

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

GRANTS FROM THE ELIZABETH THOMPSON SCIENCE FUND

PREVIOUS awards from the Elizabeth Thompson Science Fund were reported in *SCIENCE* on November 15, 1929, and earlier. Since the last report the following awards have been made:

At the meeting of December 3, 1929

Margaret Harwood, Maria Mitchell Observatory, Nantucket, \$300 for assistance in the measurement of the light of variable stars and the computation of the periods of variation.

At the meeting of February 11, 1930

R. A. Brink, University of Wisconsin, \$300 for assistance in the classification of pedigreed maize cultures segregating for a condition known as semi-sterility.

J. E. Hull, Belford Vicarage, Northumberland, \$150 for the purchase of a microscope to aid in his studies of the acarina.

Arthur Jacot, Shantung Christian University, \$120 toward aid in carrying on researches on moss mite fauna and on mullets.

R. L. Taylor, Bar Harbor, Maine, \$100 toward the compilation of an alphabetical list and bibliography of the parasitic hymenoptera.

W. S. Cooper, University of Minnesota, \$350 for aid in physiographic and vegetational investigation of the early post-glacial sand dunes of the Mississippi Valley in Minnesota.

L. O. Overholts, Pennsylvania State College, \$150 for assistance in completing a monograph on the polyporaceae of the United States and Canada.

H. C. Heath, Woman's College of Alabama, \$300 for aid in experiments in the use of potash shale as a soil builder.

At the meeting of November 24, 1930

H. J. Deuel, Jr., University of Southern California, \$300 for investigations on the antiketogenic value of various carbohydrates.

Arthur Jacot, Shantung Christian University, \$200 for aid in duplicating two early collections (now lost) of moss mites.

F. W. Emerson, New Mexico Normal University, \$50 for equipment to study the distribution and means of propagation of the scrub oak and conifer association.

At the meeting of February 28, 1931

William Rowan, University of Alberta, \$400 toward the expenses of his experiments on migratory habits of birds.

At the meeting of May 26, 1931

Gerhard Kirsch and Friedrich Hecht, of Vienna, \$250 to procure a microbalance for special analysis of radioactive minerals with reference to the better determination of the age of the earth.

P. B. Babkin, McGill University, \$300 for assistance

in experimental investigations on the relation of the gastric secretion to pernicious anemia.

At the meeting of November 24, 1931

W. H. Horr, University of Kansas, \$100 for the purchase of certain sugars for the further study of the nutrition of fungi.

The trustees of the Elizabeth Thompson Science Fund meet ordinarily during the last ten days of the months of February, May and November. Applications for grants should be sent well in advance of the meeting to the secretary of the fund, Dr. Edwin B. Wilson, 55 Van Dyke St., Boston, Mass.

THE UNITED STATES PHARMACOPOEIA

E. FULLERTON COOK, PH.M., Philadelphia, Pa., is chairman of the Committee of Revision of the Pharmacopoeia of the United States of America, 1930-1940.

The chairmen of the sub-committees working on the eleventh revision of the Pharmacopoeia are as follows:

Reid Hunt, M.D., of Boston, Mass., Sub-Committee on Scope.

H. A. Christian, M.D., of Boston, Mass., Sub-Committee on Therapeutics and Pharmacodynamics.

C. W. Edmunds, M.D., of Ann Arbor, Mich., Sub-Committee on Biological Assays.

G. W. McCoy, M.D., of Washington, D. C., Sub-Committee on Biological Products and Diagnostics Tests.

E. L. Newcomb, Ph.M., of New York City, Sub-Committee on Botany and Pharmacognosy.

C. B. Jordan, M.S., of West Lafayette, Indiana, Sub-Committee on Proximate Assays.

John C. Krantz, Jr., Ph.D., of Baltimore, Md., Sub-Committee on Inorganic Chemicals.

G. D. Beal, Ph.D., of Pittsburgh, Pa., Sub-Committee on Organic Chemicals.

Ernest Little, Ph.D., of Newark, N. J., Sub-Committee on Reagents and Test Solutions.

Charles H. LaWall, Sc.D., of Philadelphia, Pa., Sub-Committee on Volatile Oils.

W. L. Scoville, Sc.D., of Detroit, Mich., Sub-Committee on Extracts, Fluidextracts and Tinctures.

H. A. Langenhan, Ph.D., of Seattle, Wash., Sub-Committee on Waters, Solutions, Spirits, Syrups, Elixirs.

Leonard A. Seltzer, Sc.D., of Detroit, Mich., Sub-Committee on Cerates, Ointments and Miscellaneous Galenicals.

Theodore J. Bradley, Ph.D., of Boston, Mass., Sub-Committee on Tables, Weights and Measures.

