

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE William H. Nichols medal of the New York section of the American Chemical Society for 1932 has been awarded to Professor James Bryant Conant, chairman of the division of chemistry at Harvard University, in recognition of his work in organic chemistry, particularly in the chemistry of chlorophyll. Dr. Conant will be presented with the Chandler Medal of Columbia University on February 5, when he will discuss "Equilibria and Rates of Some Organic Reactions," and the Nichols Medal on March 11, when he will speak on "An Introduction to the Chlorophyll Molecule."

THE honorary degree of doctor of science has been conferred by the University of Chicago on Dr. William Wallace Campbell, president emeritus of the University of California, president of the National Academy of Sciences.

THE Royal Swedish Academy of Science has elected Professor R. W. Wood, of the Johns Hopkins University, a foreign member, in recognition of his researches in the domain of physical optics.

THE William Wood Gerhard Gold Medal of the Pathological Society of Philadelphia was presented to Dr. Alfred N. Richards, professor of pharmacology, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, at a meeting on January 14. Dr. Richards addressed the meeting on "Recent Developments in the Experimental Study of the Function of the Kidney."

THE Order "Al Merito" of Ecuador was recently presented to Surgeon General Hugh S. Cumming, director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, in recognition of the cooperation of the bureau with the Government of Ecuador in a sanitary campaign throughout the republic and especially in Guayaquil.

At the New Orleans meeting of the American Society of Naturalists officers were elected as follows: *President*, Dr. R. A. Gortner, professor of agricultural biochemistry, University of Minnesota; *Vice-president*, Dr. H. J. Muller, professor of zoology, University of Texas; *Secretary*, Dr. E. W. Lindstrom, professor of genetics, Iowa State College (3 years); *Treasurer*, Dr. Sewall Wright, professor of zoology, University of Chicago, reelected.

DR. WINTERTON C. CURTIS, professor of zoology, University of Missouri, has been elected president of the American Society of Zoologists.

NEWLY elected officers of the Botanical Society of America are: *President*, Dr. George J. Peirce, professor of botany and plant physiology, Stanford University; *Vice-president*, Dr. Arthur J. Eames, professor of botany, Cornell University; *Secretary*, Dr.

Sam F. Trelease, professor of botany, Columbia University; editors of the *American Journal of Botany*, Dr. Lester W. Sharp, professor of botany, Cornell University, and Dr. B. M. Duggar, professor of physiological and applied botany, University of Wisconsin.

THE council of the American Institute of Consulting Engineers has elected the following officers for the ensuing year: *President*, Mr. Charles Page Perin, of New York, to succeed Colonel Frederic A. Molitor; *Vice-president*, Mr. Edwin F. Wendt, of Washington, D. C., and *Secretary*, Mr. Philip W. Henry, of New York. Mr. J. P. Hallihan, of Detroit, and Mr. A. E. Forstall, of New York, are new members of the council.

PROFESSOR JAMES B. POLLOCK, who for approximately thirty-five years has been a member of the department of botany of the University of Michigan, has presented his resignation, to take effect at the end of the present semester.

DR. P. S. BURGESS, professor of agricultural chemistry at the University of Arizona, has been appointed dean of the College of Agriculture and director of the Experiment Station.

DR. HOWARD D. NEWTON, professor of chemistry, has been appointed dean of the Division of Arts and Sciences of Connecticut Agricultural College at Storrs. He succeeds the late Professor George H. Lamson.

DR. MARK V. ZIEGLER, of the U. S. Public Health Service, will spend a year in Raleigh, North Carolina, assisting the State Board of Health in the development of the state and county health programs.

INVESTIGATION of cosmic rays on mountain-tops in snow-water lakes and deep tunnels in Colorado will be resumed in June when Dr. R. D. Bennett, of Boston, will join Professor Joyce C. Stearns, of the University of Denver, and his party.

DR. SAUL B. ARENSON, associate professor of chemistry at the University of Cincinnati, will sail early in April for a tour of the Orient and Australasia. He intends to investigate the status of the broadcasting of scientific talks, as well as to visit certain chemical industries in which he is interested.

DR. PAUL WEATHERWAX, of the department of botany of Indiana University, will leave New Orleans on February 17 for a three months' collecting trip in southern Mexico and Central America. A general collection of grasses will be made and special emphasis will be placed on material having any bearing on the question of the ancestry of Indian corn.

