investigations in the chemistry of alkaloids and related substances will be carried on under the auspices of the division of medical sciences of the National Research Council. Dr. Lyndon F. Small, research associate at the university, has been appointed director of the new laboratory. The present personnel includes Professor Erich Mosettig, Vienna; Dr. Alfred Burger, Vienna; Dr. Frank L. Cohen, Northwestern University; Mr. Jakob van de Kamp, Utrecht, and Mr. Louis Eilers, Illinois.

DR. HARRY C. KREMERS has resigned his position as assistant professor in the University of Illinois and is now employed by Röhm and Haas as inorganic chemist in their Chas. Lennig Company plant at Bridesburg, Philadelphia, Pa.

W. V. BALDUP, assistant professor of entomology in the University of Illinois, has a year's leave of absence and is at present in Washington to complete a revisional study of the chalcid genus *Decatoma* as found in America north of Mexico, after which most of the year will be devoted to a study of the bionomic and economic literature dealing with entomophagous insects.

H. G. DEMING has taken up his work as professor of chemistry at the University of Nebraska after having spent a year with Arthur D. Little, Inc., at Cambridge, Massachusetts.

DR. PAUL S. MARTIN, of Chicago, as a member of the staff of the department of anthropology at the

Field Museum of Natural History, is now at the museum, where he has assumed his work as assistant curator in charge of North American archeology. His first work will be a revision of the museum's collections representing the archeology of North American Indian tribes, a project that will require a long period for completion.

C. C. LAMB, assistant curator of mammals at the University of California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, has returned to Berkeley, after spending a year in Lower California, where he collected 2,700 specimens of mammals, birds and reptiles.

DR. F. W. ZERBAN, of the New York Sugar Trade Laboratory, Inc., has returned from his trip to Java, where he attended the third congress of the International Society of Sugar Trade Technologists, held at Sourabaya. Dr. Zerban has been elected president of the society for the next three-year term. The fourth congress is to be held at San Juan, Porto Rico, in the spring of 1932.

FREDERICK G. CLAPP, consulting geologist and petroleum engineer, of New York and Paris, was a delegate of the United States government, the National Research Council and the National Academy of Sciences to the Second International Drilling Congress which met in Paris, Nancy, Strasbourg and Pechelbronn from September 15 to 23. The program of the congress included a number of papers on oil, drilling, geology and geophysics, and the oil wells and mines at Pechelbronn and vicinity were visited.

HENRY ARNSTEIN sailed on September 21 for Brazil, Argentina and Chile, to deliver a series of lectures on "The Development of Natural Resources," "The Elimination of Waste" and "The Recovery of By-products." While in South America he plans to start the operation of several alcoholic motor-fuel plants recently completed there.

PROFESSOR FRANZ KOELSCH, of the University of Munich, an authority on industrial diseases and labor conditions, has been visiting the United States during the present month, under the direction of Dr. Frederick L. Hoffman. Dr. Koelsch has been inspecting industrial establishments as far west as Chicago.

DR. E. V. COWDRY, professor of cytology at Washington University School of Medicine, delivered a lecture on "Recent Advances in our Knowledge of Yellow Fever" on October 8 under the joint auspices of Sigma Xi and the school of medicine at the University of Missouri.

THE Harvard Engineering Society held a meeting to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the incandescent lamp on October 18. Professor A. E.

Kennelly, who was principal electrical assistant to Mr. Edison from 1887 to 1894, gave the address.

THE Institute of Medicine of Chicago and the Society of Internal Medicine of Chicago will be addressed on October 25, at the City Club, by Dr. Walter B. Cannon, George Higginson professor of physiology, Harvard University Medical School, on "Function of the Sympathetic System in Maintaining the Stability of the Organism."

PROFESSOR GEORGE V. VOLBORTH, for many years assistant to Professor Pavlov, and Professor Z. A. Orbeli, professor of physiology in the Medical Institute, Leningrad, Russia, lectured at the Mayo Foundation, Rochester, on September 26 and 27 on "Conditioned Reflexes" and "Studies on the Function of the Sympathetic System."

DR. DAVID P. D. WILKIE, professor of surgery in Edinburgh University, is visiting this country for three weeks. During his stay he will give the Murphy oration before the American College of Surgeons. He will also act as chief surgeon *pro tempore* at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Boston, *vice* Dr. Harvey Cushing, and later as director of surgery *pro tempore* at the Lakeside Hospital, Cleveland, *vice* Dr. Elliott C. Cutler.

