

- July 29.—E. Lequeur, professor of physiology, University of Amsterdam, "Sex hormones."
- Aug. 1.—G. v. Anrep, lecturer in physiology, University of Cambridge, "Conditioned reflexes."
- Aug. 8.—M. v. Frey, professor of physiology, University of Würzburg, "Physiology of the special senses."
- Sept. 9.—Bernhard Fischer, professor of pathology, University of Frankfurt a. M., "Gas treatment of malignant tumors."
- Sept. 13.—Kurt Felix, Second Medical Clinic, Munich, "The oxidation of uric acid in the animal body."
- Sept. 16.—Joseph Barcroft, professor of physiology, University of Cambridge, "Hemoglobin."
- Sept. 17.—Joseph Barcroft, "The spleen and the circulation."
- Sept. 26.—Z. A. Orbeli, professor of physiology, Medical Institute, Leningrad, "Studies on the function of the sympathetic system."
- Sept. 27.—George V. Volborth, professor of physiology, State University of Kharkov, Ukraine, "Conditioned reflexes."
- Oct. 1.—Friedrich Verzar, professor of physiology, University of Debreczen, "The hormonal regulation of the number of red blood corpuscles."
- Oct. 3.—Leon Asher, director of physiological institute, Berne, "New facts on the physiology of the thyroid gland."
- Oct. 4.—Leon Asher, "The action of specific diuretics and the secretion of urine under physiological conditions."
- Oct. 7 and 8.—Karl Thomas, director of the physiological institute, Leipzig, "Metabolism of food and tissue protein."

#### SYMPOSIUM ON AIRCRAFT MATERIALS OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR TESTING MATERIALS

At the annual meeting of the American Society for Testing Materials, which will be held at Atlantic City from June 23 to 27, 1930, a symposium on aircraft materials is planned, to which will be devoted two sessions. The committee on papers and publications has secured the cooperation of an advisory committee which will assume responsibility for securing the papers and authors. This committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. H. C. Knerr, consists of the following:

- H. C. Knerr, chairman, consulting metallurgical engineer, Philadelphia, Pa.
- E. P. Warner, editor, *Aviation*, McGraw-Hill Publishing Company, Inc.
- National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics*: Dr. G. W. Lewis, Washington, D. C.
- Bureau of Aeronautics, U. S. Navy Department*: Commander R. D. Weyerbacher, manager, Naval Aircraft Factory, U. S. Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Pa.

*Army Air Service*: J. B. Johnson, chief, material section, Air Corps, Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio.

*U. S. Department of Commerce*: Major Clarence E. Young, chief, aeronautics branch, U. S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C.

*U. S. Bureau of Standards*: H. L. Whittemore, chief, engineering mechanics section, VI-5; Dr. H. S. Rawdon, senior metallurgist.

*Guggenheim Foundation*: Dr. Alexander Klemin, consulting engineer, School of Aeronautics, New York University.

*Massachusetts Institute of Technology*: Dr. J. S. Newell.

*Aircraft and Engine Manufacture*: Harold Backus, materials engineer, Berliner-Joyce Co., Baltimore, Maryland; Captain H. C. Richardson, director of engineering, Great Lakes Aircraft Corporation, Cleveland, Ohio; T. P. Wright, chief engineer, Curtiss Aeroplane and Motor Corporation, Garden City, L. I., New York; R. R. Moore, metallurgist, Wright Aeronautical Corporation, Paterson, New Jersey.

*Materials Manufacture*: Dr. R. S. Archer, director of research, Aluminum Company of America, Cleveland, Ohio; Dr. J. A. Mathews, vice-president and metallurgist, Crucible Steel Company of America, New York City.

It is expected that perhaps twelve to fifteen papers will be secured, each definitely limited in size so as to constitute essentially a résumé and summary of existing knowledge on the subject covered. The symposium will be confined to the consideration of materials entering into the engines and structure. It is expected that much information of value to the aircraft industry will be developed.

#### ASTRONOMERS CARRYING ON RESEARCHES AT THE HARVARD OBSERVATORY

FOUR astronomers have recently arrived at the Harvard Observatory for longer or shorter stays to carry on researches. In making this announcement the observatory made public a list of five visitors who have recently left after pursuing researches with the aid of the observatory staff.

Dr. J. S. Plaskett, director of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory, Victoria, B. C., has arrived to spend two or three weeks. He is a special student of the rotation of the galaxy, and has in his charge the second largest telescope in the world—the property of the government of Canada. Dr. Plaskett is the father of Professor H. H. Plaskett, of the Harvard Observatory.

