lections, a very methodical record of its meetings and an effective oversight of its finances. After his retirement from business he traveled much in southern central France and brought out his experiences in a work called "Undiscovered France," a beautifully illustrated volume of unusual insight and charm.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

SITE FOR A NEW OBSERVATORY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

THE University of Michigan has acquired by purchase two hundred acres of land lying along the left bank of the Huron River, which will be used as a site for a new astronomical observatory. The site had the approval of the late Professor Ralph H. Curtiss, director of astronomical observatories, and was also approved by the late Professor William J. Hussey. It includes, according to an account in *The Michigan Alumni*, a commanding elevation close to but not on a main highway, and is entirely removed from the smoke, vibration, city lights and other conditions which have in recent years continued in increasing degree to make modern astronomical study impossible in the present observatory.

Architects' plans have already been drawn for an observatory designed to accommodate a 75-inch telescope and all the other apparatus required in modern astronomical investigations. The building, according to the plans, will be unpretentious but substantial and fireproof. Aside from the telescope building, the university plans to build a residence for the keeper and the observing staff, and estimates that the cost of the entire undertaking will be $260,000.

Seventy-five years ago the present observatory was built and equipped with what was then one of the best obtainable telescopes. At that time it was located on the edge of town, where the air was clear, and there were no buildings near by. Since that time it has been hemmed in upon all sides, the view of the skies is obscured by smoke from the university powerhouse, and the operation of the delicate instruments is made nearly impossible by the continual jars caused by the heavy traffic on Ann and Observatory Streets. It is impossible to carry on research work under these conditions. The telescope, which was one of the finest in the country at the time of its purchase many years ago, is now outdistanced by the modern instruments at Harvard, Mt. Wilson, Ohio Wesleyan and Victoria, B. C., and its field is said to be practically worked out.

If the observatory is moved, the university will come into possession of thirty-two acres of land inside the limits of Ann Arbor, which will be free from all restrictions. Four of these acres are used as the site of the present observatory. This property was purchased in 1854 by a fund to which the Honorable Henry N. Walker, Senator Zachariah Chandler, General Lewis Cass and Governor Henry P. Baldwin contributed. There are twenty-six acres of ground east of Observatory Avenue, adjoining the Hospital grounds, which Robert P. Lamont has held for some time for the use of the observatory, as well as two additional acres on which the university has been allowed to erect buildings, with the understanding that other provisions would be made to meet the needs of the observatory. If the observatory is moved, this land will be deeded to the university.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF SOIL SCIENCE

IN accordance with the decision of the general committee of the International Congress of Soil Science meeting on July 6 in Budapest, the sessions of the second congress will be held in Leningrad from July 20 to 31, 1930, under the presidency of C. C. Gedroiz. The first six days the meetings will be in Leningrad and the remaining time will be spent in Moscow. In both cities a series of excursions will be arranged and exhibits of general soil science including special displays devoted to agronomical and forest soil science, utilization of marshes, technical processes of cultivation, land taxation, etc.

After the congress an excursion of twenty-nine days will be made across the soil zones of the European part of Soviet Russia, during which the members will have the opportunity of visiting higher schools, agricultural experiment stations, agricultural and industrial enterprises, etc.

The excursion will be made by special railway trains supplied with sleeping-cars and dining cars, and by steamer on the Volga and the Black Sea. Out of the twenty-nine excursion days three days will be given for rest, two in the Caucasus and one in the Ukraine. In addition to this excursion, special excursions may, if desired, be arranged: (1) to the Mourman peninsula for visiting peat-soils, forest swamps, the biological station, the railroad colonization, etc.; (2) to central Asia, and (3) to the agricultural exhibit of Minsk (White Russia) and other places. A discount of 50 per cent. is given on the railway fares. Members desiring to attend both congress and excursions are requested to communicate with Professor Dr. A. Yarilov, president of the Organizing Committee, Moscow, Karuninskaja, Gosplan, not later than February 1, stating at the same time the town in which they would like to receive the visa to enter Russia.

