gifts such as this may be accepted by the Secretary of the Treasury if recommended by the Surgeon-General and the National Advisory Health Council.

THE CINCINNATI MEETING OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

THE meeting of the American Chemical Society at Cincinnati will open on September 8, continuing for the following four days.

On Monday at 2 o'clock there will be a meeting of the council and at seven in the evening there will be a subscription dinner, reception and dance at the Hotel Gibson for members and their guests.

On Tuesday there will be two symposia: Group 1 meeting under the auspices of the divisions of industrial and engineering, organic and cellulose chemistry and Group 2 meeting under the auspices of the division of physical and inorganic chemistry. The subject of the former will be "Industrial Fermentation," the speakers and subjects being: E. I. Fulmer, "The Chemical Approach to Problems of Fermentation"; A. A. Backhaus, "Ethyl Alcohol"; J. F. Garrett, "Lactic Acid"; Chas. N. Frey, "The History and Development of the Modern Yeast Industry"; C. L. Gabriel and F. M. Crawford, "The Development of the Butyl Acetonic Fermentation Industry"; F. C. Blanck, "Fermentations in the Food Industries"; A. M. Buswell, "The Production of Fuel Gas by Anaerobic Fermentations"; O. E. May and H. T. Herrick, "Some Minor Industrial Fermentations."

The subject of the second symposium will be "Non-aqueous Solutions." Those who will take part are: Charles A. Kraus, who will speak on "Reduction in Non-Aqueous Solvents"; Arthur W. Davidson, "An Introduction to the Chemistry of Acetic Acid Solutions"; F. W. Bergstrom, "Bases of the Ammonia System"; George Scatchard, "Equilibrium in Non-Electrolyte Mixtures in Relation to the Densities and the Vapor Pressures of the Component"; J. A. Wilkinson, "Liquid Hydrogen Sulfide," and J. W. Williams, "The Behavior of Electrolytes in Methyl Alcohol Solutions."

There will be divisional meetings on Wednesday and Thursday mornings, followed by luncheons at the University of Cincinnati. The president's address by Professor William McPherson, "Chemistry and Education," will be given on Wednesday at 8:30 in the Emery Auditorium, following which there will be a musical program.

On the afternoon of Thursday an inspection trip will be made to the Cincinnati Water Works and drive around the city in automobiles, starting from the university immediately after luncheon.

Friday will be devoted to visits to industrial plants, details of which will be announced at the meeting.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

MRS. ANNA BOTSFORD COMSTOCK, emeritus professor of nature study at Cornell University, distinguished also as a wood engraver, died at Ithaca on August 23, aged seventy-six years. Professor John Henry Comstock, emeritus professor of entomology, survives his wife, but has been seriously ill for several years.

DR. FLORIAN CAJORI, professor emeritus of the history of mathematics at the University of California, died at Berkeley on August 14. Professor Cajori was born in Switzerland in 1859 and received the bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1883.

DR. H. H. TURNER, Savilian professor of astronomy at the University of Oxford, died on August 20, while attending the International Congress of Geodesy at Stockholm. Dr. Turner was sixty-nine years old. He had many friends among American astronomers and was delegate from the British Association for the Advancement of Science to the American Association at the last New York meeting.

WHEN Northwestern University at the recent commencement exercises conferred the degree of doctor of science upon Dr. Gotthelf Carl Huber, dean of the graduate school of the University of Michigan, the citation, read by Professor Leslie Brainerd Arey, was as follows: "Distinguished son of the University of Michigan whose filial loyalty has been expressed in a life of unbroken devoted service; respected and loved by students as friend, teacher, and dean; a wise counselor, entrusted by his colleagues with important responsibilities in determining academic policies; fruitful contributor to the fundamental understanding of all branches of microscopical anatomy, whose researches are models of patient, thorough and accurate observation and experiment; pioneer in the application of certain precise methods to the unraveling of difficult morphological secrets; a practical but scholarly scientist occupying a unique position among American anatomists."

DRAKE UNIVERSITY at its forty-ninth commencement conferred upon Dr. Philip Fox, director of the new Adler Planetarium, Chicago, the degree of doctor of laws.

