

Stephens, a forage crops specialist, is now in Japan. They expect to cover as much territory in the Far East as possible during the next eighteen months. They will search for plants in the fringes of the Hingan Mountains, a region which has never been explored for grasses. Frank Meyer, of the department, was there many years ago in search of fruits. Because of the extremes in temperature in this region it is hoped that the search will yield promising plants. While both groups will be particularly interested in plants that can be used to prevent soil erosion, they will also collect seeds and fruits of any other plants, especially promising trees and shrubs.

The hunt for useful wild plants in the United States is the first correlated effort to make the beginning on a nation-wide inventory of our own unused plants. For this reason it is hoped that valuable plants may be found in the United States. Workers at the state experiment stations and those employed by the Department of Agriculture have frequently discovered and domesticated valuable wild plants, but such work has been incidental. One party of ten trained botanists is at work in Washington and Oregon. Another group will soon begin work in Arizona and New Mexico. Other parties will work in Texas and Oklahoma and in North Carolina and Tennessee.

THE CLEVELAND MEETING OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

MORE than 2,000 chemists and representatives of allied fields of science and industry will participate in the eighty-eighth meeting of the American Chemical Society to be held in Cleveland, from September 10 to 14, under the presidency of Dr. Charles L. Reese, of Wilmington, Del. The keynote of the meeting will be "Chemistry Catalyzes Commerce."

Progress in practically every field of chemistry will be reported in hundreds of papers, addresses and reports to be presented before various divisions. Leading industries, universities and technical schools, state and government services and private laboratories will send delegates.

The dramatic advances of chemistry during the depression will be set forth by well-known investigators. The sessions will deal with public health and sanitation, with gas and fuel, chemical education, rubber, medicine, fertilizers, industrial and engineering chemistry, petroleum, sugar, water supply, biological chemistry, cellulose, leather and gelatin and numerous other fields of pure and applied science.

The opening meeting, according to the preliminary program, will take place on Monday, September 10, at the Cleveland Hotel, when Professor Robert E. Swain, of Stanford University, will deliver an address on "Chemistry during the Depression." N. K. Chaney, V. C. Hamister and S. W. Glass, of the National Carbon Company, will speak on "Constants of Carbon at Arc Temperatures." Dr. J. R. Katz, of the Scheikundig Laboratorium of the University of Amsterdam, will present a paper on "X-Ray Spectrography of Swelling" and Dr. J. C. Hostetter, of the Corning Glass Works, will discuss "The Technic of Making Large Telescope Mirrors."

The Division of Agricultural and Food Chemistry, of which Dr. Donald K. Tressler, of Geneva, N. Y., is chairman, will hold a joint symposium with the Division of Biological Chemistry on "Chemistry of the Enzymes."

A symposium on "Modernizing the Course in General Chemistry" will be sponsored by the Division of Chemical Education, of which Professor R. A. Baker, of the College of the City of New York, is chairman. Educators from all over the country will participate in the discussion. Teachers from Cleveland and other cities in Ohio will present papers on the need of re-directing chemical education in schools and colleges.

Dr. W. H. McAdams, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will preside at a symposium under the auspices of the Division of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry. A symposium by the Division of Medicinal Chemistry is being arranged by the chairman, Dr. Paul Nicholas Leech, of Chicago. Joint sessions are scheduled by the Division of Organic Chemistry and the Division of Physical and Inorganic Chemistry. Dr. C. S. Hudson, of Washington, D. C., is chairman of the Organic Division, and Professor Donald H. Andrews, of the Johns Hopkins University of the Physical and Inorganic Division.

The Division of Gas and Fuel Chemistry, headed by Dr. Harold J. Rose, of the Mellon Institute, Pittsburgh, is planning an extensive program, Cleveland being the center of leading research laboratories engaged in this field. The symposium before this division will be on the "Properties of Coal."

Friday, September 14, will be Akron Day. Members of the societies will visit Akron in a body to inspect the rubber and other industries under the direction of the Akron Section, of which G. K. Hinshaw is chairman.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. DAVID WHITE, of the U. S. Geological Survey, has been awarded the Boverton Redwood Medal by the Institution of Petroleum Technologists in London.

THE honorary degree of doctor of laws was conferred by the University of Edinburgh on June 28 on Dr. Theobald Smith, emeritus member of the Rocke-

feller Institute for Medical Research and from 1915 to 1929 director of the department of animal pathology at Princeton, New Jersey.

