THE AWARD OF THE PERKIN MEDAL

GEORGE OENSLAGER, chemist at the B. F. Goodrich Company Laboratories at Akron, Ohio, has been awarded the Perkin Medal for 1933. It is given annually for the most valuable work in applied chemistry and regarded as one of the highest honors which can be conferred upon an American chemist.

Mr. Oenslager's selection is based on the pioneering work he has accomplished for the rubber industry on organic accelerators, besides other chemical research. In 1906 he started work to find a means by which the cheaper wild rubbers could be made to vulcanize as rapidly as those of high grade and also to result in as good or better finished product. It was his untiring effort on that problem that resulted in the use of organic compositions as accelerators of vulcanization. Their use permitted rubber to be vulcanized in only a fraction of the time formerly required and brought about greater life to tires and all other rubber products. It is estimated that chemical research work on organic accelerators alone has brought a saving to motorists of at least $50,000,000 a year.

The Perkin Medal is awarded by the American section of the Society of Chemical Industry and is made to any chemist in the United States for work done at any time during his career. A committee representing the American section of the Society of Chemical Industry, the American Chemical Society, the Electrochemical Society, the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and the Société de Chimie industrielle of France makes the award. The medal will be presented at a joint meeting of these societies in New York City on January 6.

Established in 1906 by Sir William H. Perkin, the first medal was awarded to Sir William for his pioneer work in the synthetic dye industry. The complete list of recipients of the medal follows:

J. B. F. Herreshoff, improvement in chamber process for sulfuric acid; Arno Behr, work in corn products; E. G. Acheson, development of carborundum; Charles M. Hall, development of process for manufacture of aluminum; Herman Frasch, contribution to refining of Canadian and Ohio petroleums.

James Gayley, invention of dry air blast for manufacture of iron; John W. Hyatt, discovery of celluloid and development of its manufacture; Edward Weston, achievements in electrodeposition of metals; Leo H. Baekeland, discoverer of Velox paper, Bakelite and other synthetic resins; Ernst Twitchell, work with organic sulfo acids; Auguste J. Rossi, achievements in field of titanium steel and other titanium alloys; F. G. Cottrell, recovery of helium from natural gas wells.

Charles F. Chandler, work as educator and expert in field of industrial chemistry; Willis R. Whitney, achievements as research director of General Electric Conpany; William M. Burton, for high temperature process of cracking petroleum under pressure.

Milton C. Whitaker, achievements in manufacture of alcohol, ethyl acetate, acetone and other solvents; Frederick M. Becket, process of extraction of rare metals from ores; Hugh K. Moore, development of electrolytic processes for chlorine and caustic soda; R. B. Moore, achievements in the field of helium and radioactive elements.

John E. Teeple, achievements in manufacture of acids; Irving Langmuir, accomplishments in field of low pressures, conduction and radiation of heat; E. C. Sullivan, development of special glasses for heat resistance; Herbert H. Dow, developments in production of chlorine and alkali; Arthur D. Little, work as a pioneer in application of research to industry and development of processes; Charles F. Burgess, development of the dry cell.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. IRVING LANGMUIR, assistant director of the Research Laboratory of the General Electric Company at Schenectady, New York, has been awarded the Nobel Prize in chemistry.

THE honorary degree of doctor of medicine was conferred by the University of Upsala on Sir Charles Sherrington, Waynflete professor of physiology at the University of Oxford, in connection with the Gustavus Adolphus celebrations on November 4.

THE triennial award of the De Morgan Medal of the Mathematical Society, London, has been made to Bertrand Russell in recognition of his mathematical work. The medal was presented at the annual general meeting of the society on November 10.

THE Max Planck Medal has been awarded to Dr Max von Laue, professor of theoretical physics at the University of Berlin.

AT the annual dinner of the Royal Society of Medicine, London, on November 17, Sir Thomas Barlow was presented with the gold medal of the society.

