

A section of the Congress of the History of Sciences, to be held at Warsaw next year, will be devoted to the history of medicine, so that the next congress

of the International Society of the History of Medicine will not be held until 1935, when the meeting place will probably be Madrid.

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

AN Associated Press dispatch reports that the Prussian Academy of Sciences has agreed to grant Professor Albert Einstein leave of absence each year to permit him to become head of the department of mathematical physics of the Institute of Advanced Study at Princeton, New Jersey, providing he spends the remainder of each year in Germany. Dr. Einstein will take up his work at the institute in 1933. He plans to sail for America in December to reside for a time at Pasadena.

DR. JACQUES HADAMARD, professor of mathematics at the Collège de France and a member of the Institute of France, plans to visit the United States in the spring.

PROFESSOR JULIAN S. HUXLEY, the English biologist, has arrived in New York. While in the United States Professor Huxley will deliver a series of Lowell lectures in Boston.

DR. L. O. HOWARD, formerly chief of the Bureau of Entomology, who for the last year has been acting as an official collaborator of the bureau in Paris, has returned to Washington. His address is the Bureau of Entomology, Washington, D. C.

DR. WILLIAM TRELEASE, professor emeritus of botany at the University of Illinois, who spent last winter and the early spring in recreation and botanical work in the Canary Islands and the south of Spain, plans a similar expedition this winter to New Zealand.

DR. AUG. F. FOERSTE, who recently retired from the active teaching of physics at Dayton, Ohio, and who is now devoting his time to the study of the collections of invertebrate paleontology in the U. S. National Museum, has been tendered the honorary appointment of associate in paleontology in the department of geology.

PROFESSOR WILLIAM H. HOBBS, head of the department of geology at the University of Michigan, has been notified that a cape in MacRobertson's Land, new coast of the Antarctic continent discovered by the expedition of Sir Douglas Mawson last year, will be named "Cape Hobbs." Near by is "Cape Byrd," and a large "nunatak" or rock island in the icy land surface is "Gould's nunatak," called after Admiral Byrd's second in command, formerly at Michigan, now head of the department of geology at Carleton College. Five other glaciers or glacial features in both Polar

regions have been named for Professor Hobbs. In 1911 a Swedish party named one for him in East Antarctica; another was named in South Victoria Land by the lost Scott Expedition in 1913; a fourth in East Greenland by a Swiss expedition in 1920, and a fifth by a Danish expedition in 1921 in Peary Land, Greenland.

A DINNER in honor of the sixtieth birthday of Dr. Emanuel Libman was held in New York on October 15. One hundred and forty-seven physicians and scientific men in the United States and from seventeen foreign countries honored him by personal contributions written for the occasion in three anniversary volumes, which were presented to him at the dinner. Dr. A. A. Epstein was chairman of the committee arranging the dinner. Dr. Israel Strauss presided. Among the speakers were: Dr. William H. Welch, of the Johns Hopkins University; Dr. Alexis Carrel, of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research; Dr. John A. Hartwell, president of the New York Academy of Medicine; Dr. Maude E. Abbott, of McGill University; William N. Cohen, trustee of the Emanuel Libman Fellowship Fund; Dr. James Ewing, of Cornell University Medical School; Dr. Nathan Ratnoff, medical director of Beth Israel Hospital and president of the American Jewish Physicians' Committee, and Dr. Epstein.

THE British Institute of Fuel, London, has awarded the Melchett medal for distinguished achievements in industry to Charles M. Schwab, chairman of the board of the Bethlehem Steel Company.

DR. GEORGE F. DICK, chairman of the department of medicine at Rush Medical College of the University of Chicago and staff member of the John McCormick Institute for Infectious Diseases, will become chairman of the department of medicine in the Division of the Biological Sciences, a post vacant since the resignation of Dr. Russell Wilder last year.

THE resignation is announced of Dr. H. C. Biddle, director of the chemical laboratories and dean of the College of Pharmacy of the University of California. Dr. H. B. Carey, professor of materia medica, botany and pharmacognosy, will serve as acting dean of the college.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR R. W. HODGSON, subtropical horticulturist in the Experiment Station of the University of California, has been appointed as assistant

director of the Branch of the College of Agriculture in southern California.

