

With several well-supported post-doctorate fellowships the most gifted of the younger geologists or geographers of the country could be retained for one or more years in study and research before settling down to some permanent position. It is believed that in this way very great advance could be made.

During the period 1926-1931 the division, together with the Divisions of Physics and Chemistry, co-operated through the Central Petroleum Committee of the Research Council with the American Petroleum Institute in organizing the work and selecting the personnel for the projects financed by the institute under its five-year program of fundamental research in petroleum. Descriptions of these projects and lists of papers which resulted from these studies have been published in the bulletins of the institute.

One of the bibliographic projects now in progress under the auspices of the division is that of the "Annotated Bibliography of Economic Geology." Sufficient funds were raised by the committee to cover the editorial expenses for a period of about seven years, after which it is hoped that the bibliography will have sufficiently demonstrated its usefulness to enlist further financial support.

As noted in a previous paragraph, records of the work of the division are given in numerous publications. In the annual report of the division for 1931-1932, a history is given which includes an annotated list of some 64 projects undertaken by the division

since its permanent organization in 1919. In this history are given details and results of the work of the division not possible of presentation in this short paper. These are tangible results that are possible of measurement. In addition there are the intangible results which are difficult of discovery and equally difficult of evaluation. The several division chairmen, the many different members of the division and the personnel of the committees have stimulated research as they have been brought in contact with their colleagues through membership in the National Research Council or its committees, and they themselves in turn have been stimulated by such contacts. To those familiar with the results of the work accomplished, the record seems an enviable one.

The future of the division is of course unknown, but everything seems favorable for continued development along the paths it has already opened. In the early days there was no doubt much uncertainty as to what the division might do, but, measured by its past record, it has more than justified its founding, and, basing itself on its accomplishments, it may look confidently to the future. As in the past there will be required devoted and loyal workers. The division in part can provide for these in the election of members-at-large and the selection of its committee chairmen, but for the greater part of the membership it must rely upon the societies by which these members are chosen.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL PARKS, BUILDINGS AND RESERVATIONS

THE reorganization order of President Roosevelt, establishing the Office of National Parks, Buildings and Reservations, will take effect sixty days from June 10, the date of issue. It is as follows:

All functions of administration of public buildings, reservations, national parks, national monuments and national cemeteries are consolidated in an office of national parks, buildings and reservations in the Department of the Interior, at the head of which shall be a director of national parks, buildings and reservations; except that where deemed desirable there may be excluded from this provision any public building or reservation which is chiefly employed as a facility in the work of a particular agency. This transfer and consolidation of functions shall include, among others, those of the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior, and the national cemeteries and parks of the War Department which are located within the continental limits of the United States. National cemeteries located in foreign countries shall be transferred to the Department of State, and those located in insular possessions under

the jurisdiction of the War Department shall be administered by the Bureau of Insular Affairs of the War Department.

The functions of the following agencies are transferred to the office of national parks, buildings and reservations of the Department of the Interior and the agencies are abolished:

The Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission, the Public Buildings Commission, the Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital, the National Memorial Commission and the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway Commission.

Expenditures by the Federal Government for the purposes of the Commission of Fine Arts, the George Rogers Clark Sesquicentennial Commission and the Rushmore Commission shall be administered by the Department of the Interior.

THE BRITISH ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE COUNCIL

THE formation of the Academic Assistance Council, with Lord Rutherford as president, has been reported in *SCIENCE*. The official announcement of its objects, issued from the rooms of the Royal Society at Burlington House, London, is as follows:

Many eminent scholars and men of science and university teachers of all grades and in all faculties are being obliged to relinquish their posts in the universities of Germany.

The universities of our own and other countries will, we hope, take whatever action they can to offer employment to these men and women, as teachers and investigators. But the financial resources of universities are limited and are subject to claims for their normal development which can not be ignored. If the information before us is correct, effective help from outside for more than a small fraction of the teachers now likely to be condemned to want and idleness will depend on the existence of large funds specifically devoted to this purpose. It seems clear also that some organization will be needed to act as a center of information and put the teachers concerned into touch with the institutions that can best help them.

We have formed ourselves accordingly into a provisional council for these two purposes. We shall seek to raise a fund, to be used primarily, though not exclusively, in providing maintenance for displaced teachers and investigators, and finding them the chance of work in universities and scientific institutions.

