

### THE AMERICAN SOCIETY AND JOURNAL FOR PHARMACOLOGY AND EXPERI- MENTAL THERAPEUTICS

THE annual meeting of the society was held at the University of Cincinnati from April 10 to 12. The following officers were elected for next year:

*President*, Wm. de B. MacNider

*Vice-president*, A. L. Tatum

*Secretary*, V. E. Henderson

*Treasurer*, O. H. Plant

*Council*, C. M. Gruber

G. B. Roth

*Membership Committee*, J. Auer

The most important business before the society was the offer of Dr. J. J. Abel, who founded the *Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics* and who, with Dr. Carl Voegtlin and Dr. Reid Hunt, formed the original corporation, to turn over the journal to the society as its official organ. This offer was unanimously accepted by the society, and the following resolution was adopted by the society as the means of expressing its appreciation to Professor Abel:

*Be it Resolved*, that the Secretary of the Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics be instructed to write to Professor Abel and to the members of the Corporation of the *Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics*,

(a) That the Society wishes to express to them its deep gratitude and thanks for their most gracious and very generous offer to transfer the Journal free of all encumbrances to the Society.

(b) That the Society records its grateful appreciation of Dr. Abel's long and faithful service in furthering the advancement of Pharmacology in this country by promoting and editing the Journal.

(c) That the Society wishes to assure Dr. Abel that every effort will be made to maintain and extend if possible, the high standards of excellence as set by the Journal during the twenty-four years it has been under his control.

(d) That the Society is deeply touched by the devotion shown by Dr. Abel to its interest in returning from Baltimore to this meeting in order to aid in completing the arrangements for the transfer of the Journal to the Society.

The necessary steps were taken by the society for giving effect to this transfer.

V. E. HENDERSON,  
*Secretary*

### OBITUARY

DR. EDGAR HENRY SUMMERFIELD BAILEY, professor emeritus of chemistry at the University of Kansas, where he was a member of the faculty for fifty years, died on June 1 at the age of eighty-four years.

PROFESSOR WILLIAM P. RYAN, head of the department of chemical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and director of its school of chemical engineering practise, died on May 31 at the age of thirty-eight years.

FREDERIC POOLE GORHAM, professor of bacteriology at Brown University, died suddenly on June 4. He was sixty-two years old.

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

WE are informed by cable that there was organized in London on June 1 the Academic Assistance Council with Lord Rutherford as chairman. Its object is to provide positions or other aid for university professors and scientific men who because of "religion, political opinion or race are unable to carry on their work in their own country."

DR. ISALAH BOWMAN, director of the American Geographical Society, has been elected chairman of the National Research Council, to fill the position occupied until his recent resignation by Dr. Vernon Kellogg. Dr. Bowman will remain director of the American Geographical Society and will devote half his time to the work of the National Research Council. There has been created in the National Research Council the office of honorary vice-chairman to which Dr. William H. Welch, of the Johns Hopkins University, has been elected. The honorary chairman is Dr. George Ellery Hale, honorary director of the Mount Wilson Observatory.

DR. HAROLD WILLIS DODDS, professor of politics at

Princeton University and chairman of the administrative committee of the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs, has been elected fifteenth president of the university to succeed the late Dr. John Grier Hibben. Dr. Luther P. Eisenhart, professor of mathematics and dean of the faculty, has been elected dean of the Graduate School to succeed Dr. Augustus Trowbridge, who resigned last year, and Dr. Robert Kilburn Root, Woodrow Wilson professor of literature and chairman of the department of English, succeeds Dr. Eisenhart as dean of the faculty. Since the resignation of Dr. Hibben in June, 1932, Edward D. Duffield, president of the Prudential Insurance Company and trustee of the university, has been acting president.

DR. GEORGE DAVID BIRKHOFF, professor of mathematics at Harvard University, has been elected Perkins professor of mathematics to succeed Professor William F. Osgood, who on September 1 retires with the title of professor emeritus.

PROFESSOR WILLIAM H. TALIAFERRO, associate dean

of the Division of the Biological Sciences at the University of Chicago, has been appointed chairman of the department of hygiene and bacteriology to succeed Dr. Edwin O. Jordan, who retires on October 1 after being associated with the university for forty-one years.

DR. SIMON FLEXNER, director of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, was the speaker on June 1 at a luncheon at the Bankers Club, given in his honor by the Bond Club of New York.

