

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY conferred at commencement the doctorate of science on Dr. Ernest William Brown, emeritus professor of mathematics at Yale University, and on Dr. James Bryant Conant, president of Harvard University.

At the commencement exercises of Syracuse University the degree of LL.D. was conferred on Dr. Harvey Cushing, Sterling professor of neurology in the Yale School of Medicine, and on Dr. Livingston Farrand, president of Cornell University. The degree of D.Sc. was conferred on Dr. Florence R. Sabin, of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, and on Dr. Ludwig Kast, professor of medicine at the New York Post-Graduate Medical School and president of the Josiah Macy, Jr., Foundation.

At the seventy-first annual commencement on May 31 Kansas State College conferred the honorary degree of doctor of science upon Professor A. S. Hitchcock, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and the honorary degree of doctor of laws upon Professor Martin Mortensen, head of the department of dairy industry at the Iowa State College.

HONORARY degrees conferred by Stevens Institute of Technology at the sixty-second annual commencement exercises on June 9 were the doctorate of science on Dr. James Bryant Conant, president of Harvard University; the doctorate of engineering on William Hovgaard, professor of naval design and construction at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; on William Slocum Barstow, electrical engineer, New York City; on William Duane Ennis, professor of the economics of engineering on the Stevens faculty; and of mechanical engineering on Harry Ruby Westcott, of New Haven, Connecticut.

THE degree of doctor of laws was conferred by the University of Nebraska at commencement on Dr. Walter B. Pillsbury, professor of psychology at the University of Michigan.

AUGUST MERZ, president of the New Jersey Section of the American Chemical Society, received the honorary degree of doctor of science from Rutgers University on June 6.

JOSEPH L. WHEELER, librarian of the Enoch Pratt Free Library at Baltimore, was awarded the degree of doctor of letters by the University of Maryland on June 2 in recognition of his development of public library service in Baltimore, including its exhibit program and the new Central Library Building. His work is known through the series of 27 science book lists published by a special committee of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, of which he is chairman, and for which he secured the printing

funds from the Carnegie Corporation. Over a million copies of these book lists on various scientific subjects have been distributed during the last three years through schools, colleges, museums and natural history organizations.

A DINNER was tendered on May 5 by the University of Michigan Chapter of the Honorary Geological Fraternity of Sigma Gamma Epsilon to Professor William H. Hobbs, who is retiring as head of the department of geology. At this dinner, which was attended by the entire staff of the departments of geology and mineralogy, addresses were made by Dr. Edward H. Kraus, dean of the College of Literature, Science and the Arts; by Professor E. C. Case, who succeeds Professor Hobbs as head of the department; by Dr. Frank Leverett; by representatives of graduate and undergraduate students and by Professor Hobbs. By action of the board of regents, Dr. Hobbs has been made professor emeritus of geology.

THE Gold Medal of the Royal Empire Society has been awarded to Brigadier-General Sir Percy Sykes for his book entitled "A History of Exploration from the Earliest Times to the Present Day."

DR. ROBERT H. IVY, professor of maxillo-facial surgery in the School of Dentistry and in the Graduate School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania, has been elected to membership in the Imperial German Academy of Natural Sciences at Halle.

DR. L. P. SIEG, professor of physics, dean of the College and of the Graduate School and acting dean of the School of Education at the University of Pittsburgh, will assume the presidency of the University of Washington, at Seattle, on August 1.

PROMOTIONS at the University of Michigan include in the sciences: Ermine C. Case from professor of historical geology and paleontology, director of Museum of Paleontology and curator of vertebrates to chairman of the department of geology in addition to his other duties mentioned above; George R. La Rue from professor of zoology and executive secretary of the department to chairman of the department of zoology; W. Carl Rufus from assistant to associate professor of astronomy; Dean B. McLaughlin from assistant to associate professor of astronomy; George M. Ehlers from assistant to associate professor of geology; Frank N. Blanchard from assistant to associate professor of zoology; Lee R. Dice, of the museum of zoology, from an assistant to an associate professorship; Carl L. Hubbs, of the museum of zoology, from an assistant to associate professor; Armand J. Eardley from instructor to assistant professor of geology.