ROBERT VAN V. ANDERSON, formerly of the U. S. Geological Survey, is completing a two years' stay in Algeria where he is engaged in a geological study of the western coast ranges, as collaborator of the "Service de la Carte Géologique de l'Algérie." His address is care of the American Consul, Algiers.

THE first Arthur Lecture of the Smithsonian Institution will be delivered on January 27 in the Auditorium of the Natural History Museum, by Dr. Henry Norris Russell, professor of astronomy at Princeton University. His subject is "The Composition of the Sun."

THE Cutter Lecture on Preventive Medicine will be delivered by Dr. Leslie T. Webster, of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, on Tuesday, January 26, at the Harvard Medical School. Dr. Webster will speak on "Experimental Epidemiology."

THE annual invitation lecture of the University of Iowa Chapter of Sigma Xi was given on January 13, by Dr. Edgar Allen, professor of anatomy and dean of the School of Medicine of the University of Missouri. The title was "Eggs of Man and Monkey." Following the lecture a series of demonstrations of research in progress in the department of zoology were available for inspection of the members and guests of the society.

DR. PHILIP B. HADLEY, associate professor of bacteriology at the University of Michigan Medical School, will give the Eighth Ludvig Hektoen Lecture of the Frank Billings Foundation at the City Club, Chicago, on March 25, on "New Trends in Medical Bacteriology and Immunology."

THE New York Post-Graduate Medical School and Hospital will celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of its founding at a dinner of the faculty association on January 30. The speakers will be Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia University; Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, Secretary of the Interior, and Dr. George H. Meeker, dean of the Graduate School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania.

ON January 18 the laboratory for the physiology of bacteria was dedicated at Cornell University by Dean Cornelius Betten. Dr. Otto Rahn gave an address on "Cell Structure and Cell Functions."

AT Northwestern University in the department of geology and geography during the first semester of the current academic year visiting lecturers and their subjects included: Dr. G. H. Cady, Illinois Geological Survey, on the "Classification of Coal"; Professor A. N. Winchell, University of Wisconsin, on "The Origin of the Graphites in Veins and Pegmatites"; Dr. G. F. Loughlin, U. S. Geological Survey, on "The

Ore Deposits of Cripple Creek, Colorado"; Dr. D. G. Thompson, U. S. Geological Survey, on "The Work of the Ground-Water Section of the U. S. Geological Survey"; Professor A. C. Noé, University of Chicago, on "A Geologist in Russia"; Mr. Thomas A. Hendricks, U. S. Geological Survey, on "Oklahoma Coal Measures"; Dr. T. S. Lovering, U. S. Geological Survey, on "The Geology of the Moffat Tunnel" and "The Mineral Belt of the Front Range, Colorado."

THE National Research Council has announced a new committee on accessory minerals of crystalline rocks to study the nature of such minerals, their variation in time and space in igneous bodies and metamorphosed masses and their distribution in sediments. Such studies in the past have shown that some igneous masses have rather characteristic accessory minerals which may be useful in some cases in determining the relationships between isolated outcrops, but very little is known regarding the differences in different parts of a single intrusion or in successive intrusions from a single magmatic source. The committee will attempt to correlate work now in progress and stimulate further study along these lines. At present the committee consists of E. S. Larsen, of Harvard University; J. C. Reed, of the U. S. Geological Survey; J. E. Stark, of Northwestern University; A. C. Tester, of Iowa; A. N. Winchell, of Wisconsin (chairman), and J. F. Wright, of the Canadian Geological Survey.

IN view of the disturbed economic and financial conditions in Europe and America the Council of the Institute of Metals has found it necessary to postpone the meeting, which was to have been held in the United States and in Canada next autumn. The meeting had been arranged with the cooperation of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, and an assurance has been given that the members will be welcome at such later time as may suit their convenience. The Institute of Metals finished the year with a net gain in its membership of 72—compared with a net gain in 1930 of 38—thus making the total membership 2,232, the highest figures on record.

THE eighteenth annual conference of the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis will be held at University College, London, on July 21, 22 and 23. The occasion will be taken to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the discovery of the tubercle bacillus by Robert Koch.