THE Dutch Red Cross Society, under the presidency of Prince Hendrik, awarded its gold medal on April 19 to Dr. Karl Landsteiner, member of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, for his discovery of the blood groups in relation to blood transfusion.

THOSE on whom honorary degrees are to be conferred by the University of Cincinnati on June 10 include Professor Herman Schneider, dean of the College of Engineering and formerly president of the university; Dean Roscoe Pound, of the Harvard Law School, and John Adam Fleming, director of the Department of Terrestrial Magnetism, Carnegie Institution of Washington.

DR. WILLIAM DE BERNIERE MACNIDER, Kenan research professor of pharmacology at the University of North Carolina Medical School, on May 30 was awarded the honorary degree of doctor of science during the commencement exercises closing the ninety-fifth session of the Medical College of Virginia, Richmond.

DR. HUGH H. YOUNG, clinical professor and visiting urologist at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, will sail on June 20 to receive the honorary degree of doctor of philosophy from Queen's University, Belfast, Ireland.

SIR WALTER MORLEY FLETCHER, secretary of the British Medical Research Council, and Dr. Samuel Smiles, Daniell professor of chemistry at King's College, University of London, will receive the degree of D.Sc. from the University of Belfast.

PROFESSOR HENRY B. WARD, who is retiring as professor of zoology and head of the department of zoology at the University of Illinois, was given a "surprise party" at his home on the evening of May 27. Seventy of his colleagues and friends were there and presented him with a canoe and boat house, and a volume of letters from one hundred and twenty-five friends and associates. Professor Ward has become permanent secretary of the American Association for the Advancement of Science under conditions which permit him to continue research work.

BOSTON surgeons and members of the Italian Medical Society on June 3 paid tribute to Dr. Alberto Alessandri, professor of surgery at the University

of Rome, at a dinner given in his honor at the University Club. Dr. Alessandri is in Boston as part of his tour of the country, during which he is studying American hospitals and surgical methods.

DR. ERNEST E. IRONS, dean of the Rush Medical College, has been appointed chairman of the department of medicine at the University of Chicago, succeeding Dr. George F. Dick. Dr. Dick continues as professor in the department of medicine at the college and as professor and chairman of the department of medicine in the Division of Biological Sciences of the University of Chicago.

OWEN STANLEY GIBBS, professor of physiology and pharmacology, University of Georgia School of Medicine, has been appointed professor of physiology at Georgetown University School of Medicine, Washington, D. C.

DR. ISIDOR MORRIS HEILBRON, at present Heath Harrison professor of organic chemistry in the University of Liverpool, has accepted an invitation to a chair of organic chemistry in the University of Manchester.

MR. ROBERT RAE, of Queen's University, Belfast, has been appointed to the professorship of agriculture at the University of Reading, in succession to Professor S. Pennington.

THE chair of physiology at Edinburgh University, which becomes vacant on September 30 of this year by the retirement of Sir Edward Sharpey-Schafer, has been filled by the appointment of Dr. Ivan de Burgh Daly, professor of physiology in the University of Birmingham.

AT the University of Dublin Sir Charles Arthur Kinahan Ball has become the Regius professor of surgery in succession to the late Sir William Taylor, and John Purser has been appointed to the chair of civil engineering, which had become vacant by the death of Professor David Clark. Mr. Purser is assistant professor of civil engineering at the City and Guilds (Engineering) College and reader in civil engineering in the University of London.

DR. WALTER J. WILLIAMS, of Baylor University, Waco, Texas, was recently appointed curator of the university museum. The death of John K. Strecker, who had held this position since 1903, occurred on January 9. Dr. Williams had been closely associated with him since 1924.

DR. DANIEL F. JONES, who is a member of the board of overseers of Harvard College, has been elected president of the American Surgical Association.

PROFESSOR GEORGE H. PARKER, director of the zoo-

logical laboratories of Harvard University, was chosen on May 29 *president* of the Harvard Chapter of Sigma Xi for the coming year; Dr. James B. Conant, the newly elected president of the university, was elected *vice-president*; Professor Kirtley F. Mather, *secretary*; Dr. L. Don Leet, *assistant secretary*, and Professor William L. Crum, *treasurer*.