HOWARD D. ROELOFS, professor of philosophy at Stanford University, who was visiting professor at Amherst College during the past year, has been appointed Wilson professor of philosophy and head of the department at the University of Cincinnati.

DR. GEORGE H. MILLER, associate professor of theory and practice of medicine, State University of Iowa College of Medicine, has been appointed dean of the American University of Beirut School of Medicine, Beirut, Syria. He succeeds Dr. St. John Ward, who has leave of absence on account of ill health.

DR. G. C. ANDERSON, deputy medical secretary of the British Medical Association since 1919, has succeeded to the post of medical secretary of the association upon the retirement of Dr. Alfred Cox.

*Nature* states that Miss M. R. J. Edwards has been appointed official guide-lecturer at the British Museum of Natural History in succession to the late Mr. J. H. Leonard, who died at the end of last year. Owing to the success achieved by the appointment of guide-lecturers at the national museums and galleries, it has been decided to inaugurate more advanced lecture tours to be conducted by members of the scientific staff of the museum, on Mondays at noon.

ADELAIDE SPOHN, formerly professor of nutrition at Cornell University, has recently accepted a position with the Elizabeth McCormick Memorial Fund, Chicago. She is at present director of nutrition service of the Illinois Emergency Relief Commission and the Unemployment Relief Service of Chicago.

DR. JOHN T. STEARN, who, during the past two years, has been in charge of the production department of Toledo Synthetic Products, Inc., manufacturer of "Plaskon," a urea-formaldehyde molding compound, has rejoined the research staff of the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research, at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he will be at the head of the industrial fellowship sustained by this company. Dr. A. M. Howald, formerly holder of the same fellowship, is now engaged in production research in the company's plant in Toledo, Ohio.

H. R. SEIWELL, oceanographic chemist at the Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole, Massachusetts, who has been awarded a fellowship by the American-Scandinavian Foundation for 1932-33, has received leave of absence in order to make a study of methods of oceanographical research in Europe.

DR. LOUIS C. SCHROEDER, director of the American Child Health Association, has been appointed director of the pediatric service at the New York City Nursery

and Child's Hospital, to succeed Dr. Oscar M. Schloss. The pathological laboratory at the hospital is now under the direction of Dr. Frederick A. Hemsath, formerly chief pathologist of the Lying-in Hospital.

JEAN CAPART, director of the Royal Museum of Art and History in Brussels, has leave of absence for two months beginning on January 1 to direct the reorganization of the department of Egyptology at the Brooklyn Museum. Professor Capart will assume charge under the terms of the Charles Edwin Wilbour Fund, established in May, 1931. The income from this fund, which is said to have amounted to \$60,000 last year, is to be used exclusively to augment and develop the collection in Egyptology. Part of this amount has been spent "in conserving and carrying on the present collection," while part has gone to help support exploration now being carried on in Egypt. Professor Capart will give a series of lectures at the museum.

DR. JAN H. OORT, lecturer and observer at the University of Leiden, arrived in Delaware on October 4, to begin photometric studies of nebulae in a cooperative plan with the Perkins Observatory of Ohio Wesleyan University. While at the Perkins Observatory Dr. Oort will give a special series of lectures on stellar statistics on Thursday afternoons, beginning on October 13. The titles of the lectures are: "The Observational Data," "Methods for Determining Stellar Distributions," "General Structure of the System of Stars," "Stellar Motions," "Stellar Dynamics I," "Stellar Dynamics II. Galactic Rotation." The lectures and discussions are open to all interested.

THE fiftieth stated meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union was held in Quebec, from October 17 to 20. The headquarters of the meeting were at the Chateau Frontenac and the public sessions were in Laval University. The first day was devoted to business meetings, and the public sessions opened on Tuesday morning. On Friday, following the close of the regular meeting, there was an excursion to Cap Tourmente to see the snow geese which usually stop a few days on the St. Lawrence during their southward migration at this time of the year. In connection with the meeting there was an exhibit of photographs, drawings and paintings of birds to which artists in all parts of the United States and Canada were invited to contribute. This was the second meeting of the union to be held in Canada, the first one having been in Ottawa in 1926.