THE chemists whose names are given below have been nominated for 1933 for the office of president-elect of the American Chemical Society: Dr. Edward Bartow, professor and head of the department of chemistry and chemical engineering at the State University of Iowa; Dr. C. A. Browne, chief of chemical and technological research of the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, U. S. Department of Agriculture; Dr. William Lloyd Evans, professor of chemistry and chairman of the department at the Ohio State Uni-

versity; A. C. Fieldner, chief engineer of the Experiment Stations Division, U. S. Bureau of Mines; Oliver Kamm, scientific director of the Research Laboratories of Parke, Davis and Company; Dr. S. C. Lind, director, School of Chemistry of the University of Minnesota; Thomas Midgley, Jr., consultant, General Motors Corporation, executive of the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation; Dr. Charles L. Reese, retired in 1931 as chemical director of the E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company; C. M. A. Stine, vice-president, director and member of the executive committee of the E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company; J. W. Watson, professor and head of the department of chemistry and chemical engineering, Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

ROBERT E. DOHERTY, professor of electrical engineering in Yale University, has been appointed dean of the School of Engineering. Professor Doherty, who had been associated with the General Electric Company since 1909, joined the faculty of Yale University a year ago.

N. F. MOTT, fellow of Caius College, Cambridge, and university lecturer in mathematics, has been appointed to the Melville Wills chair of theoretical physics in the Wills Physical Laboratory at the University of Bristol in succession to Professor Lennard-Jones, the appointment to be effective in August, 1933. Dr. C. M. Yonge, of the Marine Biological Laboratory, Plymouth, has been appointed to the chair of zoology.

THE title of emeritus professor of mathematics in the University of London was conferred on Professor S. A. F. White on his retirement from the chair of mathematics at King's College, London.

IN the issue of SCIENCE for October 28, a reference was inadvertently made to the "recent retirement" of Arthur Keith from the U. S. Geological Survey. Mr. Keith is geologist of the survey, as he has been since 1894.

PROFESSOR MARSTON T. BOGERT, of Columbia University, has been appointed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture a permanent collaborator in the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils. On nomination by the American Chemical Society he has been appointed its representative on the Division of Chemistry and Chemical Technology of the National Research Council.

WARD SHEPARD, forest economist, has received an award from the Oberländer Trust of the Carl Schurz Memorial Foundation, Philadelphia, which will enable him to make a study of German forestry, particularly from the economic standpoint, giving special attention to the relationship of forests to the industrial and social welfare of communities.

SIR GEORGE SEATON BUCHANAN, senior medical officer of the Ministry of Health and delegate for the United Kingdom, has been appointed president of the Permanent Committee of the Office international d'Hygiène publique, in succession to the late M. Otto Velghe, secretary-general of the Ministère de l'Intérieur et de l'Hygiène at Brussels, who had held that office continuously from 1919 until his death at Geneva, which occurred suddenly while he was attending the session of the Health Committee of the League of Nations on October 11.

EDWARD W. ALLEN, of Seattle, Washington, has been appointed to succeed Miller Freeman as one of the two American members of the International Fisheries Commission.

PROFESSOR ALBERT EINSTEIN will sail for the United States on December 10, traveling to California by way of the Panama Canal. Next winter he will take up his work at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, New Jersey.

DR. E. WALDSCHMIDT-LEITZ, of the Institut für Biochemie, Technische Hochschule, Prague, together with three of his assistants, Drs. Purr, Koehler and Weil, will work on the relation of enzymes to cancer research in the laboratories of the Graduate School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania.

THE Committee on Scientific Research of the American Medical Association has recently made a grant to Dr. Willard O. Thompson, of the Rush Medical College, Chicago, in order that Joseph M. Alper, of the Harvard Medical School, Boston, may continue work with him on the relation between thyroxine and the glutathione oxidation system.

THE Council of the Institution of Civil Engineers has awarded the Indian Premium for the session 1931–32 to Sir Bernard D'O. Darley (Bahawalpur, Punjab), and the Webb Prize for the session to Mr. B. G. White (London) for papers read and discussed at ordinary meetings of the institution. The following awards for the session have been made for "Selected Engineering Papers," published without discussion: A Telford Gold Medal to Dr. J. F. Baker, Abbots Langley; Telford Premiums to Mr. William Muirhead, London; Mr. E. B. Cocks, London; Dr. James Orr, Glasgow; Dr. W. J. Walker, Johannesburg, and Mr. W. C. Ash, Vizagapatam, India, and a Crampton Prize to Mr. L. St. C. Rundlett, Rangoon, Burma.