DR. ALEXANDER WETMORE, assistant secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, has been elected president of the District of Columbia Chapter of Sigma Xi.

THE following have been elected as officers of the Chicago Chemists Club for the year 1933-34: *President*, Gustav Egloff; *First vice-president*, E. C. Leamon; *Second vice-president*, C. O. Miller; *Secretary*, C. D. Lowry, Jr.; *Treasurer*, E. A. Dieterle, and *Trustee*, Bruce K. Brown.

AT the annual general meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, London, to be held on June 19, the council will propose the election of Major-General Sir Percy Cox as president of the society in succession to Admiral Sir William Goodenough, whose term of office expires in November. Sir William will then become a vice-president. Sir Percy Cox has been a fellow of the society since 1895, was a vice-president in 1926 and is at present a member of the council.

PROFESSOR C. U. ARIENS KAPPERS, director of the Central Institute for Brain Research at Amsterdam, arrived in New York on May 29. He is a guest of the Century of Progress Exposition and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. After the meeting he is expected to give lectures in New York and Toronto. Dr. Ludwig Diels, director of the Botanical Garden and Museum at Berlin, also a guest of the exposition and the association, arrived on April 16. The *Bulletin* of the New York Botanical Garden states that he planned to spend a month in botanical exploration in the southeastern states, to visit Washington and Boston and to spend some time in New York before going to Chicago about the middle of June.

DR. ERNEST O. LAWRENCE, professor of physics at the University of California, will be visiting lecturer in physics at the summer session at Cornell University. Dr. Lawrence will give a course of lectures on "The Theory of Electric Discharges" and will conduct a discussion course dealing chiefly with "Nuclear Phenomena."

DR. ALFRED LANDÉ, professor of physics at the Ohio State University, delivered on May 26 the annual Sigma Xi address on "Determinacy in Physics and Biology" before the University of Cincinnati Chapter.

DR. D. B. DILL, of the Fatigue Laboratory, Harvard University, recently addressed the Massachusetts State College Sigma Xi Club on "Capacity for Work." On May 2 Dr. C. C. Little, of the Roscoe B. Jackson Memorial Laboratory, Bar Harbor, Maine, addressed the club on "Recent Researches on Cancer."

THE officers of the "Notgemeinschaft der deutschen Wissenschaft" have presented their resignations. They include Dr. Friedrich Schmidt-Ott, formerly "Kultus" minister, president since its foundation; Dr. Walter von Dyck, professor of mathematics at the Munich Institute of Technology; Professor Fritz Haber, who recently resigned as director of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Physical Chemistry, and Dr. Heinrich Konen, professor of physics at the University at Bonn, vice-presidents.

THE Pacific Science Congress opened at Victoria, British Columbia, on June 1, with 160 men of science from thirty nations bordering on the Pacific in attendance. Lieutenant-Governor J. W. Fordham Johnson welcomed the convention to British Columbia, and Dr. H. M. Tory, of Ottawa, president of the congress, responded. Among the speakers at the opening session were Professor Paul Chavier, of the Paris Academy of Sciences; Professor G. I. Taylor, of the Royal Society of London; Dr. S. Hatai, of the Imperial Japanese University, Tokyo; Professor G. Van Eferdingen, spokesman for the Netherlands Government, and Dr. H. E. Gregory, director of the Bernice P. Bishop Museum at Honolulu. On Monday, June 5, the entire group adjourned to Vancouver, B. C., where the meeting will continue until Wednesday, June 14. After the close of the congress, the members will take a four-day tour through the famous Canadian Rockies, to Calgary and return.

It has been found advisable to cancel the 1933 meeting of the National Conference on Weights and Measures which normally would be held early in June. After considering the entire situation the executive committee of the conference has decided by a unanimous vote that it would be unwise to attempt to hold a meeting this year. When the 1932 meeting was abandoned it was hoped that one could be held as usual in 1933, but continuance of abnormal economic conditions has made it certain that but few people would have been able to attend.

THE one hundred and first annual session of the British Medical Association will be held in Dublin, July 21-29. The annual representative meeting will begin Friday, July 21, and continue the next three week days. The annual general meeting will be held Tuesday afternoon, July 25, and the scientific sessions will occupy the next three days. Saturday,

July 29, will be devoted to excursions to places of interest. Dr. Thomas G. Moorhead, regius professor of physie, Trinity College, Dublin, is the incoming president of the association.

