

Eugene Floyd Du Bois, Cornell Medical College.

William King Gregory, the American Museum of Natural History.

George Francis McEwen, the Scripps Institution, La Jolla, California.

Charles Alfred Weatherby, the Gray Herbarium, Harvard University.

Foreign Honorary Members

Ludwig Diels, Berlin.

August Krogh, Copenhagen.

Karl Willy Wagner, Berlin.

The following officers of the academy were elected:

President, Jeremiah D. M. Ford.

Vice-president for Class I, Harry M. Goodwin.

Vice-president for Class II, Walter B. Cannon.

Vice-president for Class III, Edwin F. Gay.

Vice-president for Class IV, Charles B. Gulick.

Corresponding Secretary, Tenney L. Davis.

Recording Secretary, Walter E. Clark.

Treasurer, Ingersoll Bowditch.

Librarian, Alfred C. Lane.

Editor, Herbert V. Neal.

On the recommendation of the Rumford Committee, the academy voted to award the Rumford Medals to Dr. Karl T. Compton, for his researches in thermionics and spectroscopy.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

At a dinner given by the Wistar Institute of Anatomy at the Hotel Bellevue-Stratford, Philadelphia, Dr. Simon H. Gage, emeritus professor of histology and embryology at Cornell University, was the guest of honor, on the occasion of his eightieth birthday on May 20.

DR. HARLOW SHAPLEY, director of the Harvard College Observatory, has been elected an honorary foreign member of the Royal Swedish Physiographic Society of Lund, and a foreign correspondent of the Royal Lombard Institute of Science and Letters.

DR. ALEXANDER WETMORE, assistant secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, has been elected an honorary member of the Société Orthologique et Mammalogique de France.

PROFESSOR ALBERT EINSTEIN, preliminary to delivering the third and last of his series of Rhodes Memorial Lectures at the University of Oxford on May 23, received from the university the degree of doctor of science.

THE University of Belfast will confer the honorary doctorate of science on Dr. Joseph Barcroft, professor of physiology at the University of Cambridge.

THE doctorate of laws was conferred by Queen's University, Canada, on May 6, on Dr. H. T. Güssow, Dominion botanist and chief of the Phytopathological Service of the Dominion of Canada. Dr. Güssow has also been elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

DR. PAUL ANDERSON, dean of the School of Engineering of the University of Kentucky, was the guest of honor at the annual spring dinner of the Kentucky Society in New York.

DR. CHARLES LANE POOR will retire from the chair of celestial mechanics at Columbia University at the

close of the academic year. Dr. Poor's permanent address will be Dering Harbor, Greenport, Maine.

DR. MAURICE B. VISSCHER, professor of physiology and pharmacology at the University of Southern California, has been appointed professor of physiology at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Chicago. He will occupy the chair formerly held by the late Professor George P. Dreyer. The new laboratories for physiology will be ready for occupancy during the summer.

DR. BORIS A. BAKHMETEFF, who was undersecretary of state and later ambassador to the United States during the Kerensky régime in Russia, has been appointed professor of civil engineering at Columbia University. He has been a consulting engineer in New York since 1922.

DR. RALPH D. BENNETT, who for the past year has been assisting Professor Arthur H. Compton in preparing for a series of experiments on cosmic rays, has been appointed associate professor of electrical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

DR. LOUIS B. SLICHTER has been appointed associate professor in the department of geology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Dr. Slichter is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, where he received the degree of doctor of philosophy in mathematical physics. During the war, he carried on research on the detection of submarines, and later formed, together with Dr. Max Mason, now president of the Rockefeller Foundation, a geophysical prospecting company for the location of mineral deposits. During the past year he has been engaged in the mathematical study of scientific geophysical problems at the California Institute of Technology.

PROFESSOR HENRI FEHR, head of the department of mathematics at the University of Geneva, has been appointed rector of the university. He is known to Americans and to the mathematical and educational world at large as the editor of *l'Enseignement Mathématique*, and as secretary of the International Commission on the Teaching of Mathematics, not only the present one, but the one that was founded in 1908. He has held a professorship in the University of Geneva since 1900 and was twice dean of the faculty of science.

