of it never before explored by white men. Mr. Stevens was cordially received by several lama kings, who assigned numbers of their subjects to assist him in proceeding from one camp site to another. In several places he stopped overnight under the roofs of lama monasteries.

At one point along the Yalung River, a tributary of the Yangtse, an extraordinary means of crossing had to be employed. There is a gorge here several hundred feet deep, and the only means of getting over is by sliding down an inclined bamboo rope which is stretched across. Men, animals and baggage were fastened into slings and sent flying perilously across by means of a sleeve support which slid along the bamboo rope, their progress being accelerated by the fact that the rope was oiled with butter.

In many villages famine was so rife that when Mr. Stevens and his caravan entered the people would fall on their knees and beg them not to stay more than one night, fearing that they would cause further food shortage.

At one time, while aboard a boat on the Yangtse River, Mr. Stevens and his party were fired upon by soldiers to force them to come into a tax station, but no one was struck by the bullets. To reach Shanghai for embarkation to America, Mr. Stevens had to make a long journey by bamboo raft on the Ya River, and then by Chinese junk and river steamer on the Yangtse.

ELECTRICAL APPARATUS PRESENTED BY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY TO EDISONIA

MORE than one hundred and ninety pieces of historical electrical apparatus have been presented to Henry Ford by Columbia University for display in Edisonia, the museum Mr. Ford is founding in honor of Thomas Edison at Dearborn, Michigan, according to an announcement recently made by Professor Walter I. Slichter, of the department of electrical engineering.

The gift was authorized by the department of engineering after Mr. Ford had visited it and had personally inspected the collection of old electrical apparatus. It constitutes practically the entire museum formerly housed in the electrical engineering laboratories and collected through the efforts of Dr. Francis Bacon Crocker after he had founded the department of electrical engineering in 1889. Many of the pieces had been particularly desired by Mr. Ford, because of their connection with the early stages of Mr. Edison's work on the electric lamp. Because of lack of space, the apparatus and machinery were not easily available for public inspection in the Engineering Building at Columbia.

Among the most valuable apparatus sent to Dearborn are one of the several Wallace arc light generators now in existence, the two Edison bi-polar generators which supplied Columbia University with electricity when it was located at Forty-ninth Street and Madison Avenue, and the original loading coil invented by Professor Michael I. Pupin at Columbia and destined more than any other single factor to perfect the quality of speech transmitted over telephone lines.

Other important pieces are a die used by Mr. Edison to press out the carbon filaments of his early electric lamps, an Edison chemical ampère-hour meter which was designed to measure current commercially, but it proved to be inaccurate, and three models demonstrating the Edison 3-wire system of the flow of electricity by the analogous flow of water.

Two photographs were included, one an autographed photograph of Mr. Edison and the other a group picture of Mr. Edison, Professor Pupin, Dr. Crocker and C. S. Darling, formerly superintendent of buildings at Columbia. Mr. Darling left the university to become general manager of one of Mr. Edison's laboratories and was killed soon afterwards by an explosion in the plant.

The group picture was one of a series of portraits of famous engineers collected by Professor Morton Arendt, and was relinquished by Professor Arendt after Mr. Edison had agreed to replace it with a new photograph of himself.

Inscribed on the photograph of Mr. Edison is the original version of the inventor's famous paraphrase of Milton. He wrote: "My dear Crocker—a new motto for your boys—they also serve who hustle while they wait." Mr. Edison's admonition has been repeated to thousands of engineering students throughout the country.

After his visit to Morningside Heights, Mr. Ford carried away in his own car several pieces which he especially wanted. They were a 250-watt Edison bi-polar motor, a 1.5 kilowatt Edison bi-polar generator, a 7.5 kilowatt Edison bi-polar generator, the autographed photograph of Mr. Edison, the Wallace arc light generator and an Edison solenoid ammeter.