THE honorary degree of master of arts was conferred on June 23 by the University of Michigan on Harlan I. Smith, of the National Museum of Canada.

DR. WILLIAM MCPHERSON, of the Ohio State University, president of the American Chemical Society, will be the guest of honor and principal speaker at a luncheon to be given on September 9, during the meeting of the society in Cincinnati, by the assistant editors and abstractors of *Chemical Abstracts*.

DR. VIKTOR GOLDSCHMIDT, professor of mineralogy at Heidelberg, celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his doctorate on August 6.

DR. FRIEDRICH EMICH, professor of chemistry at the Technische Hochschule in Graz (Austria), known for his work in inorganic micro-chemistry and analysis, will celebrate his seventieth birthday on September 5.

DR. WERNER HEISENBERG, of the University of Leipzig, has been elected a member of the Saxon Academy of Sciences in the section of mathematical physics. Corresponding members elected include Dr. Johannes Walther, professor of geology and paleontology, and Dr. Edmund O. von Lippmann, professor of the history of chemistry, both of the University of Halle.

A RECENT Order in Council reported in *Nature* directs that the Lord President of the Council (Lord Parmoor), the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries (Dr. Addison), the Home Secretary (Mr. Clynes), the Secretary of State for Scotland (Mr. W. Adamson) and the President of the Board of Education (Sir Charles Trevelyan) shall be a Committee of the Privy Council for the organization and development of agricultural research. It is also ordered that the Lord President of the council shall be the chairman, and the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries vice-chairman of the committee.

SIR CHARLES MARTIN, director of the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine, London, and Professor Arthur Harden retire under the age limit this year and will be succeeded on January 1 by Professor J. C. G. Ledingham and Dr. R. Robison. Sir Charles Martin will take charge of the division of animal nutrition of the Commonwealth Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

DR. JOSEF HOPMANN, Bonn, has been appointed professor of astronomy in the University of Leipzig.

AT the Iowa Agricultural College and Station at Ames, according to *The Experiment Station Record*, following the resignation of Dr. J. E. Brindley, head of the department of economics, history and sociology since 1913, to allow more time for research in public finance and taxation, Dr. A. G. Black, professor of agricultural economics, has been designated chairman of the department of agricultural economics. Dr. I. E. Melhus, professor of botany, has succeeded Dr. L. H. Pammel as head of the department of botany, the latter remaining as chief botanist in the station. E. M. Mervine, professor of agricultural engineering, has resigned to become associated with the U. S. Department of Agriculture in the investigation and development of sugar beet machinery.

DR. ARCHIE H. ROBERTSON has been appointed director of the State Food Laboratory at Albany, New York. He has been bacteriologist at the Experiment Station at Geneva.

DR. RICHARD S. UHRBROCK has resigned from the faculty of Cornell University in order to accept a position in the division of industrial relations of the Procter and Gamble Company, Cincinnati.

DR. W. A. TAYLOR has resigned from the position of vice-president and chemical director of the La Motte Chemical Products Company, Baltimore.

DR. HOMER L. CUPPLES has been appointed chemist of the Whittier, California, Station of the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils and of the Bureau of Entomology, where he will conduct studies on the toxicity and physio-chemical properties of hydrocyanic acid gas.

DR. S. F. LIGHT, professor of zoology at the University of California, will spend the late summer and autumn in a study of the biology and distribution of the desert termites of southeastern California, with headquarters at Beaumont from August 15 to October 15 and at Palm Springs from that time until the end of December.

DR. ALEŠ HRDLIČKA returned to Washington on August 15 from an expedition to Alaska.

DR. WILLARD BERRY, of the department of geology of the Ohio State University, has returned from France where he attended the hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Geological Society of France. He represented the Geological Survey of Ohio and the Ohio State University.

WILLIAM F. PROUTY, professor of economic and structural geology in the University of North Carolina, has returned with a class of twenty-two students from an eight weeks' transcontinental study tour of the United States, embracing most of the national parks and a number of mining centers.

DR. A. S. EDDINGTON, Plumian professor of astronomy at the University of Cambridge, gave a lecture on "The Inner Construction of Atoms" on the second day of the International Congress of Astronomy, held at Budapest during the second week of August.

