

noon of September 5, the morning of September 6, the morning and afternoon of September 7, and the mornings of September 8 and 9.

On the evening of September 7 there will be a visit to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In

connection with this visit a public lecture will be given at the institute by Sir Arthur Eddington, Plumian professor of astronomy at the University of Cambridge, on "The Expanding Universe." Admission to the lecture will be by free ticket.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. JOHN J. ABEL, professor emeritus of pharmacology at the Johns Hopkins University, president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, returned on July 24 from Scotland, where he had received an honorary degree from the University of Aberdeen.

THE University of Sheffield has conferred the degree of doctor of science on Sir Alfred Ewing, president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. Dr. Ewing was formerly professor of mechanism and applied mechanics at the University of Cambridge, and later, until his retirement in 1929, principal and vice-chancellor of the University of Edinburgh.

DR. OSWALD VEBLEN, professor of mathematics at Princeton University, has been appointed the delegate from the American Association for the Advancement of Science to the British Association, which meets in York from August 31 to September 7.

DR. HENRY S. WASHINGTON, petrologist of the Geological Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, has been elected an honorary member of the Mineralogical Society, London.

THE seventy-fifth anniversary of the birthday of Dr. Frank J. Sprague was celebrated at a banquet given in his honor at the Engineering Societies Building on July 27. The speakers included Frank Hedley, president of the Interborough Rapid Transit Company; Rear Admiral S. S. Robison, retired, and Dr. John H. Finley, of the editorial department of *The New York Times*. Mr. Sprague responded with an address reviewing his long career, concluding with a prophecy of the progressive electrification of the main trunk line railways as "the next great step in advance after the present depression." Admiral Robison presented to Mr. Sprague a set of volumes containing more than five hundred autographed letters from friends all over the world, with photographs of the writers. A letter from President Hoover is included in the volume which reads: "I send you my cordial felicitations on your seventy-fifth birthday and all good wishes for the future. Your contribution in the development of the electric motor, followed by the application of electricity to street railways and to elevators, links your name for all time

with that distinguished group of inventors and engineers whose pioneer work made possible so many of our present utilities, comforts and conveniences. It is fitting that the engineering and scientific world should show general recognition of your noteworthy services to the electric art, and it is with regret that I find I shall not be able to be present at your anniversary celebration."

MAJOR OSCAR VAN PELT STOUT, irrigation engineer, Bureau of Agricultural Engineering, now stationed at Berkeley, California, was awarded the first Cyrus Hall McCormick medal of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers at the twenty-sixth annual meeting, held at the Ohio State University.

DR. ERNST WEBER, research professor of electrical engineering at the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, has won the annual award of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers for a paper read at Asheville, North Carolina, last year on "Field Transients in Magnetic Systems—a Study of Field Transients in Iron Cores partially Laminated and partially Solid."

THE joint committee of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, the Royal Physical Society and the Royal Scottish Geographical Society has awarded the Bruce Prize for the period of 1930–32 to Mr. Herbert G. Watkins, for contributions to the topography of Spitsbergen, Labrador and East Greenland and investigation of the ice cap of Greenland.

RESOLUTIONS of appreciation and a gold watch were presented to Dr. John F. Barnhill, Miami Beach, Florida, at the close of a graduate course on the eye, ear, nose and throat, which he conducted at Indiana University School of Medicine recently with the assistance of members of the faculty. Dr. Barnhill has been professor of surgery of the head at Indiana University School of Medicine for many years.

DR. HARRY C. MESSINGER, Providence, has been awarded the annual Fiske Fund Premium for his dissertation on "The Value of Ocular Signs and Symptoms in the Diagnosis of General Disease." This fund was established nearly 100 years ago by Caleb Fiske for the encouragement of original work.

DR. WILLIAM WARWICK, St. John, New Brunswick, was elected president of the Canadian Public Health Association at the recent annual meeting in Toronto.

At a recent meeting of the Royal College of Surgeons Sir H. J. Waring was elected president in succession to Lord Moynihan, who has held office for the past six years. Mr. W. Sampson Handley and Sir Percy Sargent were elected vice-presidents.

