

President Livingston Farrand, of Cornell University, has accepted the invitation of the committee to deliver the opening address at the Washington ceremonies, which will be witnessed by an invited audience of eminent scientists and other distinguished men and women.

The executive committee in charge of the celebration consists of Dr. Flexner, chairman; John A. Kingsbury, 49 Wall Street, secretary; Dr. William H. Howell and Dr. William G. MacCallum, of Baltimore; Dr. William T. Councilman and Dr. Harvey Cushing, of Boston; Abraham Flexner, Homer Folks, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and Wickliffe Rose, of New York; Dr. Eugene L. Opie, of Philadelphia, and Vernon Kellogg and Senator Frederic C. Walcott, of Washington. Professor Albert A. Michelson, of the University of Chicago, has accepted the chairmanship of the general committee, which is now being formed.

"America owes more to Dr. Welch than can ever be told in any tributes," according to the statement issued by the committee. "Half a century ago he began his leadership in modernizing American medicine. Through the reforms which he has instituted in medical study, through his researches, the many hundreds of doctors trained by him, and the vital public health measures which he has inspired, it is literally true that millions have benefited from his contribution."

THE NINTH PLANET

ANNOUNCEMENT was made on March 13 by Dr. V. M. Slipher, director of the Lowell Observatory at Flagstaff, Arizona, of the discovery of a celestial

body whose rate and path among the stars indicate a new planetary member of the solar family beyond the outermost known planet, Neptune.

Twenty-five years ago Dr. Percival Lowell, who founded Lowell Observatory, began a mathematical investigation for a planet beyond Neptune. The probability of locating such a body, however, was difficult and involved enormous and intricate computations.

In 1914 he announced as the result of his calculations the possibility and distance of the predicted body in a large memoir, a Lowell Observatory publication.

The search of the skies directed by Dr. Lowell's theoretical work was begun by photography in 1905 and has been continued to the present time. The use was made of the best available instruments, the search covering that band of the skies in which the known planet traveled.

Early last year, the Lawrence-Lowell telescope, a highly efficient special instrument for the search, was put in operation. Some weeks ago (January 21) Mr. C. W. Tombaugh detected an object on a plate made with the telescope, which has since been followed carefully.

It has been observed photographically with the large Lowell reflector by C. O. Lampland and it has been observed visually with the larger refractor by the various members of the staff.

All observations indicate the object to be the one which Lowell saw mathematically.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE annual stated meeting of the National Academy of Sciences will be held in Washington on April 28, 29 and 30.

THE regular spring meeting of the executive committee of the American Association for the Advancement of Science will occur at Washington on Sunday, April 27. Memoranda concerning business to come before the committee at that meeting should be received at the permanent secretary's office in the Smithsonian Institution Building by April 21.

PROFESSOR KARL TAYLOR COMPTON, now head of the department of physics of Princeton University, has been elected president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Dr. Compton will take office next July, when Dr. Stratton will become chairman of the executive committee and of the corporation, a newly created position in which he will share the responsibilities of administration.

THE American Institute of Chemists has awarded

its medal "for noteworthy and outstanding service to the science of chemistry and the profession of chemist in America" to Mr. George Eastman, of the Eastman Kodak Company.

THE Society of Arts and Sciences has awarded its annual gold medal to Dr. J. McKeen Cattell, psychologist of New York, and to Professor Gilbert N. Lewis, physical chemist of the University of California, for outstanding accomplishment in the field of science. Mr. Walter Russell, president of the society, announces that the formal presentation will be made at a dinner at the Hotel Biltmore on April 17. Last year Professor A. A. Michelson and Professor R. A. Millikan received the medals. Mr. Thomas A. Edison was the recipient in 1928.

THE Medical Faculty of the University of Freiburg on March 11 conferred an honorary doctorate on Dr. Herbert M. Evans, professor of anatomy in the University of California, in recognition "of his conspicu-