AN official American delegation has arrived at Dresden from Washington to study the International Hygiene Exhibition with a view to reporting on the ad-

vances which have been made in hygiene education. The delegation is composed of Dr. Charles Wardell Stiles, of the United States Public Health Service; Major George C. Dunham, of the Army Medical School, and Captain Charles S. Butler, commandant of the Naval Medical School.

GENERAL SMUTS, of South Africa, is leaving on a botanical tour through Rhodesia, the Belgian Congo and Tanganyika as far as Lake Tanganyika. He will be accompanied by a government representative, M. K. Hutchinson, botanist from the herbarium of the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew, and by Dr. I. B. Pole-Evans, chief of the division of plant industry of the Union, as well as by his brother, J. A. Smuts. The party will collect specimens of flora and will be away for at least six weeks.

SIR CHARLES MARTIN, who has accepted an appointment for two years as chief of the Division of Animal Nutrition of the Australian Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, will sail for Australia late in December, breaking his journey at South Africa to visit the veterinary research station at Onderstepoort. In the meantime he is visiting research institutions in Britain and Germany.

PROFESSOR M. W. WEINBERG, of the Pasteur Institute of Paris, known for his work on anaerobes and gaseous gangrene, will make an official visit to the United States in October and November of this year. He will deliver a series of lectures on bacteriological problems at a number of universities, including the Johns Hopkins, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Chicago, Wisconsin, Iowa, St. Louis and Denver. He will also visit the West Coast and speak before several French societies on the life and work of Pasteur.

THE United States Civil Service Commission announces the following open competitive examinations: Principal civil engineer, $5,600 to $6,400 a year; senior civil engineer, $4,600 to $5,200; senior electrical engineer, $4,600 to $5,200; senior mechanical engineer, $4,600 to $5,200; civil engineer, $3,800 to $4,400, and mechanical engineer, $3,800 to $4,400; for Boulder Dam and the proposed all-American Canal of the Reclamation Service. Applications for these positions must be on file with the Civil Service Commission at Washington, D. C., not later than September 10, 1930. The examinations are to fill vacancies in the Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior, and vacancies occurring in positions requiring similar qualifications, for duty in Washington, D. C., or in the field. Positions in connection with the Boulder Dam Project will be filled from these examinations; also in connection with designs and specifications for the proposed all-American Canal of the Reclamation Service. Competitors will not be required to report for examination at any place, but will be rated on their education, experience and fitness.

THE United States Civil Service Commission announces an open competitive examination for the position of biologist to fill a vacancy in the United States Public Health Service, for duty at Boston, Mass., at $4,200 a year, and vacancies occurring in positions requiring similar qualifications throughout the United States, at entrance salaries ranging from $3,800 to $4,400 a year. The examination is open to both men and women not over forty-five years unless entitled to preference because of military or naval service. The duties of the position are to carry on, under general supervision, advanced biological researches, either individually or in cooperation with others, on animal and human materials, with particular reference to the acceleration or inhibition of cellular growth and similar related researches of a fundamental nature. The Public Health Service is engaged upon such studies, the immediate object of which is to discover some new facts bearing upon the cause and treatment of tumors. Competitors will not be required to report for examination at any place, but will be rated on education, training, experience, fitness and publications.

THE Department of State Employment and Registration, State Employment Commission, Baltimore, announces a vacancy in the position of chief of the Bureau of Chemistry, State Department of Health, at an initial salary of $4,000. The closing date for receipt of applications is September 10, 1930. As a prerequisite for consideration, applicants must have graduated from a college or university of recognized standing with specialization in chemistry; a postgraduate course in chemistry desirable, as well as thorough knowledge of and extensive experience and technical skill in chemical analysis, research and administrative ability, judgment, tact.