THE twelfth annual meeting of the Highway Research Board will be held on December 1 and 2 in the building of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Research Council, Washington, D. C.

LAWRENCE COLLEGE dedicated the new library and laboratory of the Institute of Paper Chemistry on September 21, the eightieth anniversary of the matriculation at Lawrence of J. A. Kimberly, to whom the structure was dedicated. The building, which was erected at a cost of \$100,000, was given by the late Mr. Kimberly's son. It constitutes the second unit of the institute. The first, which cost \$250,000, was dedicated a little less than a year ago.

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY has purchased the buildings and equipment formerly used by Cornell University Medical College fronting Bellevue Hospital, with the prospect of developing in the future a large medical center in the Bellevue Hospital area. For the present the property will be utilized by University and Bellevue Hospital Medical College for laboratory and teaching space, but the undergraduate student body will not be enlarged. New York University now owns all the land necessary for its projected health center, including all the property between Twenty-Fifth and Twenty-Eighth Streets on both sides of First Avenue.

*Museum News* reports that a new botanical garden at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, will be known as the Lamport Botanical Garden, the land on which it has been established having been given to the university by Solomon Lamport, of New York. The site of the new garden is the summit and part of the slopes of Mount Scopus. One section is to be left with its native vegetation untouched; other portions will be devoted chiefly to a collection of the floras of the Near East from Iraq to Sinai and into the deserts beyond the Jordan River.

UNDER a grant received by the Smithsonian Institu-

tion, a solar radiation observatory will be established on Mount St. Katherine on the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt. This mountain is 8,600 feet high, and the atmospheric conditions are reported to be very favorable.

It is announced that the Rockefeller Foundation has made a gift to University College Hospital, London, of £48,800 "to constitute a fund for the permanent endowment of a post, the holder of which will devote his whole energies to the advancement of clinical research." The gift is made to encourage clinical research on lines which the Medical Research Council has been developing in conjunction with University College Hospital Medical School since 1916. The object is that there should be brought into existence a body of workers, free from ordinary hospital routine and teaching, who will devote their whole time to the investigation of special clinical problems.

THE Paris correspondent of the *Journal* of the American Medical Association reports that the new laboratory created at the Faculté de Pharmacie de Paris will be under the direction of Professor Perrot, member of the Academy of Medicine, and will be devoted to research on plant life. The laboratory has been equipped with the aid of a governmental appropriation, together with more than \$24,000 contributed largely by the alumni of the Ecole de Pharmacie and the large manufacturers of pharmaceutical specialties and chemical products. The laboratory was opened by the minister of public instruction at ceremonies attended by the rector of the University of Paris, and by the present dean and former deans of the Faculté de Pharmacie.

## DISCUSSION

### BODY SIZE AND BODY PROPORTIONS IN RELATION TO GROWTH RATES AND NATURAL SELECTION

HALDANE<sup>1</sup> in his suggestive little book "The Causes of Evolution," discussing the action of natural selection, says:

"In the mouse a fair percentage, generally about a quarter, of the embryos die during pregnancy. There is not sufficient space or nourishment for them all, *i.e.*, they compete with one another. Hence, in animals producing many young at a birth, there will probably be selection in favour of rapid embryonic growth, and adult characters determined by genes causing rapid embryonic growth will spread through the species. We have here a cause of unfavourable adult characters."

<sup>1</sup> Harper and Bros., New York, 1932.

What Haldane had in mind as rapidity of embryonic growth was probably rapidity of differentiation rather than increase in absolute size, for he goes on to specify the development of man in contrast to that of other mammals as involving "a marked slowing down of the rate of development."

Yet his principle will apply with equal force to increase in size, irrespective of the rate of differentiation, and to postnatal as well as to prenatal competition.

Gregory and I<sup>2</sup> have recently shown that, in rabbits, increase in racial size is attended by (and presumably caused by) an increased rapidity of growth, both prenatal and postnatal, although the rate of differentiation and the initial size of the egg remain unchanged.

A mutation tending to increase the growth rate would, in such cases, tend to increase the size at birth

<sup>2</sup> *Jour. Exp. Zool.*, 59, 1931.