THE date of the meeting of the Phi Sigma Society is June 26, 27 and 28, not June 19, 20 and 21, as announced in the preliminary program of the Chicago meeting of the American Association.

THE fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station was observed at the Farm Field Day in Madison on June 3. The Babcock film, a talking picture taken by the

U. S. Department of Agriculture while the late Dr. S. M. Babcock was still living, was shown for the first time to a Wisconsin audience. It shows Dr. Babcock in his laboratory explaining the test and the machine which he developed which is used generally wherever dairying is carried on. Dr. Eugene Davenport, formerly dean of the College of Agriculture of the University of Illinois, was the principal speaker. The departments of the College of Agriculture, carrying on research, arranged an exhibit to show recent developments and findings as they apply to practical every-day farm and home problems.

## DISCUSSION

### MEANINGLESS VERSUS SIGNIFICANT TERMS IN GEOLOGICAL CLASSIFICATION

IN the February 10, 1933, issue of SCIENCE there appears a brief article by Dr. M. M. Leighton on "The Naming of the Subdivisions of the Wisconsin Glacial Age," in which he proposes the substitution of certain meaningless terms—Tazewell, Cary and Mankato—for the significant terms, Early Wisconsin, Middle Wisconsin and Late Wisconsin, which have been in general use for considerable time, and are readily understood by any one reading geological literature, denoting as they do successive parts of the Wisconsin glacial stage. The incentive for suggesting the new names seems to have its basis in a newly acquired view of Dr. Leighton that the deposition of the Iowan drift came only a short time before that of the Early Wisconsin drift, and so it may properly be included in the Wisconsin stage.

Whether the Iowan should be so included, if the entire field is taken into account, is far from being clearly established. This has been made forcibly apparent in a recent report by Dr. W. C. Alden on eastern Montana and adjacent areas (Professional Paper 174, U. S. Geological Survey, issued in 1932). There are deposits in Montana and the Dakotas which Dr. Alden is inclined to refer to the Iowan, but he considers them too old to be included in the Wisconsin stage. These are discussed by him under the heading "Illinoian or Iowan." But he thinks they do not appear to be as old as the Illinoian of Illinois.

Inasmuch as the entire series of drifts classed as Illinoian, Iowan and Wisconsin fall in the last quarter of the Pleistocene Period the distinctions in age aspects are less striking than between these drifts and those of middle and early Pleistocene age, known as Kansan and Nebraskan. This being the case, it seems advisable to let the terms that are in general use stand, especially where they have significance, and are

self-explanatory, and not replace them by a set of meaningless terms.

FRANK LEVERETT

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

### THREE PREHISTORIC PARASITES

IN 1916-17 an expedition of the Peabody Museum of American Archaeology and Ethnology of Harvard University excavated Basket-Maker Indian remains from desert caves in the northeastern portion of Arizona. Several human bodies were recovered and these have been described in the museum report<sup>1</sup> and elsewhere.<sup>2</sup>

Besides the human remains, two dogs were also found in undisturbed burial cists dug into the hard pan of the so-called "White Dog" cave. With the larger dog were found the bodies of many thousand flies. These flies were identified at the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard as being *Caliphora coloradensis*.

Just recently a thorough microscopic examination has been made of uncontaminated skin and hair taken from the larger dog, and in a surprisingly well-preserved state have been found the eggs and young adults of a louse (*Trichodectus*), eggs and adults of a flea (*Sarcopsylla penetrans*), and numerous colonies of a fungus (*Trichosporum giganteum*) growing upon the hair shafts.

The only claim to fame of these insignificant parasites is their age, which has been conservatively estimated to be between six and ten thousand years.

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

GALE E. WILSON

### THE DISTRIBUTION OF SERAPIAS HELLEBORINE IN CENTRAL NEW YORK

*Serapias Helleborine* L.—classified in the past as *Epipactis Crantz*; *E. latifolia* All.; *E. viridiflora*

<sup>1</sup> S. J. Guernsey and A. V. Kidder, "Basket-Maker Caves of Northeastern Arizona," Peabody Museum papers, Vol. viii, No. 2, 1921.

<sup>2</sup> G. E. Wilson, "A Study in American Paleohistology," *American Naturalist*, Vol. lxi, 1927.