Academy of Sciences, which has appointed a committee to cooperate with the National Park Service in the installation of equipment. Dr. John C. Merriam, president of the Carnegie Institution, is chairman of this committee. The other members are Dr. Frederick Whiting, president of the Art Federation; Dr. David White, National Academy of Sciences; Dr. Fred Wright, of the Geophysical Laboratory; and Mr. Charles W. Eliot, 2nd, of the National Parks and Planning Commission. It is also hoped that Mr. Frederick Law Olmsted, nationally known landscape architect, may accept appointment to the committee. Development of the museum will proceed under the supervision of Ansel F. Hall, senior park naturalist of the National Park Service, who while in Washington recently conferred with this committee.

The memorial will be developed with a twofold purpose: To bring to the visitor to the park an adequate idea of the beauty of the picture presented, and to furnish interesting scientific data as to the formation of the crater in which the blue lake lies and its geologic history.

A DIVISION OF PLANT PATHOLOGY AT THE ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

DR. LOUIS O. KUNKEL, at present pathologist at the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research at Yonkers, New York, has been appointed a member of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research in charge of a division of plant pathology, to be established in connection with its Department of Animal Pathology situated near Princeton, New Jersey. The combined laboratories will hereafter be known as the Department of Animal and Plant Pathology of the Rockefeller Institute. The department is located on a tract of approximately eight hundred acres of land at Plainsboro, New Jersey, three miles from Princeton University. With the addition of plant pathology to the subjects studied in its group of laboratories and hospital, the Rockefeller Institute will include in its scientific work all the main branches of the pathology of living matter. For the first time human pathology, the pathology of lower animals and that of plants will have been brought together into one closely knit investigative unit.

Dr. Kunkel was born in Audrain County, Missouri, on May 7, 1884, and studied and received degrees at the University of Missouri, Washington University, St. Louis, and Columbia University. He was Cutting Traveling Fellow of Columbia University during 1915–16, when he studied in Stockholm, Sweden, and in Freiburg, Germany. He taught at the University of Missouri and at Columbia University, and later became pathologist to the Bureau of Plant Industry in the U. S. Department of Agriculture, then associate pathologist with the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association, and in 1923 pathologist at the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research.

Dr. Kunkel has been a contributor to the pathology of plant diseases, and his most recent investigations relate to the virus diseases of certain economic and ornamental plants. He has made contributions to the knowledge of the mosaic diseases of tobacco, sugar cane and corn, and of the virus disease of asters known as "yellows."

The constantly increasing number of diseases of man and lower animals discovered to be induced by filter-passing viruses brings the pathology of animal and plant diseases into intimate association. That both animal and plant pathology will profit materially by being investigated in close relationship may be taken as assured.

Dr. Kunkel will spend a period abroad, visiting institutions in which the study of plant pathology is pursued, before designing the new laboratories and establishing the new division of the Rockefeller Institute at Princeton.

CONFERENCE ON THE PROMOTION OF INTEREST IN PHYSICS

THE Council of the American Physical Society is considering how best to promote interest in all branches of physics and realizes that already existing organizations of students, teachers and users of physics may, in many places, be the best agencies for this purpose. In order to cooperate properly with these organizations and in order to assist if called upon in the formation of new groups, the society invites all who are interested to attend a conference for the informal discussion of some of the questions that have already presented themselves. The most pressing of these are:

1. Should the American Physical Society, or any larger organization, publish a journal of general interest to physicists? If so, what should it contain and how frequently should it appear?

2. Should the American Physical Society assist local organizations in arranging for programs of special interest, as, for example, by supplying lecturers?

3. How should the cost of desirable additional activities be met?

Other questions appropriate to the general purpose of the conference will be discussed if time permits.

The conference will be held at 8:00 p. m. on Thursday, April 30, in the National Academy of Sciences Building, B and 21st Streets, Washington, D. C. Professor L. W. McKeehan, Yale University, chairman of the American Physical Society's committee on sections and local groups, will be glad to

receive, as soon as possible, information or suggestions for presentation by those unable to attend in person.