A. G. DuMez, Ph.D., of Baltimore, Md., Sub-Committee on Nomenclature.

SIGMA PI SIGMA CONVENTION

THE national convention of Sigma Pi Sigma, honorary physics fraternity, was held at the University

of Kentucky from November 5 to 7. National officers, delegates from the twenty chapters and alumni members gathered at 7:30 P. M. on November 5 at the Lafayette Hotel in Lexington for a model initiation of pledges from the Kentucky chapter, the pre-convention smoker and a meeting of the executive council of the society. Formal sessions of the convention began at 9:00 A. M. on November 6, with an address of welcome by Professor Wm. S. Webb, head of the department of physics of the University of Kentucky. Dr. R. C. Young, of the College of William and Mary, then delivered his address as retiring president on "Recent Advances in Physics in their Relations to Other Sciences."

The report of the secretary, Dr. Marsh W. White, of the Pennsylvania State College, indicated a substantial development of interest in the idea of a national honorary physics fraternity, as evidenced by the chartering of fourteen new chapters since the previous convention in 1928 and a growth in membership to more than 700. Among the new chapters scheduled for installation is one at the University of the Philippines. The secretary reported the beginning in 1930 of the publication of a magazine, *The Radiations of Sigma Pi Sigma* and an esoteric publication, *The Bulletin*. Each chapter delegate also presented a report of the activities of his group, showing that open meetings of the chapters during 1930-31 have been addressed by such speakers as R. A. Millikan, K. T. Compton, W. E. Forsythe, Arthur Haas (University of Vienna), D. C. Miller, F. K. Richtmyer, C. E. Mendenhall, etc.

The guest speaker at the convention was Dr. W. F. G. Swann, director of the Bartol Research Foundation. He was initiated into the fraternity as an honorary member, after which he spoke on "Electrodynamics and Relativity." His evening address to a large audience was on "Some Philosophical Concepts of Modern Physics."

At the business sessions on November 7 plans were devised for nation-wide tours of prominent physicists as speakers to the chapters of the fraternity and at neighboring institutions. Officers elected were: *President*, Dr. M. N. States, Central Scientific Company; *Vice-president*, Professor G. D. Collins, Duke University, and *Executive Secretary*, Dr. Marsh W. White, the Pennsylvania State College. The additional members of the *Executive Council* are: Dr. R. C. Young, College of William and Mary; Dr. R. C. Colwell, West Virginia University; R. W. Graves, Duke University, and Dr. J. M. Douglas, Davidson College.

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICS TEACHERS

THE second annual meeting of the American Association of Physics Teachers will be held on Decem-

ber 30 and 31 in New Orleans in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, with which this association is affiliated. Headquarters has been established at the Hotel Roosevelt.

On Wednesday, December 30, at 6:30 P. M., the association will meet with the American Physical Society at a joint dinner at the Hotel Roosevelt.

On Thursday, December 31, at 10:00 A. M., the association will meet in Room E, Hotel Roosevelt, and the program will consist of a list of invited papers dealing with various phases of the most recent developments in the teaching of physics.

The afternoon program at 2:00 P. M. will consist of a number of short papers given by members of the association, dealing with special pieces of laboratory and demonstration apparatus of recent development by the authors. Some of this new apparatus and others not discussed in these papers will be on exhibition in the general apparatus exhibit of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in the Municipal Auditorium.

At 4:00 P. M. on Thursday, December 31, there will be the annual meeting for election of officers and transaction of business.

The detailed program of the various sessions may be obtained previous to the meeting by writing to the secretary of the association, Professor Wm. S. Webb, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

THE Forty-ninth Stated Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union was held in Detroit, Michigan, from October 19 to 23, 1931. The meeting was largely attended and representatives were present from 21 states and 5 provinces. The headquarters were at the Book-Cadillac Hotel where the business sessions and most of the public sessions were held. On Wednesday the meetings were held at Ann Arbor, in the Museum of Zoology of the University of Michigan, and on Thursday afternoon the closing session was held at the Cranbrook Institute of Science at Bloomfield Hills.

The officers were reelected for 1932 as follows: *President*, Joseph Grinnell, Berkeley, California; *Vice-presidents*, A. C. Bent, Taunton, Massachusetts; J. H. Fleming, Toronto; *Secretary*, T. S. Palmer, Washington, D. C.; *Treasurer*, W. L. McAtee, Washington, D. C. Additional members of the council, James P. Chapin, Ruthven Deane, H. C. Oberholser, J. L. Peters, C. W. Richmond, T. S. Roberts and P. A. Taverner.

The election of new members included three corresponding fellows: Albert Collin, of Helsinki, Fin-