At the seventeenth annual meeting of the American

Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, held recently in New York, the following were elected officers for the ensuing year: Leonhard Stejneger and John T. Nichols, *honorary presidents*; Carl L. Hubbs, *president*; E. W. Gudger, Francis Harper and Clifford Pope, *vice-presidents*; M. Graham Netting, *secretary*; A. W. Henn, *treasurer*; Carl L. Hubbs and Helen T. Gaige, *editors*. The next meeting of the society will be held in Pittsburgh in May, 1935.

OFFICERS of the Minnesota Academy of Science were elected at the second annual meeting as follows: *President*, Dr. T. B. Magath, Mayo Clinic; *Vice-president*, W. A. Kenyon, Hamline University; *Secretary-Treasurer*, H. K. Wilson, University of Minnesota; *Councilors*, Geo. W. Friedrich, St. Cloud Teachers College; Richard U. Jones, Macalester College; Rev. Wendelin Luetmer, St. Johns University, and E. T. Tufte, St. Olaf College.

DR. WILLIAM THOMAS CALMAN, keeper of zoology in the British Museum of Natural History, has been elected president of the Linnean Society, London, in succession to Professor F. E. Weiss.

ON May 4 Evan Williams was reelected for the sixteenth consecutive year to the office of president of the Mining Association of Great Britain.

At the annual general meeting of the British Institute of Physics, held at the Royal Institution on May 15, the following officers were elected: *President*, Sir Henry Lyons; *Vice-president*, Professor W. L. Bragg; *Honorary Treasurer*, Major C. E. S. Phillips; *Honorary Secretary*, Professor J. A. Crowther; *New Members of the Board*, Dr. Allan Ferguson and Mr. R. S. Whipple.

DR. HOWARD A. EDSON, formerly in charge of the Office of Vegetable and Forage Diseases of the Bureau of Plant Industry and for the past seven years chief examiner of the U. S. Civil Service Commission, has been appointed in the U. S. Department of Agriculture to succeed Dr. Neil E. Stevens in charge of the plant disease survey. Dr. Stevens will continue with the bureau in research on corn diseases.

H. P. BARSS, professor of botany and plant pathologist at the Oregon College and Experiment Station, was recently appointed principal botanist in the Office of Experiment Stations of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

DR. GARDNER A. NORTON, physicist, recently engaged in special studies at the Croft Laboratories, of the Engineering School of Harvard University, has joined the staff of Arthur D. Little, Inc., of Cambridge, Massachusetts. He will be in charge of work on the industrial applications of mechanical vibration, sonic energy and electronic devices. Dr. J. Raymond

Sanborn, recently of the Research Department of the International Paper Company and formerly in charge of the Bacteriological Department at Macdonald College, McGill University, has also joined the staff. He will be engaged on bacteriological and related investigations, particularly in the food industries.

DR. GUIDO BECK, professor of physics in the German University at Prague, formerly of the University of Vienna and the University of Leipzig, will be a resident professor of physics in the University of Kansas during the year 1934-35, under the auspices of the Emergency Committee in Aid of Displaced German Scholars and of the Rockefeller Foundation. Professor Beck will conduct a seminar on problems of atomic nuclei and a course on the Dirac theory of electrons.

PROFESSOR EARL F. CHURCH, assistant professor of photogrammetry in the College of Applied Science, Syracuse University, has been appointed by Secretary of State Hull one of the two official American delegates to the Fifth International Congress of Surveyors, to be held in London, from July 18 to 21. The establishment in 1929 of the department of aerial photogrammetry was made possible by a grant of \$60,000 from the Guggenheim Foundation.

DR. FRED EGGAN, of the department of anthropology of the University of Chicago, sailed on June 1 for the Philippine Islands to study the effects of the white man's material culture upon the tribes of Luzon, the northernmost island of the archipelago. He plans to live for fifteen months in the villages of the Tinguian people.

RECENT visitors at the School of Tropical Medicine, San Juan, Puerto Rico, include Dr. Allen O. Whipple, Valentine Mott professor of surgery of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, who made special investigations in the surgical aspects of tropical diseases, and Dr. William Thompson, of the department of medicine, who has been investigating the hematological aspects of schistosomiasis mansoni. Dr. Louis M. Rousselot, of the department of surgery, is spending six months at the school as an exchange surgeon with Dr. José Noya Benítez, who is now working in the department at Columbia.

DR. JAMES BRYANT CONANT, president of Harvard University, delivered the address to the senior class of Stevens Institute of Technology at the commencement exercises on June 9.