DR. ERNEST WILLIAM HOBSON, since 1910 Sadlerian professor of pure mathematics at the University of Cambridge, will retire on September 3.

PROFESSOR KURT WEGENER, formerly head of the Spitzbergen Observatory, will succeed as leader of the German Scientific Expedition his brother, Professor Alfred Wegener, who died in Greenland.

DR. R. F. MEHL, superintendent of the division of physical metallurgy of the Naval Research Laboratory, has been appointed assistant director of research of the American Rolling Mill Company, Middletown, Ohio. He will be in charge of the physical science department of the Armco laboratories, and will take up his new responsibilities on September 1. He has been one of the research consultants for this company for the past eighteen months.

EARLY in May Dr. William Beebe sailed for Bermuda with a staff of nine. This will be the fourteenth expedition of the department of tropical research of the New York Zoological Society and the third Bermuda Oceanographic Expedition. Study of the fish of the shallow waters and deep sea trawling will be carried on from Nonsuch Island as a base along the lines of work of the last two years. Particular attention will be paid to the bottom fauna a mile and a half down. An attempt will be made in September in the bathysphere to reach a depth of half a mile beneath the surface.

DR. ROBERT HEGNER, professor of protozoology in the Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health, accompanied by two of his students, Dr. Carl Johnson and Dr. Robert Stabler, sailed recently for Panama where they will spend the summer studying Amoebiasis at the Gorgas Memorial Laboratory.

THE American research expedition headed by Professor George G. Simpson arrived in Buenos Aires on May 20 from Patagonia after seven months' study of paleontological fauna on behalf of the American Museum of Natural History. Professor Simpson will continue his studies in the La Plata Museum.

DEAN RICHARD G. TYLER, of the College of Engineering at the University of Washington, will spend the coming summer in Europe, where he will inspect hydraulic laboratory installations in Germany and England. Dean Tyler, whose particular field is sanitary engineering, will also study water purification methods being developed by continental engineers.

THROUGH a cooperative arrangement between the Physikalische-Technische Reichsanstalt and the U. S. Bureau of Standards, an exchange of personnel has been arranged for the purpose of promoting work on fundamental standards. Dr. F. Henning, of the Physikalische-Technische Reichsanstalt, is studying at the Bureau of Standards the proposal of the bureau that the emission from a black body at the freezing point of platinum be adopted as the primary standard of light. Dr. G. W. Vinal, of the staff of the Bureau of Standards, is proceeding to the Reichsanstalt to engage in intercomparisons of the national standards of electromotive force and in work on the improvement of standard cells.

DR. HEINRICH WIELAND, professor of organic chemistry at the Technical School at Munich, winner of the Nobel Prize in chemistry in 1930, was a recent lecturer at the University of Washington. Under the auspices of the Washington Chapter of Sigma Xi, Professor Wieland discussed recent researches in biological oxidations. He is touring the United States, accompanied by Mrs. Wieland.

DR. F. G. BANTING, head of the department of medical research in the Banting Institute of the University of Toronto, spoke to students and faculty members of the medical school of the University of Michigan on May 8 on "The History of Insulin."

PROFESSOR H. D. SMYTH, of Princeton University, spoke at the Bartol Laboratory of the Franklin Institute on April 22 on "The Band Spectrum of Carbon Dioxide."

DR. G. H. PARKER, director of the Zoological Laboratory of Harvard University, delivered the following series of lectures, during the week of May 4, at the University of Minnesota under the auspices of the department of zoology: "The Nervous System and Its Effectors," "Chromatophores and Other Effectors in Relation to Secretion," "The Significance of Secretion in Sense Organs and Central Nervous Organs," and "The Passage of Sperms and Eggs through the Oviducts of the Higher Vertebrates."

THE College of Medicine of the University of Illinois Chapter of Sigma Xi held a meeting for the initiation of new members on May 20. At this meeting Dr. F. R. Moulton, past national president and member of the National Executive Council, pre-

sented greetings from the national organization. Greetings from Northwestern Chapter were presented by Dr. F. D. Barker, *president* of the chapter, and from the University of Chicago Chapter by Dr. E. S. Bastin, *vice-president* of the chapter. The scientific discourse was given by Dr. O. F. Kampmeier on "The Origin and Development of the Human Thoracic Duct."