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY conferred on June 27 the degree of doctor of science on Dr. Charles B. Lipman, professor of plant physiology and dean of the Graduate Division of the University of California. In conferring the degree upon Dean Lipman, President Robert C. Clothier said: "Yours has been a life of exceptional usefulness in the science of soil chemistry and bacteriology, as well as in the art of education. You have contributed richly to the advancement of knowledge in these fields. Sensible of the great things you have already accomplished, we shall look forward in the years to come to even greater achievements bringing credit to yourself, honor to your Alma Mater and benefit to mankind."

HONORARY degrees conferred at the commencement of Washington and Jefferson College included the degree of LL.D. on Henry A. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture, and the degree of doctor of science on Dr. A. H. Logan, dean of the Mayo Clinic at Rochester, Minnesota.

THE Chamber of Commerce of Des Moines sponsored a public reception in honor of Dr. Walter L. Bierring on June 22 in recognition of his induction into the presidency of the American Medical Association. Dr. Bierring has been a member of the Chamber of Commerce for many years. Dr. John T. McClinck, of the College of Medicine of the State University of Iowa, chairman of the administrative committee, spoke in appreciation of Dr. Bierring.

THE Asiatic Society of Bengal has awarded the Barelay Memorial Medal for 1934 to Professor R. Row, of Bombay, "for conspicuously meritorious contributions to biological science with special reference to India."

Nature reports that the president and council of the Royal Society, London, have recommended Viscount D'Abernon, chairman of the Medical Research Council since 1929, for election into the society under the special statute which permits the election of "persons who in their opinion either have rendered conspicuous service to the cause of science, or are such that their election would be of signal benefit to the society."

DR. GEORGE C. SIMPSON, director of the Meteorological Office, London, has been elected a corresponding member of the Vienna Academy of Sciences.

DR. CHARLES E. SPEARMAN, who recently retired from the Grote professorship of psychology at the University of London, has been elected an honorary member of the German Society for Psychology.

WILLIAM H. BASSETT, metallurgical manager of the American Brass Company, Waterbury, Conn., has been elected president of the American Society for Testing Materials, and H. S. Vassar, laboratory engineer of the Public Service Electric and Gas Company, Irvington, N. J., has been elected vice-president.

At the thirteenth annual convention of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists, held in Cleveland from June 7 to 11, the following officers were elected: *President-elect*, Dr. F. M. Johns, New Orleans; *Vice-president*, Dr. B. S. Kline, Cleveland; *Executive Committee*, Dr. A. G. Foord, Pasadena, and Dr. Kano Ikeda, Minneapolis. The Ward-Burdick Medal was awarded Dr. R. R. Kracke for his work on agranulocytic angina. Drs. Ludvig Hektoen and Otto Naegeli were elected honorary members.

At the annual meeting of the Chicago Chemists Club, the following officers were elected for the year 1934-35: *President*, Frederick W. Sullivan; *First Vice-president*, Otto A. Sjoström; *Second Vice-president*, Erich von Gebauer-Fuelnegg; *Secretary*, Robert B. Reynolds; *Treasurer*, Edward A. Dieterle; *Trustee*, C. D. Lowry, Jr.

DR. CHARLES JUDSON HERRICK, chairman of the department of anatomy, Division of Biological Sciences of the University of Chicago, becomes emeritus professor, having reached the retirement age. The administration of the department during the coming year has been referred to a committee consisting of Dr. George W. Bartelmez, Dr. Basil C. H. Harvey and Dr. Charles H. Swift. Dr. Herrick succeeded Dr. Robert R. Bensley, who became professor emeritus in 1933 after holding the position since 1906. Both Dr. Herrick and Dr. Bensley will continue their research in the Hull Laboratory of Anatomy.

DR. JOHN C. HESSLER, professor of chemistry at Knox College and at one time dean and acting president of James Millikin University, has been appointed president of James Millikin University to fill the vacancy created by the resignation on May 19 of Dr. J. H. White.

DR. P. F. TROWBRIDGE, director of the North Dakota College and Station since 1918 and previously connected with the departments of chemistry of the Universities of Michigan, Illinois and Missouri, retired on July 1. Dr. H. L. Walster, dean of the School of Agriculture, will become also director of the station.

DR. JOHN HOWARD FERGUSON, recently of Yale University, has been named assistant professor of physiology and pharmacology at the University of Alabama School of Medicine, succeeding Dr. Gene H. Kistler, who has been appointed associate pro-

fessor in the department of pathology and bacteriology.