At the seventy-first annual commencement of Kansas State College at Manhattan on May 31, Dr. W. E. Wickenden, president of Case School of Applied Science, delivered the commencement address on "Making Terms with the Machine."

DR. HENRY B. WARD, permanent secretary of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, was recently the guest speaker at a luncheon of the Sigma Xi Club of the University of Denver. He spoke on "Research, its Requirements and its Value."

DR. JOSEPH BARCROFT, professor of physiology at the University of Cambridge, delivered the Stephen Paget Memorial Lecture at the annual general meeting of the Research Defense Society at the London School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene on June 5. His subject was "Experiments on Man."

THE Planning Committee for Mineral Policy, which was appointed by President Roosevelt in April, is made up of representatives of the various government agencies having to do with minerals. The purpose is to undertake a general study of the mineral resources of the United States, with a view to the establishment of a national mineral policy. Among the questions to be considered by this committee are the estimating of future consumption, the curtailment of production, the coordination of emergency appropriations, the relationship between federal and state control, the conservation of mineral resources and the effect of mineral tariffs. The members of the committee are: Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior, *chairman*; C. K. Leith, Science Advisory Board, *vice-chairman*; Herbert Feis, economic adviser, Department of State; Lieut. Col. C. T. Harris, Jr., Office of the Assistant Secretary of War; Leon Henderson, economic adviser, National Industrial Recovery Administration; W. C. Mendenhall, director, U. S. Geological Survey; Scott Turner, director, U. S. Bureau of Mines; F. A. Silcox, chief forester, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; Wayne C. Taylor, special assistant to the special adviser to the president on foreign trade; Willard L. Thorp, formerly director, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce, and J. W. Furness, chief, Minerals Division, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce.

THE British Institute of Physics plans to arrange a two-day conference at Manchester in the spring of 1935 on the application of x-ray structural analysis to various industries. The main function of the conference will be to bring to the notice of industrialists what physics and physicists can do to help industry, rather than the discussion of technical matters among experts. It is proposed to arrange an exhibition in connection with the conference.

ACCORDING to a wireless message to *The New York Times* an attempt to rise into the stratosphere, financed by the Belgian National Scientific Research Fund, instituted by the late King Albert, will be made from Hour Havanne, in the Ardennes, Belgium,

between June 15 and September 30. The balloon is the one used by Professor Auguste Piccard, but the gondola is new, having been constructed at the University of Brussels since the accident when the gondola exploded. Professor Piccard plans to make scientific observations at various altitudes. The gondola will be equipped with wireless apparatus and messages will be in code.

THE Psychological Laboratory and Bantu Study Department of Stellenbosch University, Capetown, were destroyed by fire on May 15. The loss of the Bantu Study Department is said to be especially serious, the extensive library and valuable records being destroyed.

ACCORDING to the *Journal* of the American Medical Association a sum of over \$1,000,000, to be used for the benefit of Georgia Warm Springs Foundation, Warm Springs, was presented to President Roosevelt on May 9, in a ceremony in the White House. Of this sum, \$100,000 will be used "to stimulate and further the meritorious work being done in the field of infantile paralysis" outside Warm Springs, "so that the greatest encouragement may be given to others interested in this problem." \$650,000 will be set aside for "the furtherance of the present work done at Georgia Warm Springs Foundation," of which President Roosevelt is the head and founder, while the balance of \$250,000 will be used "for building, maintenance and contingencies of the foundation."

THE Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of the American Ceramic Society passed on May 4, at the annual meeting in Buffalo, N. Y., the following resolution: WHEREAS, the American Ceramic Society was one of the organizations influential in the establishment of the Bureau of Standards in 1901; and, WHEREAS, the American Ceramic Society has continued its support and its encouragement of the Bureau's activities, especially in the field of fundamental and scientific research; and, WHEREAS, as a consequence of the retrenchment policy of the Federal Government, the activities of the Bureau of Standards have been drastically curtailed to the serious detriment of the science and technology of ceramics and of the several ceramic industries; and, *Be it Resolved*, that the attention of the proper committees and members of Congress be called to this critical situation; and that they be requested when making appropriations for the coming fiscal year to provide adequately for (a) fundamental research at the Bureau of Standards; (b) the maintenance of units and standards of measurement; and (c) research and development in the science of measurement—all of which constitute the foundation stones of science, engineering and the industrial arts.