Industrial and Engineering Chemistry calls attention to the Basic Science Research Laboratory as a unit of the Institute of Scientific Research of the University of Cincinnati. It brings together representatives of various sciences for a cooperative attack on fundamental problems in borderline fields of pure and, to a lesser extent, applied science. At present attention is largely devoted to the effects of various forms of radiant energy upon living organisms. The laboratory will be open from 3 to 6 on the afternoons of September 9, 10 and 11. Special exhibits will be arronged, and motion pictures will be shown continuously. Guests especially interested in the work of the laboratory are, however, invited to visit it at any time. The laboratory is on the top floor of Cunningham

Hall, University of Cincinnati. The exhibits will include equipment for infra-red spectroscopy for the generation of the "soft" X-rays, and apparatus for the study of the effects of electrons upon bacteria. They will be arranged to show the unique organization of the laboratory, to make clear its aims and review its achievements.

THE first step in the establishment of a forestry school at Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, has been taken in the election of Dr. C. F. Korstian as director of Duke Forest and professor of silviculture in Duke University. Dr. Korstian is at present senior silviculturist at the Appalachian Forest Experiment Station of the U. S. Forest Service, Asheville, North Carolina. Complete plans for the school will not be made until after plans for the forest have been developed and further study has been made of the need for additional forestry training in the South and the opportunities available at Duke for specialized forestry education. Tentative plans for next year provide for a survey, inventory and preliminary management plan. The forest consists of approximately 5,100 acres adjoining the campus. The forest lies in the lower Piedmont region and consists of second-growth shortleaf and loblolly pines, and hard-woods. Because of the representative nature of this tract and because of its size and location it is expected to serve well as a research and demonstration forest. A research program will be developed, taking advantage of opportunities to cooperate with other departments of the university and with other agencies in the region, such as forest schools, state departments and the Appalachian Forest Experiment Station of the U. S. Forest Service. Since the plans for the school are now only partially developed, no curriculum has been made up and it is not planned to give courses next year.

THE late Charles F. Ruggles, lumber merchant of Manistee, Michigan, has bequeathed nearly all his estate, said to amount to $50,000,000, for education and public relief in the State of Michigan.

THE New York Homeopathic Medical College and Flower Hospital will receive thirty-five of the two hundred shares of the Wendel-Swope estate. This great fortune, estimated at one hundred million dollars, or more, will mean that something over seventeen million dollars will come to this institution. This bequest becomes effective on the death of an only surviving sister, Ella Von E. Wendel, who is eighty years old. The will further provides for an immediate gift of two properties at numbers 1 and 3 Third Street, New York City. The Wendel family have been frequent contributors to this college and hospital for more than forty years. At one time Georgiana Wendel was a special student in the college.

DEMOLITION of the "temporary" old mining building at the Pennsylvania State College has been begun as the School of Mineral Industries moved into its new building. The new building is one of the eight the state will officially turn over to the college this October at the celebration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the signing of the charter; it will be put into use with the opening of college in September. The frame building which is being torn down originally was a temporary home for mechanics arts. Thirty years ago it was moved to its present location and became headquarters for mineral industries as the mining building. Intended to tide over a short period until sufficient funds were available for a permanent structure, the old building continued to serve until this year, although it was long ago inadequate for its purpose.

THE Bureau of Entomology has moved its offices from the brick buildings in the grounds, soon to be razed, to the second floor of wing 3, in temporary building C on Seventh Street near B Street SW. The packers and stockyards division of the Bureau of Animal Industry and the division of cereal crops and diseases of the Bureau of Plant Industry also moved recently to building C, where they now occupy the second floor of wing 2.

Industrial and Engineering Chemistry reports that the Hercules Powder Company on July 30 laid the cornerstone for the main building of new experimental and research laboratories at Hercules, Delaware, which is 3 miles west of Wilmington near the Lancaster Pike. Heretofore the laboratories have been located at Kenvil, N. J., but now they will be much nearer the main office and will be provided with new facilities. It is estimated that the cost of the new construction will exceed $500,000. The site selected comprises more than 300 acres and the new station thus created will be larger and more modern than the present equipment.