Professor Svein Rosseland has been called as lecturer in cosmic physics for one year. He is director of the University Observatory at Oslo, Norway, and is one of the leading men of Europe in theoretical astrophysics. He is lecturing in astronomy 11, a theoretical course in cosmic physics.

Mr. Bart J. Bok, of the Kapteyn Astronomical Laboratory in Groningen, Holland, has joined the observatory staff for one year to carry out researches in spectrophotometry and stellar statistics.

Dr. Leon Hufnagel, of Poland, has returned to the observatory for a few months to continue his astrophysical researches.

Dr. A. Pannekoek, director of the astronomical institute of the University of Amsterdam, visited the observatory for a few days in October in the interest of his researches on the structure of the Milky Way. One telescope is used continually on good nights in making photographs of the northern Milky Way for Dr. Pannekoek's researches. He also consulted with Miss Cannon on the work of the Henry Draper Extension—the classification by her of faint stars in the Milky Way—a research in which he is especially interested.

Professor E. A. Milne, of the University of Oxford, spent several weeks at the observatory, delivering two lectures, holding many conferences with the staff on subjects of theoretical astrophysics. Many of Dr. Milne's theoretical researches are tested by Dr. Payne and her associates at the Harvard Observatory, using the spectrograms made in South America and at Cambridge.

Dr. Albrecht Unsold, of the University of Munich, spent some weeks at the observatory, joining in the special conferences (with Milne, Plaskett, Payne, Dunham and others) on line contours and in photometric studies, using Harvard photographs, of the structure and distance of the Coal Sack in the southern Milky Way.

Dr. Theodore Dunham, Harvard '21, of the Mount Wilson Observatory, spent two weeks taking part in the conferences on line contours and the structure of stellar atmospheres.

Professor Boris Gerasimovic has returned to Kharkov, Russia, after spending nearly three years at the observatory as research associate.

#### THE SCIENTIFIC BOOK CLUB

A SCIENTIFIC Book Club has been formed that will furnish to its members each month a new scientific book selected by an editorial committee, of which Dr. Kirtley F. Mather, head of the department of geology at Harvard University, is chairman. Other members of the committee are:

- Dr. Arthur H. Compton, professor of physics at the University of Chicago.
- Dr. Edwin G. Conklin, professor of biology at Princeton.
- Dr. Harlan T. Stetson, director of the Perkins Observatory at Ohio Wesleyan University.
- Dr. Edward L. Thorndike, professor of educational psychology at Teachers College, Columbia University.

An advisory committee has been appointed with the following members:

- Dr. Isaiah Bowman, director of the American Geographical Society.
- Dr. Rollo W. Brown, author and literary critic.
- Dr. Aleš Hrdlička, curator, division of physical anthropology, Smithsonian Institution.
- Dr. J. McKeen Cattell, editor of SCIENCE.
- Dr. Vernon Kellogg, permanent secretary of the National Research Council.
- Dr. Burton E. Livingston, permanent secretary of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and director of the laboratory of plant physiology of the Johns Hopkins University.
- Dr. Robert A. Millikan, director of the Norman Bridge Laboratory of Physics and chairman, executive council, California Institute of Technology.
- Dr. Michael I. Pupin, professor of electromechanics, Columbia University.
- Dr. Forest R. Moulton, consulting engineer.
- Dr. Harlow Shapley, director of the Harvard Observatory.

Dr. Mather in discussing the significance of the project said in part:

The launching of the Scientific Book Club is an indication of the interest in science that is rapidly developing in America. I am fully convinced that there are thousands of intelligent men and women who are eagerly searching for reliable and truthful information concerning the great contributions to knowledge which have resulted from the widening spread and deepening hold of scientific habits of mind, both in this country and abroad. These individuals are continually on the lookout for opportunities to keep in touch with the current achievements in the realm of science.

Now, as never before, men and women must look to science in the building of a better world and the improvement of human affairs. Consequently, there must be adequate machinery for accelerating the spread of scientific information throughout the civilized world.

The average layman can select for himself those books of fiction and biography which appeal most to his taste, but few are qualified to pass upon the scientific value and technical accuracy of scientific books. Only men of science are in a position to offer guidance in this direction.

Each month a book-review magazine will be sent to every member of the Scientific Book Club. This magazine will contain a full review of the designated book of the month as well as descriptive summaries of other volumes recommended by the committee. Members may choose the selected book or have the option of substituting any volume on the supplementary list.

The editorial office of the Scientific Book Club is at 22 Oxford Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts, and the business office at 80 Lafayette Street, New York City.