

American Chemical Society, Pacific Intersectional Division. *Chairman*, Program Committee: C. R. Kinney, University of Utah, Salt Lake City.

American Physical Society. Local Secretary for the Pacific Coast: Leonard B. Loeb, University of California, Berkeley.

American Phytopathological Society, Pacific Division. *Secretary*: B. A. Rudolph, Route 1, Box 232, San Jose.

American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, Western Division. *Secretary*: L. E. Griffin, Reed College, Portland, Oregon.

Astronomical Society of the Pacific. *Secretary*: C. H. Adams, 506 Merchants Exchange Building, San Francisco.

Botanical Society of the Pacific, Pacific Section. *Secretary*: George R. Hill, American Smelting and Refining Company, Salt Lake City.

California Academy of Sciences. *Secretary*: Susie M. Peers, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco.

San Francisco Aquarium Society. *Secretary*: Mrs. Ethel Seale, Steinhart Aquarium, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco.

Society of American Foresters, California and North Pacific Sections. *Secretary*: H. L. Person, University of California, Berkeley.

Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine. *Secretary*: M. L. Tainter, Stanford Medical School, San Francisco.

Utah Academy of Sciences. *Secretary*: Vasco M. Tanner, Brigham Young University, Provo.

Western Society of Naturalists. *Secretary*: E. G. Moberg, The Scripps Institution, La Jolla, California.

Western Society of Soil Science. *Secretary*: E. E. Thomas, Citrus Experiment Station, Riverside, California.

Members wishing to present papers before any of the scientific sessions are asked to submit the titles of their communications to the secretary or program chairman of the appropriate society. Alternatively, titles may be sent to the office of the Pacific Division. Members of non-participating societies desiring to present papers are cordially invited to do so. A title submitted to any of the above will be placed upon the program of the society most suitable to receive it.

A preliminary announcement containing general information about the meeting will be distributed late in March. The program containing titles of all communications will be mailed about June 1.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. H. SPENCER JONES, astronomer at the Cape of Good Hope Observatory, has been appointed astronomer royal at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, in succession to Sir Frank Dyson, who on reaching the age of sixty-five years will retire from the public service on February 28. Dr. Jones was chief assistant at the Greenwich Observatory from 1913 to 1923.

DR. PAUL D. FOOTE, director of research of the Gulf Oil Companies and lecturer at the University of Pittsburgh, was elected president of the American Physical Society at the recent Atlantic City meeting. He succeeds Dr. W. F. G. Swann, director of the Bartol Research Foundation of the Franklin Institute.

A SOUND film presenting Dr. William H. Welch speaking on "Reminiscences of the Early Days of the Medical School" will be shown at the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, New York, at four o'clock on January 18. Admission is by invitation.

DR. EMIL ARTIN, professor at Hamburg, and Dr. Emmy Noether, professor at Göttingen, have been awarded the Ackerman-Teubner Memorial Prize, Leipzig, for research in mathematics.

DR. R. S. BASSLER, head curator of the department of geology of the U. S. National Museum, has been elected an honorary member of the Society of Natural History of Tartu, Esthonia, in recognition of his work

on the geology and paleontology of that country published as a museum bulletin some years ago.

The British Medical Journal reports that the Dr. Sophie A. Nordhoff-Jung Cancer Prize for the best work in the field of cancer research in recent years has been awarded to Professor Max Askanazy, of the University of Geneva, in recognition of his experimental research work and his critical presentation of larger and general problems in the same field. The commission of award was composed of Professors Borst, Doederlein, von Romberg and Sauerbruch.

WE learn from *Nature* that the Hopkins prize for the period 1924-27 has been awarded by the Cambridge Philosophical Society to Professor G. I. Taylor, Yarrow research professor of the Royal Society, for his researches on hydrodynamics and on the deformation of crystals; and the prize for the period 1927-30 to Professor P. A. M. Dirac, who was recently elected Lucasian professor of mathematics in the University of Cambridge, for his researches on the theory of quantum mechanics.

At their meeting at Atlantic City on December 27, the trustees of the Mathematical Association of America awarded the Chauvenet Prize of \$100 to Professor G. H. Hardy, of the University of Cambridge, England, for his paper entitled "An Introduction to the

Theory of Numbers," which appeared in the *Bulletin* of the American Mathematical Society, Vol. 35 (1929), pages 778-818. This prize is awarded every three years for the best expository paper on a mathematical subject published in English by a member of the Mathematical Association. The award covered the triennium 1929-31.