PROFESSOR J. W. GREGORY, as reported in *Nature*, planned to leave England on January 4 with an expedition to investigate some little-known parts of the coastal cordillera of southern Peru and their relations to the Andes and to the recent extension of South

America into the Pacific. It is hoped to examine especially the structure of the part of the Peruvian coast that trends from northwest to southeast, and the geology of the desert belt between that coast and the western front of the Andes. A geological section is also to be prepared across the little-known belt between Ica and the Urubamba valley. The earth-movements and volcanic epochs of the Andes appear to have significant correspondence in date with the main stages in the formation of the Great Rift valley that were discovered in its exploration by Professor Gregory thirty-nine years ago. The expedition will descend from the Andean plateau down one of the head streams of the Amazon, and may return to England across Brazil. Miss McKinnon Wood will accompany the expedition especially to collect fossils. Mr. A. V. Coverley Price will join the expedition at Lima. The work will be helped during parts of the journey by Mr. M. A. Tarnawiecki and Señor Don Alberto Calderon.

THE annual announcement and report of the Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory for 1932 has been distributed recently. The booklet of thirty-seven pages contains not only the announcements for the thirty-fourth season of the Weir Mitchell Station at Salisbury Cove, and the fourth season of the Dorr Station at Bar Harbor, but also eighteen abstracts of research accomplished in 1931. Application blanks for the use of rooms, and copies of the announcement may be secured from William H. Cole, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N. J.

THE annual report of Dr. E. D. Merrill, director of the New York Botanical Garden, records that during the year the gardens received special gifts of \$18,698.47. Among these were \$11,000 from the Carnegie Corporation, \$1,918 from Henry W. de Forest to support exploration and investigation of the Louisiana iris and \$506 from Dr. N. L. Britton for the purchase of botanical material. Added to the general endowment was a \$20,000 bequest from Mortimer L. Schiff. The gardens received an unrestricted gift of \$5,000 from the estate of Samuel R. Betts. Among the additions of the year was the K. K. Mackenzie herbarium of more than 60,000 specimens.

THE Department of Botany of Indiana State University has acquired the Charles C. Deam herbarium of 5,000 to 6,000 mounted Indiana plants. The collection was built up in thirty years of work throughout the state by Dr. Deam, who for many years was state forester and is now research forester of the State Conservation Department.

THE physiological institute of the University of Berne has received a gift of \$3,000 from the Rockefeller Foundation for the purchase of electrical apparatus.

AN international agreement between Sweden and Denmark for the protection of migratory birds was signed recently by the Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Danish chargé d'affaires *ad interim*, and the agreement probably will be ratified by the respective governments in the near future, according to information cabled to the Department of State by Mr. John Ball Osborne, consul general at Stockholm. Among other provisions, the agreement forbids the hunting or killing of swans, the use of snares, of shotguns larger than 12 gage, and of automatic shotguns for "sea birds," and the hunting of sea birds from motor boats in the sound (between Sweden and Denmark) and other waters from May 31 to October 1.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Journal* of the American Medical Association writes that "An accident that calls to mind the catastrophe caused, three years ago, in Belgium by the death-dealing fogs has just occurred in Lyons, although the consequences were less grave. Within a few minutes, a section of the city in which there were many factories and in which many workmen resided found that its atmosphere had become irrespirable. The people suffered from attacks of choking and coughing. The police interrupted all street traffic and ordered all the doors and windows closed. Several cases of bronchitis with choking developed in children, but no deaths occurred. An inquiry soon showed that emanations came from a factory on the banks of the river, in which various chemical products were manufactured and which produced stannic chloride, employed in the manufacture of silk goods, silk weaving being the principal industry of Lyons. This salt is obtained by the direct action of chlorine on tin, the operation being carried on in a closed vessel, because, in the open air, vapors of hydrochloric acid are produced. During the absence of the workmen, a leak developed in a lead joint, and the gas as it escaped attached itself to the droplets of water composing the fog that enveloped the city. The inquiry instituted by the prefect of the department of Rhone resulted in an order prohibiting the manufacture of this product within the city limits, which made it necessary for the factory to seek a new site outside the city. At the time of the accidents that occurred in the Meuse Valley, which cost the lives of sixty persons, the noxious gas was sulphurous anhydride, emitted by the numerous factories in this valley, which is enclosed on all sides and very winding, poorly swept by the wind and subject to frequent fogs. The Belgian inquiry resulted in the suggestion that work in the factories be interrupted on foggy days. One village (Engis), in which the general mortality has been constantly increasing during the past ten years, is threatened with the necessity of closing all its factories."