

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-

land; M. B. Kinnear, of London, and Ernst Mayr, of Berlin.

Five members elected were: Clinton G. Abbott, San Diego; O. L. Austin, Jr., North Eastham, Massachusetts; W. W. Bowen, Philadelphia; B. H. Christy, Sewickley, Pennsylvania, and Mrs. M. M. Nice, Columbus.

The Brewster Medal, awarded biennially for the most meritorious work on American birds, was awarded this year to Mrs. Florence Merriam Bailey for her "Birds of New Mexico."

On Friday, October 23, the members visited the Jack Miner Sanctuary, at Kingsville, Ontario, and after luncheon proceeded to Point Pelee National Park, where the afternoon was spent in observing the birds.

MEETING AT THE MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN IN HONOR OF JULIUS SACHS

ACCORDING to a statement issued by Dr. George T. Moore, director of the Missouri Botanical Garden, the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Julius Sachs occurs October 2, 1932. In view of the proximity of this date to the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in New Orleans, it seems suitable that some recognition be given to this anniversary during the holidays. Accordingly, the Missouri Botanical Garden is planning to keep "open house" on Sunday, December 27, for botanists who are planning to attend the meetings at New Orleans.

Guides will be on hand for the outside gardens and conservatories, and will leave the main gate at Tower Grove Avenue and Flora Place on the hour from 9 A. M. until 12 noon. The library and herbarium will be open during the morning and members of the staff will be in attendance to furnish information or assistance. There will be a special exhibit of books of historical interest relating to the development of plant physiology. Luncheon will be served in the conference room of the administration building at 1 P. M.

There will be a program of scientific papers in the lecture hall of the old museum building at 2 P. M.:

"Plant Physiology as Sachs Found It," by Dr. Ernest S. Reynolds, Washington University.

"The Contributions of Sachs to Plant Physiology," by Dr. Charles F. Hottes, University of Illinois.

"Progress in Plant Physiology since Sachs," by Dr. D. T. MacDougal, Carnegie Institution.

The best train for New Orleans leaves at 6:30 P. M., Sunday, arriving at New Orleans at 6 P. M., Monday. The program will be completed in ample time to admit of taking this train. Tickets can be purchased from St. Louis to New Orleans over the Missouri Pacific Railroad. A representative of the railroad will be at the garden to arrange sleeping car reservations, for which ample space will be reserved.

THE THOMAS CHROWDER CHAMBERLIN SCIENCE LIBRARY

ON October 20 Beloit College dedicated a new science library to the memory of Dr. Thomas Chrowder Chamberlin, graduate of Beloit College in 1866 and later a member of the faculty. This library has been built around Dr. Chamberlin's private library which was given to Beloit by Dr. Rollin T. Chamberlin in 1930 and has been named the Thomas Chrowder Chamberlin Science Library. Professor Chamberlin also sent \$1,000 to supplement this collection of books in the field of geology.

The disposal of this gift brought home to the college the advantages which might be obtained by organizing a science library to be housed in the Pearsons Hall of Science, and to be administered as a branch of the Beloit College Library. Through the kindness of the heirs of the late William E. Hale, a gift of \$11,404 was used for the reconstruction of the small auditorium in Pearsons Hall of Science, the sloping floor being replaced with a cement floor and the entire surrounding brick walls being made more nearly fireproof. The basement below was walled up and the construction was so carried out that the lifting of a cement slab will later, with the growth of the library, make possible an extension of stacks into the lower floor. In the reconstruction, a modern double sky-light was installed and ventilation was secured through the installation of several univent units. Library equipment, including approved metal stacks, attractive oak tables and Windsor chairs, suitable periodical and display book racks, with complete card index files, have been secured.

The library already contains 13,000 volumes. It makes possible an ideal relation between laboratories and reference books through its nearness to the various scientific laboratories.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Penrose Medal of the Geological Society of America, given for outstanding service in the advancement of geological science, has been awarded to

Dr. William Morris Davis, professor emeritus of geology of Harvard University. Presentation will be made on December 30 at the annual dinner of the