At the annual meeting of the Boston Society of Natural History, held on May 6, the following officers were elected for 1931-1932: *President*, Charles H. Taylor; *Vice-presidents*, Nathaniel T. Kidder, Glover M. Allen and William M. Wheeler; *Secretary*, Clinton V. MacCoy; *Treasurer*, Augustus P. Loring, Jr.; *Trustees*, Thomas Barbour, Joseph A. Cushman, William L. W. Field, Laurence B. Fletcher, Frederic H. Kennard and John C. Phillips. At the same meeting the annual Walker Prizes in Natural History, offered for the best memoir on any subject in the field of general zoology, were awarded to Arthur Svihla, of the State College of Washington, for his memoir entitled "A Comparative Life History of the Mice of the Genus *Peromyscus*," and to Mr. Tze-tuan Chen, of the University of Pennsylvania, for his memoir on the "Sympathetic Nervous System of an Annelid."

A MEETING of the Acoustical Society of America was held on May 4 and 5 in Camden, New Jersey, in the auditorium of the RCA Victor Company. At this meeting the following officers were elected for the new year: *President*, Dayton C. Miller, Case School of Applied Science; *Vice-president*, C. W. Hewlett, General Electric Company; *Secretary*, Wallace Waterfall, The Celotex Company, Chicago; *Treasurer*, E. E. Free, New York City; *Executive Council*, F. R. Watson, University of Illinois; G. W. Stewart, The State University of Iowa; Vern O. Knudsen, University of California at Los Angeles; E. W. Kellogg, RCA Victor Company, Inc., Camden, New Jersey, and H. D. Arnold, Bell Telephone Laboratories, New York City. The next meeting of the society is to be held on November 30 and December 1 in Cleveland, Ohio, at the Case School of Applied Science.

THE fourteenth annual meeting of the Royal Society of Canada was held from May 20 to 22. Dr. Charles Camsell, deputy minister of mines of the Dominion, delivered, as president of the society, an address on Canada's position in the mineral situation of the British Empire. Dr. J. S. Plaskett, director of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory at Victoria, British Columbia, gave a popular lecture on "The Structure and Motions of the Galaxy."

It is stated in *Nature* that at the annual election of the Royal Philosophical Society of Glasgow, on

March 25, the following officers were elected; *President*, Professor W. R. Scott; *Vice-president*, Dr. J. W. French; *Honorary Treasurer*, Sir John Mann; *Honorary Librarian*, Dr. J. Knight; *Honorary Auditors*, Mr. John J. D. Hourston and Mr. James A. French; *Acting Secretary*, Dr. James M. Macaulay. During the session, Sir Donald MacAlister, chancellor of the University of Glasgow; Sir C. V. Raman, professor of physics in the University of Calcutta, and Professor F. O. Bower, emeritus professor of botany in the University of Glasgow, were elected honorary members of the society.

A GENERAL meeting of the members of the Royal Institution was held on May 4, Sir Robert Robertson, treasurer and vice-president, in the chair. Sir Joseph Thomson was reelected honorary professor of natural philosophy, and Lord Rutherford of Nelson was reelected professor of natural philosophy.

It is announced officially that the next International Mathematical Congress will be held the first week in September, 1932, at Zurich, Switzerland. The committee on organization consists of Professor A. Fueter, of the University of Zurich, *president*; Professors H. Fehr, rector of the University of Geneva, and M. Plancherel, of the Ecole polytechnique fédérale, Zurich, *vice-presidents*; and Professors F. Gonseth, of the Ecole polytechnique fédérale, and A. Speiser, of the University of Zurich, *secretaries*. The secretaries may be addressed at the Séminaire de mathématiques, Université, Zurich. It will be recalled that the first of these international mathematical congresses was held in Zurich in 1897.

