

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Executive Committee of the American Association for the Advancement of Science will hold its regular fall meeting at the Hotel Haddon Hall, in Atlantic City, on the third Saturday and Sunday in October, which fall on the fifteenth and sixteenth of the month. There will be two forenoon and two afternoon sessions. Business to come before the committee at this meeting should be in the permanent secretary's office in Washington by October 1.

SIR FREDERICK GOWLAND HOPKINS, professor of biochemistry at the University of Cambridge and president of the Royal Society, has been nominated as president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science for the meeting to be held next year at Leicester.

DR. FRANK SCHLESINGER, director of the Yale University Observatory, was elected on September 9 president of the International Astronomical Union at the final assembly of the fourth triennial meeting of the union, held at Cambridge. He succeeds Sir Frank Dyson, Astronomer Royal of England. Two new vice-presidents were also elected. They are Professor T. Banachiewicz, of Poland, and Professor E. Bianchi, of Italy, replacing Professors G. Abetti, of Italy, and C. Fabry, of France. It was voted to convene the next meeting of the union in 1935 in Paris.

DR. L. L. THURSTONE, professor of psychology at the University of Chicago, was elected president of the American Psychological Association at the recent meeting at Ithaca. New members of the council elected were Dr. E. A. Bott, professor of psychology at the University of Toronto, and Dr. Henry E. Garrett, assistant professor of psychology at Columbia University. Dr. Thurstone succeeds Dr. Walter R. Miles, professor of psychology at Yale University, whose presidential address was on "Age and Human Ability." There were about 500 members and associates of the association in attendance at the meeting.

DR. FREDERICK G. KEYES, professor of physical chemistry at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a reserve officer in the Chemical Warfare Service, was the recipient on September 9 of the military decoration of the Purple Heart. Presentation of the medal was made at a dinner at the Harvard Faculty Club attended by twenty reserve officers of the Chemical Warfare Service. Lieutenant Colonel Keyes was awarded the decoration, according to the citation from the Secretary of War, "for services as director, Chemical Warfare Service Experimental Laboratory at Puteaux, A.E.F., while serving as major."

THE *British Medical Journal* reports that Major

D. T. Richardson, M.C., Royal Army Medical Corps, has been awarded the Leishman Prize (Officers) for the year 1931, consisting of a silver medal and a sum of £30, for his work in the interests of military hygiene. The Leishman prize is awarded annually for the best piece of work in any branch of medicine, surgery or allied science, or in connection with the general duties of the Royal Army Medical Corps, by an officer of the Royal Army Medical Corps, or Army Dental Corps, or by an officer removed from either of these corps but still on the active list.

RETIREMENTS from the staff of the Smithsonian Institution under the economy bill include W. H. Holmes, director of the National Gallery of Art; W. deC. Ravenel, director of arts and industries and of the division of history; B. A. Bean, assistant curator of the division of fishes; Richard A. Allen, scientific aid in the department of anthropology, and De Lancey Gill, illustrator. R. P. Tolman has been appointed acting director of the National Gallery of Art; J. E. Graf is director of arts and industries and the division of history, and Leonhard Stejneger, head curator of the department of biology, who is exempted from the retirement provision by executive order, takes direct charge of the division of fishes.

DR. CYRIL N. H. LONG, assistant professor of medical research in the McGill University Faculty of Medicine, has been appointed director of the George S. Cox Medical Institute for research in diabetes at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital. Dr. Long, who has been engaged in investigations of diabetes and diseases of metabolism at McGill and at University College, London, for the past eight years, will also serve as assistant professor of medicine. The Cox Institute was opened on March 18, under the temporary direction of Dr. J. Harold Austin, John H. Musser professor of research medicine in the school of medicine.

DR. EDWARD QUIN THORNTON, associate professor of materia medica at Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, has been appointed Sutherland M. Prevost professor of therapeutics, to succeed the late Dr. Elmer H. Funk.

W. J. GERTSCH has been appointed assistant curator, in charge of spiders, at the American Museum of Natural History.

PROFESSOR LOUIS DE BROGLIE, of the University of Paris, has been assigned to the professorship of theoretical physics to succeed M. Brillouin.

M. ESCLANGON, director of the Observatory of Paris, has been elected an honorary member of the Bureau of Longitudes, to succeed the late M. Bigourdan.