THE SOCIETY FOR EXPERIMENTAL BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MEMBERS of the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine residing in Southern California met recently at the University Club in Los Angeles for dinner, at which time they discussed the advisability of holding meetings at regular intervals. Eleven members were present and gave brief discussions on the following topics of current research:

B. M. Allen, University of California at Los Angeles, Factors that Control Growth and Development in Tadpoles.

O. L. Sponsler, University of California at Los Angeles, Molecular Structure of Protoplasm.

M. S. Dunn, University of California at Los Angeles, Synthesis of Naturally Occurring Amino-acids.

G. H. Ball, University of California at Los Angeles, Life History of Certain Parasitic Marine Protozoa.

M. T. Burrows, Pasadena, California, Relation of Cancer to Infection.

T. W. Vaughan, San Diego, California, Problems of Experimental Biology at Scripps Institute of Biological Research.

H. J. Deuel, Jr., school of medicine, University of Southern California, Metabolism of Cold-blooded Animals.

C. H. Thienes, school of medicine, University of Southern California, Effect of Nicotine on Rats.

M. B. Visscher, school of medicine, University of Southern California, Source of Energy in Muscle Contractions.

R. W. Lamson, school of medicine, University of Southern California, Allergy and Immunity.

J. F. Kessel, school of medicine, University of Southern California, Interrelationship between Intestinal Protozoa and Bacteria.

Other members in the region who were unable to attend the meeting are T. H. Morgan, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena; W. D. Sansum, Cottage Hospital, Santa Barbara; E. M. MacKay, Scripps Metabolic Clinic, San Diego; H. E. Bellamy, University of California at Los Angeles.

Plans have been made to hold regular informal meetings at intervals until membership in the southern part of California is sufficient to warrant the organization of a separate branch in this region.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

PROFESSOR ALBERT A. MICHELSON, who observed his seventy-seventh birthday on December 19, has resigned as head of the department of physics of the University of Chicago, his retirement to be effective at the end of the academic year. After a visit to Bermuda, Professor Michelson will resume his measurements of the velocity of light at Pasadena.

AN oil painting of Thomas A. Edison has been given to the Kansas State Agricultural College by the United Power and Light Corporation. The picture will be hung in the library of the engineering building.

THE *Pictorial Review* award of $5,000 for distinguished public service by a woman was presented to Dr. Florence Rena Sabin at a luncheon at Sherry's, New York City, on December 17. The speakers included Dr. Simon Flexner, director of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research; Dr. George E. Vincent, president of the Rockefeller Foundation, and Mrs. Donald Hooker.

DR. THEOBALD SMITH, of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, was recently the guest of the New York State Association of Public Health Laboratories at Albany. He gave an address on "Clinical and Pathologic Significance of Races and Varieties among Pathogenic Bacteria."

HARBEN lecturers of the Royal Institute of Public Health have been appointed as follows: for 1930, Professor William H. Park, director, bureau of laboratories, Health Department, New York City, and for 1931, Dame Louise McIlroy, professor of obstetrics and gynecology, University of London, Royal Free Hospital. The council has made the Smith award for 1930 to Mr. H. R. Kenwood, emeritus professor of hygiene in the University of London.

DR. E. D. MERRILL, dean of the University of California College of Agriculture and director-elect of the New York Botanical Garden, has been appointed vice-president of the Fifth International Botanical Congress, which meets in Cambridge, England, during the third week of August. Dr. Merrill had previously been made vice-president of the section on taxonomy.

DR. CLARK WISSLER, curator of anthropology of the American Museum of Natural History and professor in the Yale Institute of Psychology, has been elected president of the New York Academy of Sciences to succeed Professor Charles P. Berkey, of the department of geology at Columbia University. Other officers elected are Horace N. Coryell, G. Kingsley Noble and Frederick W. Hodge, *vice-presidents;* Roy Waldo Miner, *recording secretary;* Horace W. Stunkard, *corresponding secretary;* George H. Sherwood, *treasurer,* and Herbert F. Schwarz, *editor.*

AS a result of a mail ballot officers of the American Pharmaceutical Association have been elected as follows: *President,* H. C. Christensen, Chicago, Illinois; *First vice-president,* Walter D. Adams, Forney, Texas; *Second vice-president,* D. B. R. Johnson, Norman, Oklahoma; *Members of the Council* (for three years), H. V. Arny, New York, N. Y.; T. J. Bradley, Boston, Massachusetts; W. B. Day, Chicago, Illinois. These officers will be installed at the next annual meeting of the association in Baltimore, Maryland, to be held from May 5 to 10, 1930. The place of meeting for 1931 will be selected at Baltimore. The 1932 meeting will be held in Toronto, Canada, and will be a joint meeting with the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association.

OFFICERS of the American Pomological Society were elected at the recent Virginia meeting at Roanoke as follows: Dr. J. C. Blair, Urbana, Illinois, *president;* Dr. W. T. Macoun, Ottawa, and R. A. Van Meter, of the Massachusetts Agricultural College, *vice-presi-*