

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

American Association of Museums, died on October 8 at the age of seventy-four years.

SIR GEORGE HENRY MAKINS, London, formerly president of the Royal College of Surgeons, died on November 2 at the age of eighty years.

THE death is announced of Professor Wilhelm

Mielek, director of the State Biological Institute at Helgoland.

SENATOR PIETRO ALBERTONI, formerly professor of physiology at the Universities of Genoa and Bologna and a member of the physiological section of the Reale Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, died on November 8 at the age of eighty-four years.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

IT was announced from Stockholm on November 9 that the Nobel Prize in physics for 1932 has been awarded to Dr. Werner Heisenberg, professor of theoretical physics at Leipzig; for 1933 it has been divided between Dr. Erwin Schrödinger, professor of theoretical physics at Berlin, and Dr. Paul Adrien Maurice Dirac, Lucasian professor of mathematics at the University of Cambridge.

THE Copley Medal of the Royal Society has been awarded to Dr. Theobald Smith, emeritus member of the Rockefeller Institute, director of the department of animal pathology at Princeton, N. J., from 1915 to 1929, in recognition of his work on the comparative etiology, pathology and immunology of infections and parasitic diseases.

THE Wellcome Prize, including the Wellcome Gold Medal, for 1933 has been awarded to Major Edgar Erskine Hume, Medical Corps, U. S. Army, librarian of the Army Medical Library, Washington, for his essay on "The Value of Studies in Health and Sanitation in War Planning." The Wellcome Prize and Medal were established by Sir Henry S. Wellcome, London, in 1916, and are awarded annually through the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States.

A DINNER in honor of Dr. George H. Bigelow, formerly state health commissioner of Massachusetts, and Dr. Henry D. Chadwick, his successor, was given by the Massachusetts Tuberculosis League on October 26. Dr. Bigelow is now director of the Massachusetts General Hospital, succeeding Dr. Frederic A. Washburn. Dr. Chadwick was formerly controller of the tuberculosis division of the Detroit Health Department.

THE degree of doctor of engineering was conferred upon Orestes H. Caldwell, editor of *Electronics* and president of the New York Electrical Society, by Purdue University, on November 4. Mr. Caldwell served as a member of the original Federal Radio Commission. He is a director of the Institute of Radio Engineers, a past-chairman of the New York Section of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, a member of the committees on communications

and radio of the American Engineering Council, and a trustee of the New York Museum of Science and Industry.

DR. FRIEDRICH BERGIUS, of Heidelberg, has been elected an honorary member of the Institute of Petroleum Technologists, London.

OFFICERS of the New Mexico Association for the Advancement of Science, which met in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on November 2 and 3, were elected as follows: *President*, Dr. H. C. Gossard, president of New Mexico Normal University, Las Vegas; *Vice-president*, Mr. E. R. Harrington, instructor in chemistry, Albuquerque High School; *Secretary*, Dr. Stuart A. Northrop, professor of geology, University of New Mexico; *Treasurer*, Mr. Reginald G. Fisher, Laboratory of Anthropology, Santa Fé; *Editor*, Dr. Sterling B. Talmage, professor of geology, New Mexico School of Mines, Socorro. The program, in addition to technical papers, included the formulation of definite plans for expanding the activities of the association, particularly along the lines of aiding increased participation by high schools within the state.

At the recent annual meeting of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, the following council was elected: *President*, Sir E. A. Sharpey-Schafer; *Vice-presidents*, Dr. J. B. Clark, Professor James Ritchie, Sir Thomas H. Holland, the Honorable Lord Sands, Professor C. G. Darwin, Professor R. A. Sampson; *General Secretary*, Professor J. H. Ashworth; *Secretaries to Ordinary Meetings*, Professor F. A. E. Crew and Professor James P. Kendall; *Treasurer*, Dr. James Watt; *Curator of Library and Museum*, Professor D'Arcy W. Thompson; *Councillors*, Professor P. T. Herring, Professor T. M. MacRobert, Professor Godfrey H. Thomson, Dr. Malcolm Wilson, Professor E. B. Bailey, Professor J. C. Brash, Professor A. J. Clark, Professor A. G. Ogilvie, Professor E. M. Wedderburn, Lieut.-Col. A. G. M'Kendrick, Professor James MacKinnon and Professor W. Peddie.

DR. GRIFFITH CONRAD EVANS, professor of mathematics at Rice Institute, Houston, Texas, has been ap-