

fiftieth anniversary of the discovery by Robert Koch, March 24, 1882, of the tubercle bacillus. Addresses were made by Drs. Henry R. M. Landis, on "Reception of Koch's Announcement in the United States"; Theobald Smith, Princeton, N. J., "Koch's Views on the Stability of Species among Bacteria"; Lawrason Brown, Saranac Lake, New York, "What Koch Meant to Tuberculosis," and Damaso de Rivas, "Personal Reminiscences of Robert Koch."

CONTRIBUTIONS are invited to a memorial to Sir Andrew Balfour, first director of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, who died a year ago. The medical men supporting the appeal include: Sir James Crichton-Browne; Sir Matthew Fell, late Director-General A.M.S.; Professor W. W. Jameson, dean of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; Colonel P. S. Lelean, professor of public health, Edinburgh University; Dr. A. T. Stanton, chief medical adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies; and Dr. C. M. Wenyon, director-in-chief, Wellcome Bureau of Scientific Research.

A DINNER of the Royal College of Surgeons, at which the Lord Mayor of London was a guest, was held on February 11 to commemorate the two hundred and fourth anniversary of the birth of John Hunter. Dr. David Ross, the president, was in the chair. The toast "The Memory of John Hunter" was honored in silence. The president said that the presidential chair in which he sat would eventually be presented to the Royal College of Surgeons. He recounted the activities of the society during the past year and concluded by presenting Dr. Griffith Ifor Evans, of Carnarvon, with the Hunterian Medal, the first struck in gold, for an essay on "Chronic Familial Syphilis." The medal, he said, has been designed by Mr. W.

Thornton Shiells, and a plaque was presented by the honorable treasurer, Dr. Irwin Moore.

RECENT DEATHS

HARVEY M. HALL, staff member of the division of plant biology of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, a student of botany and ecology, died on March 11 at the age of fifty-eight years.

A CORRESPONDENT writes: "Dr. Charles Ford Langworthy died in Washington on March 3 at the age of sixty-seven years. Dr. Langworthy was a chemist and was for many years one of the foremost workers in America on nutrition problems. During most of his active life he was connected with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, first as associate editor of the *Experiment Station Record* and later as chief of nutrition investigations and chief of the Office of Home Economics."

MARY FRANCES SEYMOUR, professor of biology in Catawba College, Salisbury, N. C., since 1925, died on March 2. Professor Seymour was associate professor of biology at the North Carolina College for Women, Greensboro, N. C., 1916-1923.

A CORRESPONDENT writes: "Professor A. A. Jaczewski, eminent Russian mycologist and plant pathologist, died in Leningrad on February 12. Dr. Jaczewski organized and was director of the Jaczewski Institute of Mycology and Plant Pathology, which was, in this field, the central institute of all Russia. Dr. Jaczewski visited the United States in the summer of 1921. He was well and widely known for his texts and other scientific contributions. In the fields of systematic mycology and plant pathology he has long been recognized as the outstanding research leader and teacher of Russia."

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

PSITTACOSIS IN CALIFORNIA

ON the basis of recent deaths from psittacosis in California, and positive findings in parrakeets from various parts of the state made by Dr. K. F. Meyer, of the Hooper Foundation for Medical Research of the University of California, the State Department of Public Health has adopted new rulings concerning the handling of parrakeets.

One of the new regulations makes psittacosis a reportable disease, and another restricts the importation and exportation of love birds and birds of the parrot family. The latter regulation reads in part as follows:

Whereas, It has been determined that birds belonging to the parrot family and infected with disease, and love

birds so infected have infected other birds of the same family and that some of said birds have been infected with disease which may be transmitted to man; and

Whereas, It has become necessary to take action to prevent further infection of such birds in California and thereby prevent the extension of the disease to human beings; therefore, be it

Resolved, by virtue of the authority vested in this board by section 2979 of the Political Code of California, that the importation into and the exportation from the State of California of all birds of the parrot family and love birds, be prohibited for a period of not to exceed six months; provided that shipments of such birds from a foreign country consigned to another state or consigned from another state to a foreign country or consignments of such birds between other states, may be

permitted to pass through California if under official seal.

