

of reptiles and mammals, New York Zoological Park, "Strange Animal Friends." Dr. Ditmars illustrated his talk with three reels of motion pictures, taken by himself, and told of his recent trip to the American tropics in search of vampire bats. Mr. Merwin M. Peake, founder of the Junior Air Squadron of Elizabeth, New Jersey, "Junior Aeronautics for Science Clubs." Illustrated with actual airplane models and with motion pictures and slides. Several boys from his own "Air Squadron" were given ground tests before the audience.

At the New York Botanical Garden: Senior Biology, *chairman*, Dr. William Crocker, director, Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research, Yonkers, New York. Speakers: Dr. E. D. Merrill, director, New York Botanical Garden, "The Origin of Our Cultivated Food Plants." Robert F. Light, biochemist, research staff, Fleischmann Laboratories, "Clinical and Experimental Phases of the Study of Vitamins." For this group the botanical gardens arranged special exhibits of food plants from all over the world.

At the College of the City of New York: Senior Physical Science, *chairman*, Dr. Morris Meister, of the Plan Committee for the Junior Science Clubs. Speakers: Dr. Lincoln T. Work, School of Engineering, Columbia University, "The Significance of Fine Particles in Chemical Engineering." Professor Parke B. Fraim, physics department, Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn. Professor Fraim's talk was similar in character to his "Twenty Demonstrations in Twenty Minutes," a lecture given recently for teachers of science.

THE THIRD TECHNICAL AND CHEMICAL INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES

THE United States has been invited by the Ministry of Agriculture of France to participate in the third Technical and Chemical International Congress of Agricultural Industries, which will be held in Paris, during the week of March 26, 1934. Upon the recommendation of the Secretary of Agriculture, Dr. Atherton Seidell was designated to represent the United States on the Committee of Organization of this congress which met in Paris on July 10 last. At that time the regulations and a tentative program of scientific activities were adopted. Twenty sections covering most branches of agricultural chemistry have since been organized and a number of questions proposed which will form the subjects of a series of symposia.

Dr. C. A. Browne, chief chemist of the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, U. S. Department of Agriculture, has addressed the letter given below to scientific men who may wish to attend the congress.

The central organizing Committee of the Congress desires that as large a representation from America as possible be present and participate to the fullest extent in the activities of the congress. Due to the short time which remains it is not possible for the Paris Bureau of

the Congress to send invitations direct to persons, institutions, societies, commercial organizations, etc., in the United States. We have, therefore, been requested to bring the subject to the attention of all who may be interested.

This letter should be considered as a personal invitation to you and other representatives of your group to take part in the congress and, if possible, submit communications which may be placed on the program of the meeting.

The date has been advanced to March 26 to 31, inclusive, to permit those who attend the Paris Congress to reach Madrid in time (April 5) for the Ninth International Congress of Pure and Applied Chemistry.

An invitation to attend the Madrid Congress has also been cordially extended by the Spanish organizing committee to all American chemists, and you will consequently be able to attend two important world congresses of chemistry within a period of three weeks. This is an exceptional occasion and American chemists should certainly make an effort to take advantage of it.

Upon request to this office copies of the regulations and general organization of these congresses as well as application forms for membership will be sent.

We trust that you will cooperate with us in bringing the matter to the attention of any one who may be interested and call upon us for any further information you may desire.

THE CINCINNATI AND BOSTON MEETINGS OF THE AMERICAN PHYSICAL SOCIETY

THE one hundred and eighty-seventh meeting of the American Physical Society will be held at the University of Cincinnati on Friday and Saturday, December 1 and 2.

This meeting will celebrate the opening of the new Physics Building at the University of Cincinnati. Special features of this meeting are the inspection of the Basic Science Laboratories and a joint meeting with the American Mathematical Society in a symposium on "Spinor Analysis." The addresses at this symposium will be made by Professor Otto Laporte, of the University of Michigan, and Professor Oswald Veblen, of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton.

On Friday evening at eight o'clock there will be a dinner for the members of the American Physical Society and their friends at the Netherland-Plaza Hotel. A luncheon for mathematicians and mathematical physicists will be held at 12:30 on Saturday at Mecklenburg's restaurant.