THE Second General Assembly of the International Union for the Scientific Investigation of Population Problems will meet in London from June 15 to 19 of this year. The delegates of the American National Committee who will attend this meeting are: Dr. Raymond Pearl, president of the union, the Johns Hopkins University; Dr. Louis I. Dublin, chairman of the American National Committee, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company; Dr. Alfred J. Lotka, secretary-treasurer, American National Committee, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company; Dr. John Black, chairman, Commission 1, Population and Food Supply, Investigation of Population Problems of the International Union, Harvard University; Professor Robert E. Chaddock, Columbia University; Professor Henry Pratt Fairchild, New York University; Professor James W. Glover, president, Teachers Insurance and Annuity Plan; Dr. George W. Kosmak, editor, *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*; Mr. Frank W. Notestein, Milbank Memorial Fund; Dr. L. J. Reed, of the Johns Hopkins University, and Dr. P. K. Whelpton, of the Scripps Foun-

dition for Research in Population Problems. Seven of these delegates are sailing on the *Rotterdam* on June 6.

THE Paris correspondent of Science Service reports that the prize offered by the International Committee of the Red Cross at Geneva for a reagent to detect small amounts of deadly mustard gas in the air has not been awarded. The jury of chemists found none of the submitted reagents satisfactory. According to the terms of the contest, the reagent should have been able to detect with certainty less than one grain of the gas in about one quart of air. The amount of the prize was 10,000 Swiss francs, about \$2,000. The contest closed last December and the jury has since then been considering the reagents submitted with their methods of use. These were known to the jury only by number, the names of the authors being kept separately. All the methods and reagents were examined in detail. Nine were eliminated at the first examination. The remaining four were made the subject of control experiments. The results were not sufficiently conclusive and the jury decided it could not award the prize offered by the committee. The jury consisted of the following: Professor G. Urbain, of the Sorbonne, director of the Chemical Institute of the University of Paris, president; Professor F. Haber, member of the Berlin Academy; Professor F. Swarts, of the University of Ghent, member of the Belgian Royal Academy of Sciences; Sir William Pope, professor at Cambridge University, member of the British Royal Society; Dr. H. Zangger, professor at the University of Zurich, director of the Institute of Legal Medicine of Zurich, and Professor Demolis, technical adviser of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

THE National Geographic Society has presented to the National Museum of Washington the zoological specimens collected by the expedition to the jungle

frontier between Brazil and Venezuela which was headed by Mr. Ernest G. Holt.

THE Division of Horticultural Crops and Diseases, Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, has established at Seattle, Washington, a laboratory to be devoted to research on the freezing preservation of fruits and vegetables.

THE economic depression has been reflected in the hospitals throughout the country, it appears from the American Medical Association's annual survey of hospital service in the United States, as quoted by Science Service. Although the hospitals did more work during 1930 than the previous year, the increase came entirely in charitable institutions. The association states in the current issue of its journal that "While governmental and other charitable hospitals were burdened with an unusually large number of patients, those that serve pay patients generally suffered a decrease in patronage." During 1930, the number of beds in all types of hospitals increased from 907,133 to 955,869. This increase of 48,736 beds does not include bassinets, of which there were 1,645 more during 1930 than the year before. Hospitals for nervous and mental patients continued to grow. The capacity of these institutions increased from 414,386 to 437,919. Over nine tenths of the beds available in these hospitals were occupied during 1930, while less than two thirds of the available beds in general hospitals were occupied. Outpatient services of hospitals had a tremendous growth, both in the number of such departments and in their use. The greatest number of new departments were organized in western states, but the greatest rate of growth was in the South Atlantic states. The type of service given in hospitals has also shown a steady improvement during recent years, as shown by the increased number of x-ray and physical therapy departments and laboratories.

DISCUSSION

THE PROGRAM OF THE UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF CALENDAR REFORM

THE University Association for the Study of Calendar Reform has been organized by a group who believe that any real alteration of the calendar is some years in the future, as only a small minority in scientific, educational and business circles is showing interest, and these persons do not agree on what alterations are desirable. The members of this association believe, therefore, that persons interested should investigate methods of eliminating as many as pos-

sible of the alleged defects of the present calendar without waiting for the proposed overhauling. In other words they suggest that we clear the ground for future work by finding out which of the troubles charged are real calendar defects, and which can be remedied by changing present methods.

According to calendar reform organizations (SCIENCE, January 30, 1931, page 118), "the three undisputed defects of the present calendar are: Unequal months; changing of week-day names for monthly dates; drifting dates for Easter and other church festivals." The months vary in length from twenty-eight to thirty-one days. The number of