DR. PAUL KIRKPATRICK, professor of physics in the University of Hawaii, has resigned to accept an appointment on the faculty of Stanford University.

DR. H. R. DESILVA has been appointed professor of psychology in the department of education and psychology of the Massachusetts State College.

JOHN WYNN GILLESPIE has been appointed professor of botany at Arizona State Teachers College at Tempe.

At Armstrong College, Newcastle, England, the following appointments have been made: Dr. H. L. Riley, professor of inorganic and physical chemistry; Professor G. R. Clemo, director of the department of chemistry; J. S. Patrick, lecturer in mechanical engineering at the Municipal Technical College, Hull, lecturer in mechanical engineering.

DR. HALBERT L. DUNN, formerly medical statistician at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, has been appointed superintendent of the University of Minnesota Hospitals. He succeeded Mr. Paul H. Fesler, who recently resigned to become superintendent of Wesley Memorial Hospital, Chicago.

MRS. JAMES STARR, of Germantown, has been re-elected president of the Woman's Medical College, Philadelphia.

DR. R. W. LEIGHTON, research fellow at the University of Oregon, has been named by the State Board of Higher Education executive secretary of the Oregon Research Council. He will be in charge of all research projects except those in agriculture.

PROFESSOR G. PROCTOR COOPER, of East Lee, Massachusetts, and Mr. H. Huebner, of Groton, Massachusetts, have been appointed collaborators of the New York Botanical Garden. Mr. Cooper is to visit the West Indies and South America, making collections of plants and woods. Mr. Huebner is on an expedition to the East Indies, where he will give special attention to collecting ornamental plants.

DR. REID HUNT, professor of pharmacology at Harvard University, and Mrs. Hunt left for Europe on July 28.

DELEGATES to the tenth International Congress of Psychology, which is to be held at the University of Copenhagen from August 22 to 27, 1932, have been appointed by the government as follows: Carl Emil

Seashore, *chairman*, director, laboratory of psychology, and dean, Graduate College, University of Iowa; Herbert Sidney Langfeld, director, laboratory of psychology, Princeton University; Walter Richard Miles, professor of psychology, Yale University; Margaret Floy Washburn, professor of psychology, Vassar College; Harry Porter Weld, professor of experimental psychology, Cornell University.

PROFESSOR R. RUGGLES GATES, of King's College, University of London, has been invited to give three De Lamar Lectures at the Johns Hopkins University in the week beginning October 24 on "The Principles of Heredity in Man, and their Application to Society." He is also giving two lectures at the University of Toronto, and is spending the week beginning October 10 as visitor to the University of Minnesota. Dr. Gates has been appointed chief delegate of the British Government to the sixth International Congress of Genetics at Ithaca. He will also represent the Royal Anthropological Institute at the third International Congress of Eugenics in New York.

PROFESSOR L. M. MASSEY, head of the department of plant pathology, Cornell University, left on August 4, to spend his sabbatical leave in California. Dr. Carl E. F. Gutermaen will be the acting head of the department in his absence. Dr. Massey, who is especially interested in the diseases of ornamental plants, will spend the year at the University of California.

DR. C. E. CHARDON, president of the University of Porto Rico, and Professor R. A. Toro, of the Agricultural College at Mayaguez, Porto Rico, are now on a three months' collecting expedition in Venezuela. They are making a collection of fungi of wild and cultivated plants growing in Venezuela. The entire collection will be deposited in the herbarium of plant pathology at Cornell University. Dr. Chardon has been decorated with the great cross of the "Liberador" of the Republic of Venezuela. The Venezuelan government is providing them with every facility for their work. They are collecting over the historic route taken by Alexander Von Humboldt on his exploring expedition in that country in 1800.

A CAMERA so large that the photographers will work inside of it, and a specially constructed interferometer, believed to be the largest ever made for the purpose, will be set up at Fryeburg, Maine, by University of Michigan astronomers for the eclipse of the sun which occurs on August 31. The camera will have a focal length of forty feet, and will be built stationary. Two men will work inside it, Baldwin Curtis, junior in the university and son of Professor Heber D. Curtis, being in charge. Fast work during the 99 seconds of the eclipse will yield six or seven plates. Professor

Curtis, director of the Michigan observatories, has been working on a special interferometer, which will be eight feet long and which uses etalon plates five inches in diameter.

