

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

Award will be the twelve months ending June 30, 1930. All scientific workers, professional and amateur, academic and commercial, are eligible.

The members of the Committee of Award are:

Dr. Charles G. Abbot, secretary, Smithsonian Institution; Professor Collins P. Bliss, director, Popular Science Institute; Dr. Samuel A. Brown, dean, New York University and Bellevue Hospital Medical College; Dr. George K. Burgess, director, United States Bureau of Standards; Dr. William W. Campbell, president, University of California; Dr. Harvey N. Davis, president, Stevens Institute of Technology; Dr. Arthur L. Day, director, Geophysical Laboratory, Carnegie Institution; Dr. E. E. Free, consulting engineer; Travis Hoke, editor, *Popular Science Monthly*; Dr. Frank B. Jewett, vice-president, American Telephone and Telegraph Co.; Dr. Vernon Kellogg, permanent secretary, National Research

Council; Charles F. Kettering, president, General Motors Research Corporation; Dr. Arthur D. Little, president, Arthur D. Little, Inc.; Dr. John C. Merriam, president, Carnegie Institution; Dr. Robert A. Millikan, chairman, executive council, California Institute of Technology; Dr. Henry Fairfield Osborn, president, American Museum of Natural History; Dr. Elmer A. Sperry, chairman, board of directors, Sperry Gyroscope Co.; Dr. Samuel W. Stratton, president, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Dr. Elihu Thomson, director, Thomson Laboratory of the General Electric Co., Lynn, Mass.; Dr. Edward R. Weidlein, director, Mellon Institute of Industrial Research; Henry Herman Westinghouse, chairman, board of directors, Westinghouse Airbrake Co.; Dr. Albert E. White, director department of engineering research, University of Michigan; Dr. Willis R. Whitney, director of research, General Electric Co., Schenectady, N. Y., and Orville Wright, co-inventor of the airplane.

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. THOMAS HUNT MORGAN, director of the Kerkhoff Laboratories of the Biological Sciences of the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, was elected president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science at the close of the Des Moines meeting.

AT the 158th convocation of the University of Chicago, the degree of doctor of science was conferred on three chemists—Professor Moses Gomberg, Professor Gilbert Newton Lewis and Dr. H. A. Spoehr. The candidates were presented by Henry Gordon Gale, dean of the Ogden Graduate School of Science. The citations were as follows: Moses Gomberg, head of the department of chemistry, University of Michigan, “in recognition of his fundamental contributions to chemistry, especially in the discovery of free radicals, and in testimony of his leadership in the field of organic chemistry.” Gilbert Newton Lewis, head of the department of chemistry, University of California, “in recognition of fundamental contributions to chemistry, especially in atomic and molecular structure, and in thermodynamics, and in testimony of his leadership in research in physical chemistry.” Herman Augustus Spoehr, who received a Ph.D. degree from Chicago, and is now assistant director of the Coastal Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, “in recognition of his fundamental contributions in the field of photosynthesis and in testimony of his leadership in the application of chemistry to botanical problems.”

THE Edison medal, awarded by the American Institute of Electrical Engineers for “meritorious achievement in electrical science, electrical engineering or the electrical arts” has been conferred on Dr.

Charles F. Scott, professor of electrical engineering at Yale University, for “his contributions to the science and art of polyphase transmission of electrical energy.”

THE David Livingstone Centenary medal has been awarded by the National Geographic Society to Commander Richard E. Byrd. The Hispanic Society of America founded the decoration in 1913 with the proviso that it could be given only for “exceptionally important achievement in the field of geography of the Southern Hemisphere.” Others who have received the medal include Sir Douglas Mawson, leader of the Australian-Antarctic expedition of 1911–1914; Theodore Roosevelt, for his discovery and exploration of the “River of Doubt,” now known as Rio Roosevelt, and Colonel Rondon, for exploration of the Brazilian interior.

A RECEPTION and dinner dance was given to W. W. Skinner, assistant chief, chemical and technological research, U. S. Department of Agriculture, on December 4 to commemorate the completion of twenty-five years' service. On this occasion a silver token was presented to him by Dr. A. F. Woods, who spoke in appreciation of Dr. Skinner's work for the department. Dr. F. B. Linton presided at the dinner as toastmaster. The speakers were Dr. H. G. Knight, chief of the bureau of chemistry, who spoke of Dr. Skinner as a scientific man and administrator, and Mrs. M. T. Read, who spoke on Dr. Skinner as a man.

PROFESSOR WILLIAM MCPHERSON, dean of the Graduate School of the Ohio State University, became president of the American Chemical Society on January 1 as a result of the society's annual election.