PROFESSOR OTTO WARBURG, of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute, Berlin, will give the nineteenth course of lectures of the Herter Foundation, beginning on October 19, on "The Enzyme Problem and Biologic Oxidations."

PROFESSOR J. ARTHUR THOMSON, of Aberdeen, will lecture at the University of Buffalo on April 11, 1930, under the auspices of the Fenton Foundation. Professor Thomson's subject will be "Different Kinds of Evolution."

DR. HARRY GIDEON WELLS, professor and chairman of the department of pathology of the University of Chicago, will give the tenth Pasteur lecture before the Chicago Institute of Medicine on November 22 on "Immunology, Biochemistry and Evolution."

THE school of chemistry and physics, in cooperation with the ceramics department of the school of mines and metallurgy of the Pennsylvania State College, announces the fourth annual Priestley lectures to be given by Dr. Louis Navias, research ceramist of the General Electric Company. These lectures will be held the evenings of December 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20. The five lectures will be grouped about the general topic "The Relation of Physical Chemistry to Ceramics."

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association states that a commemorative plaque placed on the natal home of Edme-Hippolyte Marié-Davy, physi-

cist-meteorologist and former director of the Mont-souris Observatory, was recently dedicated at Clamecy.

THE Texas Academy of Science will hold its annual meeting from November 29 to 30 at College Station, Texas. A large attendance is expected, because of the importance of this meeting. The new constitution will be formally adopted.

THE geologic excursion of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute for the summer quarter of 1929 was held from June 22 to August 22; seventeen students representing eight colleges, with R. J. Holden, professor of geology at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, as instructor, traveled by automobile northwestward from Blacksburg, Virginia, to St. Paul, westward to the Pacific Coast, southward to Mexico, thence along the southern border states and northeastward to Blacksburg, covering a distance of 10,000 miles. Points of special geologic interest were visited, but the chief purpose of the excursion was to observe field illustrations of a wide variety of phenomena in physiographic, glacial, structural, stratigraphic and historical geology.

MRS. JOSEPH W. WORK, of Evanston, Ill., has presented a collection of both cut and mounted gems to Field Museum of Natural History. The collection, which will be used in the museum's department of geology, includes blue pearl, Mexican opals, Australian opals, black opals, Honduras pink opals, rhodolites, kunzite, hair stone, star sapphires, Chinese jades and other stones.

THE *Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry* announces that the Maltbie Chemical Company, of Newark, N. J., has contributed a grant for a research fellowship for the coming year to the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science. The research work to be done under this fellowship will be fundamental in character and will cover a study of the toxicity, pharmacology and bactericidal efficiency of creosote, creosote compounds and constituents of creosote. The work to be done under this fellowship follows the chemical researches on creosote of the past year under the Maltbie Chemical Company fellowship at Princeton University.

RECENTLY Dr. Alice Kibbe, professor of biology in Carthage College, received a number of rare specimens from the collections belonging to the late Dr. Samuel B. Mead, who for many years was a physician and botanist at Augusta, Illinois. The collection consists of three scrapbooks, many rare scientific works, and scientific apparatus. The scientific equipment includes a primitive type of microscope, two separate sets of balances for weighing drugs and minerals, mortar pestle, mechanical drawing sets, a series of section

razors of unique pattern, copies of meteorological records furnished to the United States government from 1826 to 1880, the year of the death of Dr. Mead. There are also framed specimens of two species of plants, discovered by Dr. Mead, and named Mead's sedge and Mead's milkweed, in honor of him, by Drs. Torrey and Bailey. These specimens are held in trust by Carthage College for Dr. Mead's heirs.

A SUBCOMMITTEE was appointed by the British Committee of Civil Research last April to consider and report on means for the mass destruction of "the Desert Locust *Schistocerca gregaria* Forsk.," and on methods for ascertaining the reasons for the periodic swarming of this species with a view to its control. The committee draws attention to the heavy losses caused by locust plagues, partly by the destruction of crops, with consequent fall in production and curtailment of exports, and partly by the necessity of special expenditure on locust control and relief measures, which in Kenya had already amounted to £50,000 in May, 1929, as a result of the locust invasion which began on a large scale in 1928. It is, however, pointed out that less is known about locusts than about many noxious insects of less economic importance, a fact due to the periodic nature of the swarming of locusts and the false sense of security engendered in the intervening periods. The committee therefore recommends that a unified research scheme should be arranged from which all the affected territories would benefit, and to the cost of which each would contribute a share. The draft scheme of research, which it is recommended should be submitted to the governments of Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika Territory, British Somaliland, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, the Gold Coast, Palestine, Transjordan and Iraq, the Sudan and India, covers methods of control, the location of possible permanent breeding areas and migration routes, and the bionomics of the locust and the periodicity of its outbreaks. It is hoped that the Royal Air Force may be able to cooperate in the work of reconnaissance, and perhaps in the destruction of locusts. The cost of the scheme is estimated at about £4,000 a year for five years.