A CORRESPONDENT of the London *Times* reports that the first stage of the Royal Observatory's expedition to Canada to observe the total eclipse of the sun was accomplished on July 13, when three and a half tons of scientific instruments and equipment were loaded on an Admiralty motor-lorry at Greenwich, in readiness for the voyage to Quebec the following week. The Greenwich party has been preparing for the expedition for many weeks, and every possible detail of equipment that might be needed in the isolated region to which it is going has been included in the 40 cases which make up the consignment. The *Times* states that the importance of the Royal Observatory's expedition to Parent, in the far north of the province of Quebec, is increased by news received at the Observatory from Canada. It had been understood that an expedition from the Dominion Observatory at Ottawa would also be making Parent its base of operations. Now it is learned that for reasons of economy the Canadian expedition has been abandoned. Dr. J. Jackson, who, with Mr. C. R. Davidson, forms the Greenwich observing party, said, "It is all the more necessary that all our four instruments should be operated. We expect to have the assistance of two astronomers from Prague, and it is possible that other competent observers will be available by the time of the eclipse. The population of the settlement at Parent is 165, and we hope that it will not be difficult to secure the necessary labor for the preparation of our camp. I understand that it is possible that Russian and Japanese eclipse expeditions will be in Canada. There are two British expeditions besides that from Greenwich—from Cambridge and the Imperial College of Science, London."

THE United Press states that a French government mission sent into Africa to study the native fauna has reported that unless drastic measures are enacted immediately, elephants, horned rhinoceros, giraffes and dwarf hippopotamuses will be killed off in the French colonies within a few years. The mission recommends a Franco-British-Belgian treaty forbidding the export of rhinoceros horns—particularly sought by Chinese for their alleged medicinal value—and severe laws to curb the shooting of animals by native and white game hunters. "The worst enemies of the native fauna of Africa are the natives who kill them for their meat, hide and tusks, and the sportsmen of Europe and America who organize expeditions for the sole purpose of acquiring hunting trophies for the decoration of their smoking rooms." The report points out that

Belgian Congo soon will be without elephants except those kept in national parks. Each battalion of natives working on government building projects is allowed to kill one elephant per week for food. The great herds of the Congo will be thinned readily if each of the score of battalions is allowed fifty-two elephants a year.

THE University Court of the University of Aberdeen has decided that in future the Regius professor of surgery shall devote the greater part of his time to the duties of the chair and that his private practice shall be limited to cases seen and treated in Aberdeen—with rare exceptions. It is understood that preference will be given to those candidates of wide experience of clinical surgery and acknowledged power of teaching who, by their special training and record, have given evidence of their capacity for, and interest in, research. The holder of the chair is an honorary surgeon to the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary with charge of beds, and an honorary consultant in the municipal hospitals.

A NEW curriculum, designed to fit the agricultural student for farm life or for the professional and business fields is to become effective with the fall term of West Virginia University. All candidates for the baccalaureate degree will follow for the first two years a uniform schedule, which includes courses in the sciences which are fundamental to agriculture, as well as certain specified courses in agriculture. During the remaining two years the student is permitted a choice of one of four curricula—agricultural economics, animal industry, plant industry and teacher training. Certain basic courses in animal husbandry, dairy husbandry and horticulture are required in each of these curricula. Provision is made also for the student who may wish to pursue a rather broad program of electives during the last two years.

WE learn from Science Service that funds for the scientific and engineering work of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, which were cut about 22 per cent. by the regular appropriation bill for the Department of Commerce, are restored by a provision in the Emergency Relief Act passed at the close of the last congressional session. Under the provisions for public works, the new act provides "For the engineering work of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, Department of Commerce, heretofore authorized, \$1,250,000." This money may be used for the regular work of the survey. As the regular appropriation bill passed Congress, the funds were reduced \$676,120 below what they were in the fiscal year ending on June 30, 1932.