The organizing committee undertakes to secure the visas required for entering and leaving Russia and to provide on request, rooms, food and vehicles for the entire period of the congress and excursions. Towards these expenses the members of the general committee of the International Society of Soil Science and members who have some special share in the work of the society will pay on their arrival at Leningrad $300 to the organizing committee. All other members who have paid their yearly subscriptions up to January 1 will pay $350, while those who have joined after January 1 will pay $450. The expenses of those who do not participate in the excursions will be $110. Those wishing to accompany the excursion only as far as Stalingrad on the Volga can leave the party conveniently at the point. The prices of railway tickets are quoted to Leningrad as follows: From Berlin via Warsaw-Negoreloie: 2nd class $32; 3rd class $22; from Warsaw: 2nd class $22; 3rd class $13; from Riga: 2nd class $12; 3rd class $8; from Stockholm via Abo: 2nd class $16; 3rd class $9; entrance and departure visas (both) $5.50.

THE AUSTRALASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

THE Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science will hold its twentieth meeting at Brisbane during the week beginning on May 28, 1930. The president-elect of the association is E. C. Andrews, government geologist, Sydney, and the vice-presidents are Professor Sir T. W. Edgeworth David, emeritus professor of geology in the University of Sydney (president, Dunedin meeting, 1904, and Melbourne meeting, 1913); Professor Sir David Orme Masson, emeritus professor of chemistry in the University of Melbourne (president, Sydney meeting, 1911); Professor Sir W. Baldwin Spencer, emeritus professor of biology in the University of Melbourne, director of the National Museum, Melbourne (president, Hobart-Melbourne meeting, 1921), and Lieutenant-General Sir John Monash, chairman, State Electricity Commission of Victoria (president of the Adelaide meeting, 1924).

The association meets in sixteen sections, each presided over by a president and several vice-presidents. The sections and their presidents are as follows:

Section A—Astronomy, Mathematics and Physics. President, J. M. Baldwin, Observatory, Melbourne.

Section B—Chemistry. President, Professor E. J. Hartung, The University, Melbourne.

Section C—Geology. President, E. de Courcy Clarke, The University, Perth.

Section D—Zoology. President, R. J. Tillyard, Commonwealth Entomologist, Canberra.

Section E—History. President, Professor J. R. Elder, University of Otago, New Zealand.

Section F—Anthropology. President, Professor A. R. Radcliffe-Brown, The University, Sydney.

Section G—Social and Economic Science and Statistics. President, D. T. Sawkins, Bureau of Statistics, Young Street, Sydney.

Section H—Engineering and Architecture. President, Professor Leslie Wilkinson, The University, Sydney.

Section I—Medical Science and National Health. President (to be announced).

Section J—Education, Psychology and Philosophy. President (to be announced).

Section K—Agriculture and Forestry. President, W. N. Jolly, Forestry Commission, Sydney.

Section L—Veterinary Science. President (to be announced).

Section M—Botany. President, H. H. Allan, Plant Research Station, Palmerston North, New Zealand.

Section N—Physiology and Experimental Biology. President, Professor T. Brailsford Robertson, The University, Adelaide.

Section O—Pharmaceutical Science. President, A. B. Chater, Care of Taylors and Elliotts, Valley, Brisbane.

Section P—Geography. President, Dr. C. Fenner, Adelaide.

POPULAR SCIENCE MONTHLY PRIZE AWARD

Popular Science Monthly announces that, beginning this autumn, it will confer an annual prize of $10,000, accompanied by a gold medal, upon the American citizen who has been responsible, during the preceding year, for the achievement in science of greatest potential value to the world.

In making this announcement, O. B. Capen, president of the Popular Science Publishing Company, explained that the award was instituted with a dual purpose—to heighten the interest of the American people in those conquests of the laboratory and the workshop which benefit the entire community, and to focus attention upon the many scientific workers who, without thought of personal profit, toil to better man's control over his physical surroundings.

The award will be bestowed under the auspices of the Popular Science Institute, a research organization maintained by the magazine, of which Professor Collins P. Bliss, associate dean, New York University, is director. The institute has enlisted the services of twenty-four leaders in American science to serve as a committee of award, whose task it will be to select the prize-winning effort.

The prize will be conferred for the first time in September, 1930, and the initial period of scientific accomplishment to be considered by the Committee of