THE multiple industrial fellowship on Portland cement of the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research and the Eastern Face Brick Manufacturers' Association have recently inaugurated a broad scientific study of the problems of bricklaying. So many factors are involved in the construction of a brick wall that it is necessary to limit the investigation to combinations of variables most likely to occur in actual practice. The project has been under discussion for a considerable period of time; experiments were begun by Dr. F. O. Anderegg, senior industrial fellow at Mellon In-

stitute, and his assistants only after a satisfactory program had been worked out. At the present time over 300 experimental brick walls or panels have been erected in order to find the most suitable combinations of materials and workmanship. The following problems are being investigated: the rate of absorption and total absorption of moisture by brick; the surface characters of brick; the merits of different cementing materials, ranging from pure lime to pure cement, and of various sands and mortar pigments; the effect of varying the type of backing, both as to material and size of unit; the results of variation in workmanship, including pointing, tapping and the filling of head-joints; the effect of variation in design, involving a study of coping and parapet construction, of capillary contact, of condensation and of elasticity, and the behavior of mortar with reference to the other variables in all types of climatic conditions. All results of these studies will be published for the benefit of every one interested in building construction.

THE report of the Bureau of Science of the Philippine Islands for 1927 has just been issued. We learn from it that the *Philippine Journal of Science*, embodying the results of the research work of the bureau, was issued during that year in three volumes with an aggregate of 1,511 pages, 157 plates and 111 text figures. According to the report the *Journal* is

sent to 919 paid subscribers and exchanges, while 109 copies are distributed free for review to associate editors and to others. The total mailing list is 1,028. This is distributed as follows: Philippines, 94; remainder of Asia, 185; Europe, 293; North America, 359; South America, 25; Africa, 29; Australia and neighboring islands, 43. These figures show that the journal is widely distributed to scientific institutions in all parts of the world. Two monographs were issued during the year, three were in proof and one was being prepared for the printer. The biennial publication on the mineral resources was issued for the years 1924-1925. This publication took the form of a twenty-fifth anniversary number and contains a summary of Philippine geology and mineral resources. Two popular bulletins, one press bulletin and an annual report were also issued during the year. The library continued to grow in size and usefulness and has maintained its high standard of excellence. During the year 14,521 volumes were added to the library, making a total of 108,808 volumes at the close of the year. The library receives 2,234 scientific periodicals of which 442 are paid subscriptions, 907 exchanges and 884 free. The number of publications used and charged out was 55,896, or a daily average of 154 publications. The number of visitors recorded was 12,593.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

AN additional \$400,000 has been given to the University of Pittsburgh in addition to the gift of half a million dollars already contributed by Maurice Falk and the late Leon Falk for the construction of the Falk Medical Clinic in the university hospital group. This gift makes possible the immediate construction of the building.

AN anonymous gift of \$200,000 has been made toward the projected pension fund of \$1,000,000 for professors of Cornell University. The gift is contingent upon the raising of the remainder of the fund.

THE new engineering building has just been completed at the Pennsylvania State College. It contains quarters especially designed for the use of the department of architecture, a large hydraulic laboratory, offices and recitation rooms.

A. L. O'BANION, for the past five years instructor in electrical engineering at Cornell University, has been appointed professor of electrical engineering at Clemson College, South Carolina, to succeed Professor S. R. Rhodes, who has been made head of the division of electrical engineering.

DR. TEMPLE FAY, for many years associated with the neurological staff of the school of medicine of the University of Pennsylvania, has been appointed head of a newly established department of neurosurgery at Temple University.

JULIAN J. PETTY has been elected associate professor in the department of geology at the University of South Carolina.

DR. OYSTEIN ORE has been appointed to a full professorship of mathematics at Yale University.

DISCUSSION

LUNAR ECLIPSES IN GENERAL AND IN THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

IN the early days of scientific astronomy, lunar eclipses, aside from an imaginary importance as

omens and portents, were the only means whereby differences in longitude could be ascertained with any approach to accuracy. The longitudes of Ptolemy's map of the world were mostly dependent on this kind