DR. RALPH N. MAXSON, professor of inorganic chemistry at the University of Kentucky since 1909, has been made head of the department of chemistry to succeed Dr. F. E. Tuttle, who has reached the age of retirement.

DR. PAUL D. BARTLETT has resigned from the School of Chemistry of the University of Minnesota to accept an instructorship in organic chemistry at Harvard University. He will be succeeded by Dr. Alberto F. Thompson, Jr., who has spent the past year studying in Munich.

DR. ARTHUR W. WRIGHT, for the past four years director of a laboratory of pathology, has been appointed professor and head of the department of pathology at Albany Medical College to succeed Dr. Victor C. Jacobson, who recently resigned.

DR. ROBERT W. MORRISON, formerly assistant to the director of the Research Laboratories of The William A. Webster Company of Memphis, has been appointed adjunct professor of pharmacology in the University of South Carolina at Columbia, S. C.

DR. FRANZ BLUMENTHAL, extraordinary professor of dermatology and syphilology at the University of Berlin, has been appointed research professor of dermatology and syphilology at the University of Michigan Medical School for a period of two years. Dr. U. J. Wile is head of the department.

THE title of emeritus professor of bacteriology in the University of London was conferred on Dr. William Bulloch, on his retirement from the Goldsmiths' Company's chair of bacteriology at the London Hospital Medical College, and that of emeritus professor of ethnology on Dr. C. G. Seligman, on his retirement from the university chair of ethnology at the London School of Economics.

DR. OSKAR BAUDISCH, formerly at the University of Zurich, the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research and Yale University, has been appointed research chemist and technical consultant of the Saratoga Springs Commission. On July 19 he left for Europe in order to continue his work on mineral, especially iron, metabolism, in association with Professor Hans von Euler, director of the Biochemical Institute at the University of Stockholm.

A. D. CONSTABLE, assistant director of electrical engineering of the British Admiralty, has been appointed director in succession to William McClelland. Mr. Constable was appointed assistant director of electrical engineering under Mr. McClelland in 1918. For many years he has been employed on electrical

design for the Naval Service, and latterly on research and experimental work.

DR. V. A. TIEDJENS, who has been scientific adviser to Yoder Brothers, Barberton, Ohio, for the past two years, has returned to the New Jersey Experiment Station to conduct research in vegetable gardening.

DR. RAYMOND L. DITMARS will sail for Trinidad on August 17, where it is reported that he will make a preliminary survey of the Lesser Antilles to determine the most desirable place in which to carry on research during the summer of 1935.

DR. WILLIAM W. DIMOCK, head of the department of animal pathology at the University of Kentucky, on invitation of the British Bloodstock Agency, will visit England and France to give technical advice and lectures.

DR. PERCY E. RAYMOND, professor of paleontology at Harvard University, expects to spend the summer in Esthonia, collecting fossils for the Museum of Comparative Geology.

DR. P. W. WHITING, secretary-treasurer of the Genetics Society of America, writes that a meeting of the Genetics Society of America will be held at the Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, Mass., on Wednesday and Thursday, August 22 and 23. There will be sessions for reading short papers and for informal discussion as well as demonstrations of research material. The Marine Biological Laboratory is scheduling a program of papers for Tuesday evening, August 21, which will be of interest to geneticists. The detailed program will be posted at the laboratory shortly before the meeting. Information as to rooms in private houses, hotels, etc., may be obtained at the office of the Marine Biological Laboratory or from the secretary.

THE Northeastern Section of the American Society of Agronomy held its annual summer meeting in New Jersey on June 21, 22 and 23. About a hundred representatives of agronomic, extension and commercial firms from Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and the District of Columbia inspected the work in progress at the Agricultural Experiment Station at New Brunswick, and the outlying fields visited. The officers elected for 1935 are: *President*, Dr. H. B. Sprague, New Brunswick, N. J.; *Vice-president*, Dr. J. A. Bizzell, Ithaca, N. Y.; *Secretary-Treasurer*, Dr. R. P. Thomas, College Park, Maryland.