MR. LANSBURY, British first commissioner of works, stated recently that the Royal Botanic Society's Gardens, Regent's Park, on the expiry of the crown lease in 1932, would become the property of the public, which would then have free access to them. Questions as to the future of the Botanic Gardens were asked in the House of Commons before the rising of Parliament for the recess. Replying to Lieutenant-Colonel Moore, Mr. Lansbury said it was the intention of the government that the ground should be devoted to some purpose for the benefit of the public, and later, in answer to Sir William Davison, he stated that he

knew of no proposal to clear away the ornamental water or to interfere with the general appearance of the gardens. Yesterday Mr. Lansbury said that the beauty of the gardens would not be destroyed when the lease expired. The gardens would be added to Regent's Park and the public would be able to enjoy them. He added that no doubt provision would be made for carrying on horticultural research work.

DISCUSSION

ARE PLANETS RARE?

IN the August 15 number of SCIENCE Professor Jermain G. Porter challenges a statement of mine that "a planet is a very rare occurrence."

Permit me to quote as authority for this statement Sir James Jeans, who in his "Astronomy and Cosmogony" (1928) follows Chamberlain and Moulton in ascribing the birth of the solar system to the near approach of another star, which is necessarily a rare event. After developing the theory in detail, he concludes (p. 401):

> . . . only about one star in 100,000 is at present surrounded by planets. Planetary systems must then be of the nature of "freak-formations"; they do not appear in the normal evolutionary course of a normal star.

Also Professor A. S. Eddington, in his "The Nature of the Physical World" (1929), p. 177, says:

> The data are too vague to give any definite estimate of the odds against this occurrence, but I should judge that perhaps not one in a hundred millions of stars can have undergone this experience in the right stage and conditions to result in the formation of a system of planets.

To a humble physicist it would seem that Mr. Porter is hardly fair to his fellow astronomers when he says:

> That double stars have planetary systems may be doubtful, but there is absolutely no reason for the assumption that the formation of families of attendant worlds may not be the ordinary course of evolution for the single stars.

Rather than referring to a second-hand account of a press interview with me, in which obviously no arguments or authorities could be presented, would it not have been wiser for Professor Porter to present his case for frequent planets in the astronomical literature for the consideration of Messrs. Jeans and Eddington and others of like mind?

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CURIOSITIES OF SCIENTIFIC NAMES

UNDER the above title, Dr. Gifford in a recent number of SCIENCE adds certain instances of "errors in nomenclature," particularly in the coining of new names, and implies that care should be used in seeing that these are bestowed with due regard to classical usage. That this is an excellent principle no one will deny, yet a book full of "odd stories about scientific names" will some day make good reading. The birth of a new scientific name is, with Dr. Gifford, a "serious business," but with those who have much to do with this matter of names the solemnity of the occasion eventually loses somewhat of its glamour. It is, of course, well known that many names are merely anagrams that have no classical counterparts, for names, after all, are nothing more than handles by means of which particular objects are designated. So *Daption* for the Pintado petrel is merely an anagram of that word; *Teonoma* is another formed from *Neotoma,* to designate a genus of similar rats; *Delichon* from *Chelidon* is another instance. But the element of subtle humor comes in where a deliberate play upon words, often inobvious to the uninitiated, is made. It was perhaps a doubtful compliment when one zoologist named a new skunk in honor of a colleague, but when another named a bat *carissima* few might see that it was in honor of its discoverer, Mr. Darling. The term *Kogia,* for a genus of strange looking cetaceans, is said to have been coined by J. E. Gray because it was an odd "codger." In like manner the name *clavium* by Barbour and Allen for the Florida Key deer, to which Dr. Gifford refers, was a deliberate pun, for which the authors are entirely unrepentent, while the name *keyensis* that he suggests would be not only an amateurishly and awkwardly coined word, but would obviously refer equally to Key Island near Papua. There are many other names that hide a bit of humor and all of which, no doubt, are a manifestation of that same twist of human nature that prompted the builders of cathedrals in the middle ages to add to the sacred structure in out-of-the-way places the faces or figures of demons or evil spirits as a relief from the seriousness of their undertakings. The Lincoln Imp is a famous instance.

> So they whistled the Devil to make them sport,
> Who knew that sin is vain.

G. M. ALLEN
T. BARBOUR

PRIORITY IN FAMILY, ORDER AND HIGHER GROUP NAMES

THE International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature provide that a family name shall be formed by adding *idae* to the stem of the type genus, and that if the name of the type genus is changed, the family name shall also be changed. It does not specify how