MR. HENRY C. HENRICKSEN, for many years on the staff of the Federal Agricultural Experiment Station in Puerto Rico, was retired from the service at the beginning of this fiscal year. His work was not interrupted, however, as the Fruit Growers Research Laboratory, sponsored by the Fruit Growers of Puerto Rico, was established immediately. The Federal Government has agreed to let Mr. Henricksen continue his work in the laboratory he has been occupying for many years and the Insular Government has offered to share the expenses connected with the work.

DR. T. G. YUNCKER, professor of botany at De Pauw University, has arrived in Honolulu. As a Yale-Bishop Museum fellow, he will make a study of the Hawaiian Peperomias. Professor Yuncker's headquarters will be at the Bernice P. Bishop Museum.

DR. W. E. VAUGHAN, instructor in chemistry at the University of Chicago, has obtained a renewal of his National Research Fellowship and will spend this year at the California Institute of Technology working on problems in thermal reaction rates under the supervision of Professor Tolman.

PROFESSOR T. C. POULTER, head of the department of physics at the Iowa Wesleyan College, will be the physicist on the staff of Admiral Byrd on his next trip to the South Pole.

DR. L. O. HOWARD, chief entomologist in the U. S. Department of Agriculture from 1894 to 1927 and permanent secretary of the American Association for the Advancement of Science from 1898 to 1919, returns to the United States about October 1. He has been in Europe for somewhat more than a year, spending most of the time in Paris. His return to the United States is occasioned in part by the need of an operation on his eyes.

DURING the latter part of August Dr. Henry Fairfield Osborn, president of the American Museum of Natural History, New York, and Walter Granger, curator of fossil mammals, joined Barnum Brown, curator of fossil reptiles, in paleontological excavations in Montana, after which they expected to engage in further operations in Nebraska and Colorado.

DR. H. K. HAYES, professor and chief of the division of agronomy and plant genetics of the Department of Agriculture of the University of Minnesota, has been granted leave of absence for the academic year 1932-33 and has been appointed acting professor of plant breeding at Cornell University. Dr. Hayes will fill the position left vacant temporarily by Dr. H. H. Love, who has charge of a plant breeding project for the Chinese government.

PROFESSOR C. L. A. SCHMIDT, chairman of the department of biochemistry of the University of California, left in May to attend the International Physiological Congress in Rome and to study biochemistry teaching methods under the sponsorship of the Oberlaender Trust of Philadelphia. Among the groups before which he spoke were: The Chemical Society of Würzburg on the occasion of its seventy-fifth anniversary; the departments of chemistry, biochemistry and physiology and the administrative officers of the University of Leipzig. He also gave a lecture before the biochemical, physiological and medical groups of Frankfurt am Main.

HUGH RUTTLEDGE, retired from the Indian Civil Service, will lead a Royal Geographical Society expedition next year in an attempt to scale Mount Everest. J. M. Scott, who was a member of the British expedition searching for a suitable air route over the Arctic, has been appointed secretary of the expedition.

Nature gives the following list of foreign visitors to the British Association for the York meeting who attended in an official capacity either as guests or as representatives of foreign associations: *Section A* (Mathematics and Physics): Dr. W. Meissner, Physikalisch-technische Reichsanstalt, Berlin-Charlottenburg; M. le Duc de Broglie, Paris; Professor W. J. de Haas, University of Leyden, Holland. *Section B* (Chemistry): Professor J. Meisenheimer, Chemical Institute, Tübingen; Professor H. Staudinger, University of Freiburg im Breisgau; Professor Max Bergmann, Technical High School, Dresden; Professor H. Kessener, The Hague. *Section C* (Geology): Professor P. Pruvost, University of Lille. *Section E* (Geography): Dr. J. Georgi, Hamburg. *Section H* (Anthropology): Dr. Axel Boethius, director of the Swedish School of Archeology, Rome. *Section J* (Psychology): Professor R. H. Wheeler, University of Kansas, United States. *Section K* (Botany): Dr. G. E. du Rietz, University of Uppsala, Sweden. Professor Oswald Veblen, of Princeton University, attended as the delegate of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, while Professor D. A. Keys represented the Royal Society of Canada. The South African Association for the Advancement of Science was represented by Professor J. E. Duerden.

Museum News reports that the survey of the museums of the British Empire financed by the Carnegie Corporation of New York and undertaken by the Museums Association (British) has been about two thirds completed. Territory already covered includes Canada, South Africa and the British possessions in the Mediterranean (Malta, Cyprus and Gibraltar).