ON the occasion of the seventieth birthday of Emmanuel de Margerie, the French geologist, thirty-seven American geologists united in sending him a message which included the following: "A few of your American friends and colleagues take this occasion to send you greetings from across the sea. We are mindful of your scholarly acquaintance with the literature of American geology; we appreciate your generous interest in the scientific studies of your American colleagues; and we recall with peculiar pleasure the days when you brought to this country the rich fruits of your ripe experience. And so we gladly join in sending you affectionate greetings, and our cordial wishes for many more years of health in which to enjoy both your own scholarly pursuits and the high honor and esteem in which you are held throughout the world."

DR. CHARLES SINGER, of the University of London, who went to California as Herzstein Lecturer in Medicine in 1930, and who has been professor of the history of science for the past year, has left San Francisco for a trip around the world on his way to England. A farewell luncheon was given to Dr. Singer and Mrs. Singer at the Bohemian Club by the California Medical History Seminar, with Dr. Chauncey D. Leake, professor of pharmacology at the University of California Medical School, presiding.

IN recognition of the work of Dr. Louis E. Wise in the department of forest chemistry at the New York State College of Forestry, Syracuse University, a hand-illuminated copy of a resolution by the faculty of the college has been signed by each member and forwarded to him. Dr. Wise, who had been professor of forest chemistry at the college since 1919, resigned on July 1 owing to illness. Through the action of the Board of Trustees, he retains his connection with the college as professor emeritus. His present address is Winter Park, Florida.

DR. COLLIER COBB, since 1893 professor of geology at the University of North Carolina, has retired from active service.

DR. JAMES A. KENNEDY has been appointed director of the division of diagnostic laboratories at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry.

DR. EDWARD DELEHANTY has been promoted to the professorship of neurology in the University of Colo-

rado School of Medicine, Denver, succeeding the late Dr. George A. Moleen.

DR. HENRY S. HOUGHTON, dean of the Medical College at the University of Iowa, has been appointed professor and associate dean of the division of the biological sciences at the University of Chicago and director of the south side clinics. Dr. Houghton assumed his post on January 1. As director of the clinics he will succeed Dr. Franklin C. McLean, who has become professor of physiology. Dr. Houghton will be associated with Dr. Frank R. Lillie, dean of the biological sciences, and will supervise the medical work of the various university hospitals and clinics.

DR. REGINALD FITZ, associate professor of medicine at the Harvard Medical School, has been elected a member of the National Board of Medical Examiners.

WE learn from *Museum News* that Arthur C. Parker has resigned as director of the Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences, effective December 31. The budget cut of the City Council reduced the museum appropriation to about \$6,000, making impossible a continuation of the institution as an effective organization. Mr. Parker was recently commissioned by *New York History*, the official organ of the New York State Historical Association, to write "A Manual of Museology for History Museums." A consulting board has also been appointed to participate in the project. Its members include Clark Wissler, Hardinge Scholle, Robert W. Bingham, Alexander J. Wall, Julian P. Boyd and Stephen H. P. Pell.

GOVERNOR A. HARRY MOORE, of the State of New Jersey, has appointed Dr. Robert P. Fischelis, secretary and chief chemist of the Board of Pharmacy of the State of New Jersey, a member of the State Educational Survey Commission. The duties of the commission are to survey the educational system of the state and to propose recommendations for an essential program of modern education and methods of financing it. The commission includes the State Commissioner of Education, a number of school superintendents and principals and a number of prominent laymen, all of whom serve without pay.

AT the annual meeting of the Board of Directors, which followed the annual meeting of the National Committee for Mental Hygiene, the following officers were reelected: *Honorary president*, Dr. William H. Welch, of Baltimore; *President*, Dr. Charles P. Emerson, of Indianapolis; *Vice-Presidents*, President James R. Angell, of Yale University; Dr. William L. Russell, professor of psychiatry at the Cornell University Medical College; Dr. Bernard Sachs, of New York; *General Director*, Dr. C. M. Hincks; *Treasurer*, Frederic W. Allen, and *Secretary*, Clifford W. Beers. Dr.