BIRTHDAYS AND RESEARCH CENTERS

UNDER this title *Nature* is publishing each week under the birthdays of scientific men occurring during the week autobiographical notes on the work that they are doing. The four statements in the issue of March 21 include the following:

March 22, 1868—PROFESSOR ROBERT A. MILLIKAN, chairman of the executive council of the California Institute of Technology and director of the Norman Bridge Laboratory.

I am still pursuing quite intensively my studies in the field of the cosmic radiations; for they have relations to meteorology not yet fully explored, and their values at very high altitudes still have something to teach us about the precise nature of the cosmic atom-building processes. Also, as an adjunct to these studies, I am interested in the problem of the origin of the very heavy elements and, as a possible clue to its solution, am collecting further data, by a new method, on the terrestrial distribution of the radioactive elements. Artificially stimulated radiations of high penetrating power are also a part of the program.

March 25, 1863—DR. SIMON FLEXNER, For. Mem. R.S., director of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research.

The constantly growing number of those diseases of man, the lower animals and plants shown to be brought about by filterable agents or viruses, emphasizes their known significance. Among human beings, a disease of this character is poliomyelitis or infantile paralysis. The modes of infection and of extension of the virus of this disease are questions of outstanding importance. Ever since 1909, when the first serial transmission of the disease to monkeys was accomplished (Flexner and Lewis), these questions have commanded attention. The indications, then secured and since confirmed, are to the effect that the virus is nerve conducted, as it enters and even as it leaves the body of infected human beings and animals *via* the respiratory mucous membranes.

Not only is this finding of importance in so serious a disease as poliomyelitis, but corresponding questions are of high interest in connection with virus diseases generally, as is also the question of the precise nature (chemical or otherwise) of the viruses themselves.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

ACCORDING to press dispatches Professor Albert A. Michelson has improved after a somewhat critical nervous collapse. Dr. Michelson has been carrying on his experiments in the vicinity of Pasadena, measuring the velocity of light in a vacuum tube. It is said that he has been working until after midnight, returning from the Irvine Ranch, near Santa Ana, at three o'clock in the morning. The experiments are being continued during Dr. Michelson's illness by his assistants, Dr. Francis G. Pease, of the Mount Wilson Observatory, and Dr. Fred Pearson, of the University of Chicago.

PROFESSOR G. H. PARKER, director of the Harvard Zoological Laboratory, has been elected an honorary member of the Philosophical Society of Cambridge, England.

M. ELIE CARTAN, professor of mathematics at the University of Paris, has been elected a member of the Paris Academy of Sciences to succeed the late Paul Appell.

DR. PHILIP FURTWÄNGLER, professor of mathematics at the University of Vienna, has been elected a member of the Prussian Academy of Sciences.

THE University of Edinburgh will confer the honorary degree of doctor of laws at the graduation ceremonial on July 2 on: Dr. E. J. Allen, director of the Marine Biological Laboratory, Plymouth; on Sir George Berry, member of Parliament for the Scottish universities, formerly lecturer in ophthalmology in the University of Edinburgh, and on Sir Walter Morley Fletcher, secretary of the Medical Research Council.

AT a meeting of the senate of the University of London, Sir John Rose Bradford, president of the Royal College of Physicians, was nominated to receive the honorary degree of doctor of medicine, and Professor Kappers, of Amsterdam, the degree of doctor of science.

THE University of Darmstadt has conferred the honorary degree of doctor of engineering upon Bernard Arthur Behrend, of Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts, "for meritorious work in the construction of induction machines."

SIX chemists received the honorary doctorate of laws in connection with the dedication exercises of the building for chemistry, erected at a cost of $500,000, at Indiana University. These were: Dr. Fuanobu Isobe, chemical engineer of Tokio, Japan; Dr. O. C. Martin, chemical and metallurgical engineer, Antwerp; Dr. L. F. Rettger, chemist and bacteriologist, Yale University; Dr. O. B. Perry, consulting mining engineer, San Francisco; Dr. Earl Blough, chemical and metallurgical engineer, New York City; Dr. J. N. Currie, zymochemical engineer,