Nature reports that at the annual meeting of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, held on October 24, the following officers were elected: *President,* Sir E. A. Sharpey-Schafer; *Vice-presidents,* Professor J. H. Ashworth; Dr. A. Logan Turner; Dr. J. B. Clark; Professor James Ritchie; Sir Thomas Holland; The Honorable Lord Sands; *General Secretary,* Professor

R. A. Sampson; *Secretaries to Ordinary Meetings,* Professor C. G. Darwin and Professor F. A. E. Crew; *Treasurer,* Dr. James Watt; *Curator of Library and Museum,* Professor D'Arcy W. Thompson; *Councilors,* Dr. Murray Macgregor; Dr. A. Crichton Mitchell; Professor P. T. Herring; Professor James P. Kendall; Professor T. M. MacRobert; Professor Godfrey H. Thomson; Dr. Malcolm Wilson; Professor E. B. Bailey; Professor J. C. Brash; Professor A. J. Clark; Professor A. G. Ogilvie, and Professor E. M. Wedderburn.

DR. C. MACFIE CAMPBELL, professor of psychiatry at the Harvard Medical School, will give, at a date to be announced, six evening Lowell Lectures on "Human Personality and the Environment."

DR. ERNEST SACHS, professor of clinical neurological surgery in the Washington University School of Medicine, will give a two-weeks course of lectures before the Honolulu Medical Society.

DR. EDWARD C. SCHNEIDER, professor of biology at Wesleyan University, spoke on November 1 before the students and faculty of the University of Colorado School of Medicine and Hospitals in Denver, on "Physiological Reactions of Man to High Altitudes and Low Oxygen."

SIR JAMES JEANS will deliver the Henry Sidgwick Memorial Lecture on November 26 at Newnham College, Cambridge. The subject of the lecture will be "The Farthest Depths of Space."

THE Cyrus Fogg Brackett Lectures at Princeton University School of Engineering for 1932–1933 are as follows: October 11, James A. Farrell, formerly president of the United States Steel Corporation, "The Engineer in Foreign Trade"; December 13, B. E. Hutchinson, vice-president and treasurer, Chrysler Corporation, Detroit, "The Automobile Industry"; January 10, 1933, George B. Cortelyou, president, Consolidated Gas Company of New York, "The Gas Industry"; February 14, Charles Donnelly, president, Northern Pacific Railway Company, St. Paul, "The Pacific Northwest"; March 14, George E. Vincent, formerly president of the Rockefeller Foundation, "A Scientific Adventure"; April 11, Jonathan Jones, chief engineer, McClintic-Marshall Corporation, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, "Modern Trends in the Construction of Steel Bridges."

THE forty-fifth annual meeting of the Geological Society of America will be held on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, December 28–30, at Cambridge, Massachusetts, under the auspices of the Boston Geological Society, Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Headquarters will be at the Harvard Union, where the scientific sessions will be held. The address of the retiring president, Dr. Reginald A. Daly, will be delivered at the Walker Memorial Hall at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on December 28, at 8 o'clock P. M. His subject will be "The Depths of the Earth." The regular dinner of the society will be held on Thursday evening, December 29, at 7 o'clock, in the Harvard Union. The Paleontological Society and the Mineralogical Society will hold their annual meetings in conjunction with the Geological Society.

THE Society of American Bacteriologists will hold its annual meeting in Ann Arbor, Michigan, from December 28 to 30, inclusive, under the presidency of Professor Edwin B. Fred, of the University of Wisconsin. This meeting is dedicated to Anton van Leeuwenhoek, the tercentenary of whose birth will be commemorated. A historical exhibit of Leeuwenhoekiana will be shown. The scientific program will emphasize the physical and chemical aspects of bacteriology and immunology. Round-table discussions will be held on (1) Bacterial filtrability, dissociation and life cycles, (2) Microbiology of frozen foods and (3) Taxonomy.

THE nineteenth annual meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Club will be held in Columbus on November 25, 26 and 27. The meetings will be held in the auditorium of the Ohio State Museum on the campus of the Ohio State University.

THE second annual meeting of the Inter-Society Color Council will open at Columbia University College of Pharmacy on December 28.

