

grants, which will be adjusted according to the circumstances of each case. The duration of grants will normally not exceed two years. Fellows will usually be required to work at or in connection with a recognized center of research, either at home or abroad. The following have accepted their invitation to serve

on an advisory committee for the selection of fellows and for the general supervision of the scheme: Dr. H. J. W. Hetherington (chairman), Professor A. M. Carr-Saunders, Sir William Hardy, F.R.S., Dr. N. V. Sidgwick, F.R.S., and Mr. H. T. Tizard, F.R.S. Dr. L. Haden Guest has been appointed secretary.

DISCUSSION

HONOR BESTOWED ON DR. DAVID EUGENE SMITH BY THE SHAH OF PERSIA

To the many friends, colleagues and former students of Dr. David Eugene Smith, professor emeritus of mathematics, Columbia University, it will be interesting to know of the appropriate and appreciative recognition recently bestowed on him by H. I. Majesty, the Shah of Persia.

During an absence of four months last winter and spring, spent chiefly in Persia, Iraq and Syria, Dr. Smith traveled by motor upwards of 10,000 kilometers from the time he left Haifa until he reached Turkey. He secured more than 150 manuscripts—mostly Persian, Arabic and Hebrew. Among them were several mathematical pieces of importance, chiefly Arabic translations from the Greek classics, together with a 14th century manuscript of Omar Khayyám's algebra. The translations from the Greek include two Euclids, Archimedes on the circle, and Aristarchus on astronomy. Also he supplemented his early 19th century manuscript of Ulug Begh's tables by three other earlier sets. In the lot were commentaries on al-Khowārizmī's algebra and Beha Eddin's arithmetic.

His collection, which contains also manuscripts of works on the Persian poets, he enlarged by copies, usually with miniatures, of the classics of Ferdousi, Hafiz, Sa'di, Omar Khayyám, Nazāmi, Omar ibn Ghares and others. His large library of Korans and Koranic literature, a few specimens of which are now in the Islamic exhibition in the Metropolitan Museum (New York), was greatly enriched by about 100 additional manuscripts, several with unusually fine decorations and bindings. These acquisitions will form part of his personal library of over 20,000 items which he has presented to the library of Columbia University (the educational works to the special library of Teachers College).

It is well known that mathematical scholarship has a correlation with musical interpretation and appreciation, but seldom with poetical temperament and metrical construction.

In appreciation of Dr. Smith's new metrical version of Omar Khayyám's "Rubáiyát" in 289 quatrains, which was the first work to be worthily illustrated by a Persian artist of high standing, and in recognition of his interest in the mathematical achievements of

the country, the Persian Government conferred upon him, in the presence of a distinguished audience, the gold star of the Order of Elim, decoration of the first rank. After an address by Professor Smith, who was introduced by H. Highness Feroughi, Minister of Foreign Affairs, the presentation was made by H. Highness Esfandiari, the oldest of the former ministers of state. The addresses upon the occasion were published in full in the Persian papers, in some cases with an English summary. An autographed portrait of H. I. Majesty, the Shah, was also among the highly prized souvenirs which were presented to him. He gave addresses in several of the cities and visited a number of the important excavations now in progress in Syria, Iraq and Persia.

Since his retirement from Columbia University, Dr. Smith has profitably engaged in accumulating a unique collection of books, manuscripts, letters and portrait prints of great value to the history of science, and more particularly of value to the history of mathematics. This is to-day probably the most outstanding collection of its kind gathered together by a single individual.

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EXPEDITIONS

In the current number of *Natural History*, Mr. James L. Clark has a very instructive article on "Expeditions," in which he gives advice to those who contemplate journeys abroad for scientific purposes. While thoroughly appreciating the wisdom and experience represented by this article, I refer to it now for the purpose of emphasizing some points which are, it seems, not generally appreciated. Mr. Clark says: "Expeditions are necessarily expensive," and goes on to discuss how they may be financed. He himself has been chiefly interested in securing specimens of the larger mammals, but of course these constitute only a very small part of the fauna. It should be emphatically stated, at the present time, that expeditions to many places and for many purposes require only moderate funds, and that there is no direct relation between the amount of money expended and the scientific results. The world has greatly changed in these respects within my memory. As a