The *Weekly Bulletin* for February 20, of the State Department of Public Health says: "A brief summary of the psittacosis situation in California during the past few months reveals the appearance of twelve cases and six deaths. These patients had in every instance except one been in contact with recently purchased parakeets, most of which were purchased from itinerant bird venders.

"The laboratory work in connection with these cases was done by Dr. F. K. Meyer at the Hooper Foundation for Medical Research. Positive findings were reported in parakeets from Grass Valley, San Luis Obispo, Woodland and San Francisco. Not all of these parakeets had been associated with cases in human beings. Positive results were obtained also from autopsy specimens from one of the patients who died of psittacosis."

GENETICS SOCIETY OF AMERICA

At the recent New Orleans meetings, the genetics sections of the American Society of Zoologists and the Botanical Society of America were reorganized as the Genetics Society of America. The group known as the Geneticists Interested in Agriculture was discontinued with the understanding that symposia of interest to agriculturists will be held by the new society. Dr. R. A. Brink was chosen to cooperate with the society officers in organizing this part of the program.

The executive committee of the society consists of the following officers and past chairmen: L. C. Dunn, *president*; F. D. Richey, *vice-president*; P. W. Whiting, *secretary-treasurer*; L. J. Stadler, *past chairman*; L. J. Cole, *past chairman*. The society now consists of 289 members of whom 153 are also members of the American Society of Zoologists and 90 are members of the Botanical Society of America.

The officers of the society urge members to suggest to any of their acquaintances who are interested in any field of genetics to apply for membership. Names endorsed by two members may be sent to the secretary at any time. Teachers of genetics, advanced graduate students, and research assistants who may be interested in attending the meetings or in receiving copies of abstracts giving the latest results of investigations are welcomed to membership. It is particularly urged that Canadians or others who may be so situated as to be able to attend the meetings will not hesitate to apply for membership.

It is expected that the meetings will be conducted very similarly to those that have been previously held by the genetics sections. The executive committee will, however, welcome suggestions from members in reference to program rules or any other affairs of the

society. All suggestions mailed to the secretary will be circulated among the other members of the Executive Committee for their consideration.

Copies of the constitution and by-laws will be sent upon request. Annual dues are \$1.00. Copies of programs and abstracts of papers to be presented at the annual meeting will be furnished without charge to members in good standing.

P. W. WHITING,
Secretary-Treasurer

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY,
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PITTSBURGH, PA.

THE SUMMER SESSION OF THE CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

AN experiment in graduate work is to be initiated in the chemistry department of the Johns Hopkins University during the summer session of 1932, in order to provide a unique opportunity for teaching and industrial chemists to confer with authorities of national and international repute on "Recent Developments in Chemistry." The work is planned as a series of conferences covering a period of five weeks, each week to be devoted to a particular phase of chemistry. This special course is in addition to the regular theoretical and laboratory courses in general, physical, organic and analytical chemistry, and arrangements have been made for those on limited leave to register for only one week, if so desired. In addition to the regular registration fee of three dollars, a nominal fee of five dollars per week will be charged. The complete series may be taken as a graduate credit course, without additional charge to students regularly registered in the summer session.

The conferences on "Recent Developments in Chemistry" will be directed by members of the graduate faculty whose work will be supplemented by invited lecturers. The program is as follows:

Program

June 27 to July 1: "Raman Effect and Problems in Molecular Structure," directed by D. H. Andrews. The week will close with a general discussion grouped around papers by the invited lecturers—Harold C. Urey, Oliver R. Wulf, John R. Bates, Henry Eyring and H. M. Smallwood.

July 5 to 9: "Colloidal Chemistry," directed by W. A. Patrick. A special lecture will be given on "The Colloidal Behavior of High Polymers," by Elmer O. Kraemer.

July 11 to 15: "Catalysis," directed by J. C. W. Frazer.

July 11 and 12: J. C. W. Frazer, "Structure of Catalysts; State of Adsorbed Molecules; Mixed Catalysts; and Poisoning of Catalysts."

July 13: A. B. F. Duncan, "Absorption of Gases or