The report on the Canadian survey, with accompanying directory, has already been submitted to the Carnegie Corporation. To complete the survey there remains Australia, Tasmania, New Zealand, the West Indies, and outlying possessions. The Canadian and South African surveys were made by Sir Henry A. Miërs and S. F. Markham; the Mediterranean, by Charles Squire and D. W. Herdman. The Museums Association plans to publish a directory of museums in the dominions. This, with the directory of museums in the British Isles, published last year, will form a directory of the Museums of the British Empire.

THE first International Congress of Mediterranean Hygiene will be held at Marseilles on September 20, under the auspices of the medical faculty of that town, and under the patronage of the President of the Republic. The conference, which lasts for five days, will include discussions upon undulant fever, dengue, the de-ratization of ships, *spirochétose espagnole* and *fièvre exanthématique méditerranéenne*. An excursion to Provence has been arranged for September 25. Special terms are offered in respect of boat and railway fares and accommodation. The president of the congress is Professor E. Marchoux. For further information applicants are invited to communicate with Professor H. Violle (general secretary), Faculté de Médecine, Palais du Pharo, Marseilles.

A WESTERN States Regional Outlook Conference was held at Salt Lake City, on August 11 and 12, under the auspices of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Representatives who attended were Dr. O. C. Stine, in

charge of the division of statistical and historical research; C. A. Burmeister, livestock, meat and wool division; H. M. Dixon, in charge of the economics extension unit, and Frank Andrews, statistician for Utah. The bureau economists explained, by use of charts, the factors affecting economic developments in agriculture in the last decade, and the information thus presented was used as background for the commodity discussions—on dairying, wheat, beef cattle and sheep. After these studies and explanations of charts the economists asked the extension men to say what kind of advice they would give farmers under certain conditions. About fifty people attended the meeting, including extension and research workers of the various state colleges of agriculture in the region.

THE Royal Research Ship, *Discovery II*, operating under the direction of the Falkland Islands government and carrying a crew and five British investigators, has sailed into the Antarctic to estimate the whale population of this region, according to a report from the American Consulate at Melbourne, Australia. The party will also gather data to serve as the basis for an international agreement to prevent overfishing and depletion of the whale herds. The vessel, which left London in October, 1931, has made two cruises. The first was from Cape Town, South Africa, to the fringe of the ice pack and then to Fremantle. The second was from Fremantle to the ice and then to Hobart, Tasmania and Melbourne. On the present trip, the vessel will go to New Zealand and from there it is expected that the northern waters of the Antarctic coast will be touched on the return to the Falkland Islands early in October this year.

DISCUSSION

LIGHT OR EXERCISE AS FACTORS IN SEXUAL PERIODICITY IN BIRDS?

IN an interesting review in *Nature*¹ of Professor Roman's book, "The Riddle of Migration," Professor MacBride accepts it as proven that increasing periods of wakefulness or of muscular exercise per day are the direct cause of the spring increase in the size and activity of the reproductive glands of juncos and, presumably, of other birds such as poultry, and not the increasing periods of exposure to light radiation as such. The acceptance and endorsement of this theory by a biologist of Professor MacBride's recognized standing may lead many to infer that the experiments supporting the statement of this theory were conclusive proof of the validity of the generalization to the exclusion of all other possible explanations of the results.

¹ *Nature*, 129 (3259): 561-2, April 16, 1932.

It seems worth while to inquire as to the conclusiveness of the experimental tests of the theory and the possibilities of other interpretations of the results of this single experiment, which is described by Professor Rowan himself in *Nature* in 1928,² so that the facts need not be recapitulated here. Taken alone, they appear to indicate that exercise caused the testes of birds, subjected to it, to increase in size, while those of birds not subjected to it did not do so. But the fact that increased exercise might be but a contributory factor, and not the major one operating, was not excluded.

Studies by Bissonnette^{3, 4, 5} on starlings, in Hartford, Connecticut, in this connection, show that it is

² *Nature*, 122 (3062): 11-12, July 7, 1928.

³ *Am. Jour. Anat.*, 45: 289-305, 1930. See p. 299.

⁴ *Jour. Exp. Zool.*, 58: 281-319, 1931.

⁵ *Physiol. Zool.*, 4: 542-574, 1931, and 5: 92-123, 1932.