The preliminary arrangements for the Boston meeting, to be held on December 28, 29 and 30, include a joint session with the American Mathematical Society at the time of the Josiah Willard Gibbs Lecture, and a joint session with Section B of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Amer-

ican Meteorological Society, at which time the retiring vice-president of Section B, Professor D. L. Webster, will deliver an address on "Current Progress in X-Ray Physics." A symposium has been arranged on the positron, at which the speakers will be Professor Carl D. Anderson, Dr. J. R. Oppenheimer and Professor George E. Uhlenbeck.

The Parker House, at Tremont and School Streets, has been selected for hotel headquarters for the American Physical Society at Boston.

Other meetings for the current season are as follows:

New York City, February, 1934. Joint meeting with the Optical Society of America.

Washington, April, 1934.

Berkeley, California, June 18 to 23, 1934.

THE NEW CHIEF OF THE BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY

THE appointment of Knowles A. Ryerson as chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry, effective January 1, has been announced by Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace.

Mr. Ryerson will succeed Dr. W. A. Taylor, who retires the first of the year after forty-two years' service with the Department of Agriculture, twenty of which have been as head of the bureau. Dr. Taylor reached the retirement age on July 1, but the President granted an extension of six months at the urgent request of Secretary Wallace.

Mr. Ryerson is now in charge of the Division of Foreign Plant Introduction, Bureau of Plant Industry. His promotion to the position as chief of the bureau is announced now so that he may have an opportunity to work for the next few weeks with Dr. Taylor on budgetary and administrative problems before he assumes his new responsibilities.

Knowles A. Ryerson was born on October 17, 1892, at Seattle, Washington. He received his degree of bachelor of science from the University of California in 1916, and a master of science degree from the same university in 1924. He was with the agricultural extension service of the University of California from 1919 to 1925, first as assistant state club leader, and later as assistant farm adviser and farm adviser of Los Angeles County.

From 1925 to 1927 Mr. Ryerson was in Haiti as horticulturist on the staff of the Agricultural Experiment Station. For seven months in 1927 he was horticulturist with the Joint Palestine Survey Commission in Palestine and Transjordan, after which he became head of the Division of Foreign Plant Importations in the Bureau of Plant Industry. His search for plants that would be economically advantageous to this country have taken him to Canada,

Spain, Morocco, Algiers, Tunis, Sicily and other countries.

From 1917 to 1919 Mr. Ryerson served with the Forest Engineers Branch of the A.E.F. in France. He was on the staff of agricultural damage investigations section of the American Peace Commission from January to March, 1919, and agricultural officer at the American embarkation center in France from March to June, 1930. For his service in France he received the decoration of Chevalier du Mérite agricole from the French Government.

Dr. William A. Taylor entered the United States Department of Agriculture as assistant pomologist in 1891. He was born in Chelsea, Michigan, on June 23, 1863. He received the degree of bachelor of science from Michigan State College in 1888, and then served for three years as manager of a Michigan fruit farm and nursery before going to the department. He received the degree of doctor of science from Michigan State College in 1913.

Dr. Taylor became pomologist in charge of field investigations for the Bureau of Plant Industry in 1901 and continued in this position until 1910, when he was appointed assistant chief. After three years in this position he became chief of the bureau. He is the author of numerous bulletins and articles, and has delivered addresses before horticultural and pomological societies.

In 1900 Dr. Taylor served as an expert in horticulture with the U. S. Commission to the Paris Exposition and was a member of the International Jury on fruit trees and fruit. In 1904 he served as a member of the International Jury of the Department of Horticulture at the St. Louis Exposition, and in 1918 was a member of the Agricultural Commission to Europe.

RECENT DEATHS

DR. FREDERICK LINCOLN CHASE, assistant astronomer at the Yale Observatory from 1890 to 1910 and acting director from 1910 to 1913, died suddenly on November 8. He had been residing at Boulder, Colorado, where he was born in 1865.

DR. JAMES EDWARD TALMAGE, formerly president and professor of geology at the University of Utah, died on July 27, at the age of seventy years. Dr. Talmage was a member of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and the Geological Society of London and was a life member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

WILLIAM DE CHASTIGNIER RAVENEL, retired administrative assistant to the secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, director of arts and industries of the U. S. National Museum and a former secretary of the