THE regular three-year session of the International Union of Forest Experiment Stations was held this year at the Forest School, Nancy, France. Professor Guinier, head of the Forest School at Nancy, was the president, and the staff of the Forest School and the Experiment Station conducted the excursions. The trip before the congress, which was intended to give a bird's-eye picture of the forest types of France, was under the leadership of Messrs. Roudin and Schaeffer. Starting at Rouen it went south to the Pyrenees, then east to the Rhone and north to the foothills of the Alps, reaching Nancy after two weeks of railroad travel and automobiling. The principal topics at the congress were the methods to be used in measuring sample plots and describing them, and the measures desirable to take to prevent destructive erosion, especially in Alpine regions. After the congress there was a special excursion of a week, which was intended to show the work which the French Forest Service has done in the Mediterranean region. In spite of the depression the attendance was fairly good. About fifty representatives of some thirty countries attended the

sessions so that the proceedings were truly international in character. The United States was represented by C. F. Korstian, B. Moore and K. W. Woodward. Professor G. Roth, of Hungary, is the president for the next congress, which will meet at Hungary in 1936. E. N. Munns, of the U. S. Forest Service, is the vice-president.

AN American standard value to be used by industry in converting inches to millimeters was recommended by a general conference held recently under the auspices of the American Standards Association, following a request of the Ford Motor Company. The conference was presided over by Dr. P. G. Agnew, secretary of the association. Representatives of 18 industrial groups having an interest in precise measurements and methods of limit gaging were present. The conference unanimously recommended the conversion factor of one inch equals 25.4 millimeters to become the American standard value for industrial use, replacing for this purpose both the official ratio 25.40005 and the rounded value 25.4001 given in certain handbooks and tables. The official British ratio is 25.399978, and the last precise experimentally determined value 25.399956. Thus the British official value is about one part in a million below, and the American official value about two parts in a million above 25.4. British industry, through the British Standards Institution, adopted the value 25.4 for industrial use in 1930. This simple ratio has been advocated by Continental European countries. The adoption of the conversion ratio 25.4 by American industry will secure world-wide uniformity in conversion practice. For example, an American automobile manufacturer having plants in both metric and inch countries, desiring to have complete interchangeability of parts regardless of the country in which they are made, can use identical blue-prints in the respective countries on the basis of the uniform conversion ratio 25.4.

Industrial and Engineering Chemistry reports that at the Denver meeting of the American Chemical Society the Division of Chemical Education took the following action regarding the reinstatement of Professor J. N. Swan at the University of Mississippi: "At the Cincinnati meeting of the American Chemical Society in September, 1930, the Division of Chemical Education expressed a vigorous protest against the unjust and summary dismissal from the University of Mississippi of J. N. Swan, then chairman of this division. As an evidence of our confidence in Dr. Swan he was again elected chairman. Ours seems to have been one of the first of many organizations to protest against this and other removals under the régime of Governor Bilbo. In view of the recent reinstatement of Dr. Swan and others we wish to express our commendation and appreciation of the new spirit now evident in Mississippi and to congratulate Governor Connor and others in authority. The vindication and reinstatement of Dr. Swan mean much to him and to us but much more to the State of Mississippi."

Museum News reports that the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences is to receive nearly all the $1,673,000 estate of the late Victor Wilbour. Mr. Wilbour's sister and brother-in-law, E. H. Blashfield, have renounced their shares in favor of the institute, which will then receive all except $20,000 that goes to the Historical Society of Rhode Island.

DR. WILLIAM L. RICHARDSON, who died on October 20, made a bequest of $100,000 to Harvard University for the endowment of a professorship of obstetrics and another of $40,000 for the establishment of the Jeffrey Richardson Fellowship. His library, with the exception of his medical books, also was left to the university.

FORMAL administration of the Bear River (Utah) Migratory-Bird Refuge by the Bureau of Biological Survey began on October 1, the effective date of the administrative regulations prescribed on September 28 by Acting Secretary Dunlap. An executive proclamation issued on September 26 established boundaries for the refuge, a 64,255-acre marsh area at the mouth of Bear River, considered one of the most important breeding, feeding and concentration areas in the West for ducks, geese and shore birds. About 28,000 acres of the refuge area is flooded and about 40 per cent. of this was designated as public shooting grounds by the acting secretary, under the act of Congress providing for establishment of the refuge. The rest of the area will be administered as an inviolate sanctuary.

THE superintendent of documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., has for sale a recently issued detailed index to subjects and authors of the publications of the United States Department of Agriculture for the period 1901–1925, inclusive. It covers all the publications of the department for the period given with the exception of the periodicals issued by the bureaus. *The Journal of Agricultural Research* and *The Official Record* of the department are included. As the publication contains an analytical index of the numerous subjects covered by the department's extensive published research for a quarter of a century, it will be of value to those investigators and research institutions that have occasion to refer to the work or results of the department for that period. The index contains 2,689 pages and is bound in one volume in buckram.