We shall place ourselves in communication both with universities in this country and with organizations which are being formed for similar purposes in other countries, and we shall seek to provide a clearing house and center of information for those who can take any kind of action directed to the same end. We welcome offers of co-operation from all quarters. We appeal for generous help from all who are concerned for academic freedom and the security of learning. We ask for means to prevent the waste of exceptional abilities exceptionally trained.

The issue raised at the moment is not a Jewish one alone; many who have suffered or are threatened have no Jewish connection. The issue, though raised acutely at the moment in Germany, is not confined to that country. We should like to regard any funds entrusted to us as available for university teachers and investigators of whatever country who, on grounds of religion, political opinion or race, are unable to carry on their work in their own country.

The Royal Society have placed office accommodation at the disposal of the council. Sir William Beveridge and Professor C. S. Gibson, F.R.S., are acting as Honorary Secretaries of the Council, and communications should be sent to them at the Royal Society, Burlington House, W.1. An executive committee is being formed and the names of trustees for the fund will shortly be announced. In the meantime checks can be sent to either of the honorary secretaries.

Our action implies no unfriendly feelings to the people of any country; it implies no judgment on forms of government or on any political issue between countries. Our only aims are the relief of suffering and the defense of learning and science.

LASCELLES ABERCROMBIE, S. ALEXANDER, W. H. BEVERIDGE, W. H. BRAGG, BUCKMASTER, CECIL, CRAWFORD & BALCARRES, WINIFRED C. CULLIS, H. A. L. FISHER,

MARGERY FRY, C. S. GIBSON, M. GREENWOOD, J. S. HALDANE, A. V. HILL, GEORGE F. HILL, W. S. HOLDSWORTH, F. GOWLAND HOPKINS, A. E. HOUSMAN, J. C. IRVINE, F. G. KENYON, J. M. KEYNES, A. D. LINDSAY, LYTTON, J. W. MACKAIL, ALLEN MAWER, GILBERT MURRAY, EUSTACE PERCY, W. J. POPE, ROBERT S. RAIT, RAYLEIGH, CHARLES GRANT ROBERTSON, ROBERT ROBINSON, RUTHERFORD, MICHAEL E. SADLER, ARTHUR SCHUSTER, C. S. SHERRINGTON, GEORGE ADAM SMITH, G. ELLIOT SMITH, J. C. STAMP, J. J. THOMSON, G. M. TREVELYAN.

HONORARY DEGREES CONFERRED AT YALE UNIVERSITY

DEGREES conferred in the sciences by Yale University on June 21 included the doctorate of science on Dr. Ernest William Brown, Josiah Willard Gibbs professor of mathematics emeritus at the university, and on Dr. Alfred Newton Richards, professor of pharmacology at the University of Pennsylvania. The doctorate of laws was conferred on Dr. Hugh S. Cumming, Surgeon-General of the United States. The degree of master of science was conferred on Dr. William Bosworth Castle, assistant professor of medicine, Thorndike Memorial Foundation, and Boston City Hospital; on Lincoln Ellsworth, New York City, explorer, and on Dr. Alfred Lee Loomis, physicist, director of the Loomis Laboratories.

Candidates for the honorary degrees were cited by Professor William Lyon Phelps, while the degrees were conferred by Dr. Angell.

The citations made in conferring the degrees on Professor Brown, Professor Richards and Surgeon-General Cumming were as follows:

ALFRED NEWTON RICHARDS, SC.D.

Professor Phelps: Professor of pharmacology, University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Richards took his B.A. and M.A. at Yale, and began his career in the Sheffield Scientific School Laboratory of Professor Chittenden. Then he taught at Columbia, later at Northwestern, and in 1910 was made professor at Pennsylvania. During the World War he was attached to the staff of the British Medical Research Committee. In connection with the wide-spread studies of shock he made outstanding observations regarding the occurrence of histamine in minute quantities in the organism and its relation to the behavior of the blood vessels. More recently he has highly developed a unique field of research in regard to kidney function. He has trained many competent investigators, the publications coming from his laboratory being highly important. For many years he has been a guiding influence in the development of academic medicine in Philadelphia. Here is a man whose researches have added to organized knowledge and to the welfare of mankind.

Dr. Angell: Distinguished investigator in a most difficult and important field, inventor therein of delicate and invaluable techniques, a recognized leader in your special department of research, your *alma mater*, proud of your accomplishments, confers upon you the degree of Doctor of Science and admits you to all its rights and privileges.