Arthur H. Ruggles, of Providence, was reelected chairman of the Scientific Administration Committee; Dr. Augustus Knight, of New York, chairman of the Executive Committee, and Mortimer N. Buckner, of New York, chairman of the Finance Committee.

DR. EUGENE LINDSAY OPIE, professor of pathology at Cornell Medical College, and Dr. Louis Israel Dublin, vice-president of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, have been appointed Cutter Lecturers on Preventive Medicine at Harvard University for the academic year 1932-33.

DR. FRANCIS R. FRASER, professor of medicine at the University of London, will give the third series of Abraham Flexner Lectures at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Nashville, during February and March. Dr. Fraser will lecture on "The Principles of Therapeutics" and will hold clinics under the auspices of the department of medicine. The Abraham Flexner Lectureship, founded at Vanderbilt in 1927 by Mr. Bernard Flexner, New York, is awarded every two years. Previous lecturers have been Dr. Heinrich Poll, director of the Institute of Anatomy, University of Hamburg, Germany, and Sir William Hardy, director of the Low Temperature Research Station, Cambridge, England.

THE REV. JAMES B. MACELWANE, S.J., Dean of the Graduate School and professor of geophysics in St. Louis University, addressed the St. Louis University Sigma Xi Club on December 12 on "Some Results of Recent Studies at the St. Louis University Seismographic Stations."

DR. FREDERIC H. LAHEE recently completed an extensive trip made for the purpose of addressing various groups of members of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, of which he is president. His itinerary included San Antonio, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, Calgary, Denver, Wichita, Oklahoma City and Tulsa.

On the night of December 12, the geologists of Greater Chicago met to dine together and to form the Geological Society of Chicago. After brief organization proceedings an executive committee was elected to direct later meetings. Professors Edson S. Bastin and John R. Ball spoke in honor of the late Professor U. S. Grant, after which a resolution in memory of Dr. Grant was drafted and unanimously approved. The meeting was then addressed by Professor Warren J. Mead, of the University of Wisconsin, on "The Hoover Dam." Some seventy men and women, representing industrial companies, museums and universities of Greater Chicago, attended.

THE American Physical Society and the American Optical Society will meet at Columbia University, New York City, on Friday and Saturday, February 24 and 25.

THE annual general meeting of the American Philosophical Society will be held at Philadelphia on April 20, 21 and 22, beginning at 2 P. M. on Thursday, April 20.

THE new research laboratory of Merek & Company, Rahway, New Jersey, will be dedicated on March 1. The structure, started in 1932, will house in the south wing laboratories for pure research in biochemistry and pharmacology while the north wing will be used for applied research. The central section will be used for offices of the directors of research, Dr. R. T. Major, director of pure research, and Dr. W. H. Engels, director of applied research. Dr. Joseph Rosin, technical director of the company, and his staff will work on the second floor, which will also house a library.

DR. WALTER M. SEWARD, of Brunswick County, Virginia, has left his entire estate, valued at approximately \$250,000, to the University of Virginia. Under the terms of his will, the lands and personal property bequeathed to the university will be used for "practical demonstrations in the art of forestry," and "toward the maintenance and upbuilding of the school of forestry at the university."

By the will of the late William Boyce Thompson the American Museum of Natural History receives Colonel Thompson's jades and crystals, valued at \$107,000, and in addition \$20,000 to prepare quarters for the collection and \$50,000 to maintain it and make additions.

IT is reported from Mexico City that the State of Oaxaca, with the aid of funds from the federal government, will build a museum to house the relics unearthed during the past two years by the Mexican archeological expedition directed by Professor Alfonso Caso.

Nature reports that an addition of value has been made to the possessions of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds in the Eastwood Nature Reserve, Stalybridge. The reserve, originally extending to about eight acres, was bequeathed by the Right Honorable John F. Cheetham, together with £5,000 for its upkeep. To this has been added an adjacent four acres, with £500, by a niece of the donor, Mrs. Wimbush, of Taunton. The reserve is a beautiful ravine within the public park given by Mr. Cheetham to Stalybridge, and his wish that it should be kept in a natural state as regards fauna and flora will insure the continuance of a sample of wild nature in the heart of an industrial area. Already there is abundance of wild plants and unexpected variety of birds.

THE eighth cumulative volume of the Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature, covering the period from

January, 1929, to June, 1932, has been published by the H. W. Wilson Company of New York City. The index is issued monthly, the numbers are cumulated throughout the year and bound volumes are issued annually. These are then superseded by the permanent volumes. The Guide covers the complete contents of the periodicals that it indexes by subjects and authors. 1,047 periodicals are indexed, including *SCIENCE*, *School and Society* and *The Scientific Monthly*. The first two of these are among nine weekly journals whose contents are selected as most worthy of permanent record and reference.

THE next award of the Alvarenga Prize, amounting to about \$300, will be made on July 14, 1933. Essays may be on any subject in medicine and should represent an addition to the knowledge and understanding of the subject based on either original or literary research. The prize was not awarded in 1932. Communications should be addressed to Dr. John H. Girvin, secretary, 19 South Twenty-second Street, Philadelphia.

ACCORDING to the *Journal* of the American Medical Association, the Rumanian Academy of Sciences controls a fund, collected mainly from bequests, the interest of which, according to the wish of the testator, is awarded to the best literary works that have appeared during the year. The committee on awards has just finished reading the contributions for 1931, and out of the many awards the following were given for medical treatises: The Oroveanu prize of 70,000 lei has been awarded to Dr. Mina Minovici, professor of forensic medicine at the University of Budapest, for the second volume of his "Manual of Forensic Medicine." The Riegler 6,000 lei prize was awarded to Professor Peter Tomescu for his "Clinical Experimental Studies,"

which will be shortly translated into German. The Adamachi prize was given to Dr. Valeriu Bologa for his work "The History of Scientific Medical Work in Rumania," read in part at the recent International Congress on Medical History. The Constantinide prize was divided between Aurel Voina, lecturer at the University of Bucharest, for his treatise "Prostitution and Venereal Disease in Rumania," and Drs. Staico-vici and Westfried for their monograph dealing with public health affairs of the city of Bucharest in the post-war years.

A CORRESPONDENT writes: "Cottonwood Cave on the Lincoln National Forest in New Mexico has been used for a goat shed for a great many years, also as a bat loft perhaps for thousands of years; consequently there are great deposits of guano in the bottom of the cave. As it is very rare that any water runs into the upper part of this cave, the deposit has become very dry. Presumably some visitor started a fire in the litter, not knowing that it would continue to burn. Judging from the distance it traveled, the fire had been burning for about three weeks when it was first discovered. At that time, the gas formed by the burning nitrates was so strong that the party could not go down to the fire. However, when it was visited by Supervisor O. Fred Arthur and Mr. Musgrave on September 24, the fumes were not bad except at the entrance to the cave. Fire guards were sent into the cave and put out the fire by packing water from a supply further down in the cave. An interesting phase of the fire was that the gas, evidently nitric acid gas, was so strong that it killed the leaves on oaks and maples at the mouth of the cave and about 200 feet from the fire. At no time during the fire was there enough heat to kill these leaves."

DISCUSSION

A FORGOTTEN EVOLUTIONIST

ON looking through the volumes of the short-lived *Archiv für Zoologie und Zootomie* my attention was attracted to an article (Bd. III, p. 167, 1802) entitled "Ueber den ursprünglichen Stamm des Menschengeschlechts," by D. Schelver. Being curious to see what the writer would say upon this topic in the year 1802, I discovered that the article contained a most interesting speculation on the probable original home of the human species and the source from which man was derived. Schelver takes issue with the then prevailing doctrine that man originated somewhere in southwestern Asia, urging that we can not legitimately argue from the origin of culture to the origin of the human race. The natural place in which to seek for

the origin of man, he argues, is the region in which the most primitive men are living at the present time. Basing his conclusion on a number of anthropological characteristics, as well as cultural development, Schelver contends that the Negroes are the most primitive members of the human family, and that Africa must, therefore, have been the original cradle of the human race. But whence the Negroes? The Negroes, however, are far from representing the original ancestors of men. They have progressed far, both culturally and structurally, from the original human beings. It is no mere coincidence, according to Schelver, that Africa is the home of both the Negroes and the anthropoid apes. But man can not be derived from any existing species of anthropoids. "I shall