THE following letter has been addressed to the London *Times* by the Lord Rutherford of Nelson, chairman of the Academic Assistance Council: "By your courtesy I was allowed recently to give your readers an account of the first year's work of the Academic

Assistance Council. I am pleased to say that since then the council has received several contributions towards its work for a second year, including a block grant of £2,500 from the Central British Fund for German Jewry and a grant of £500 from the American Joint Distribution Committee. We have received numerous contributions from graduates of our universities, who are thus helping our work in the defence of academic freedom. In some cases school staffs have made special common room collections and sent a joint contribution. We are deeply encouraged by this support and extremely grateful to these contributors. Our needs, however, are still urgent. We have now a sum of £6,721 for our work next year. As some of the academic committees on the continent are unable to continue, the demands on the council in this country are likely to be still heavier, and this sum will not be sufficient for even our immediate needs. May I appeal through your columns for further financial assistance? Contributions, great or small, will be gratefully acknowledged if sent to me at the Academic Assistance Council, Rooms of the Royal Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, W.1."

THE patenting by members of Harvard University of discoveries or inventions bearing on matters of health and therapeutics is undesirable, the various faculties of the university have voted, and, therefore, the Harvard Corporation has issued the following statement: "In the opinion of the Faculties of Medicine, Public Health, Engineering and Arts and Sciences, the patenting by members of the university of discoveries or inventions bearing on matters of health and therapeutics is undesirable. The president and fellows of Harvard College, therefore, have adopted the rule that no patents primarily concerned with therapeutics or public health may be taken out by any member of the university, except with the consent of the president and fellows, nor will such patents be taken out by the university itself unless they be dedicated to the public. The president and fellows will provide legal advice to anyone who desires steps to be taken to prevent the patenting by others of his discoveries or inventions."

DR. RALPH D. HETZEL, president of the Pennsylvania State College, reports that The Pennsylvania Research Corporation has been formed to prevent private interests from pirating inventions and discoveries made at the college and to insure that they shall be for the public benefit. Since the college is state-supported, the results of research and invention should be available to the public. In the past there has been no provision for reserving the patent rights on such inventions from private encroachment.

ACCORDING to *The London Times*, a second attempt is to be made by German mountaineers to scale Nanga

Parbat (26,629 ft.) in the Kashmir Himalaya. The expedition is being organized by Herr Merkl, leader of the previous attempt in 1932, which had to be abandoned after a height of nearly 23,000 feet had been reached. The 1932 party included two members of the American Mountaineering Club, but the new expedition will consist entirely of Germans and Austrians, eleven in number, and all experienced mountaineers. Two of them, Herren Ashenbrenner and Berchtold, accompanied Herr Merkl in 1932, and two others, Herren Schneider and Wieland, took part in the Dyrenfurth Himalayan expedition in 1930. The expedition will leave Munich for India next month, and intends to take the same route as that followed in 1932.

THE zoological garden of Basle has received a legacy of half a million Swiss francs (£30,000) through the will of a deceased citizen, the late Ulrich Sauter, which will enable the garden to enlarge its rich collections. Basle is known for its magnificent bird-house. In its different wings it contains specimens of nearly all living bird species from the South American condor down to the Brazilian humming bird. African big game is as well represented as Arctic fauna. Last year's inventory showed a total stock of 386 mammals in 96 species, 2,328 birds in 433 species and 300 reptiles in 14 species, altogether 3,014 animals. The yearly expenditure amounts to an average of about 400,000 Swiss francs, which sum is covered by 300,000 francs from entrance fees and 100,000 francs interest on endowments and the sale of animals reared in the establishment.

THE Japanese correspondent of the *Journal* of the American Medical Association reports that the Rockefeller Foundation in 1930 proposed the donation of a large sum of money to establish an institution in Japan to train medical workers and experts. The proposal, however, seemed to be abandoned in 1931 when the foundation announced the discontinuance of new enterprises. But recently it was decided to go ahead, as it was planned at first. At a recent cabinet council, the acceptance of the donation was recognized by the government. The new institution is expected to be completed in two years. According to the announcement by the sanitary bureau of the home office, the new institution will train and teach those who want to be public health workers, while medical graduates will be given postgraduate training. As there has not been such an institution in Japan, social medical problems have not been investigated. Those problems, heretofore untouched, will immediately be taken up. Attached to this institution in the local towns and villages will be the "health house," where those who graduate from the central institution will work for a while. The expense of

maintenance will be contributed for three years by the foundation, and then the local houses will be put under the management of the local government.

THE degree of master of science in engineering has been established at Cornell University and will be granted upon recommendation of the Engineering Division of the Graduate School to those graduate students who have successfully completed a course of study or research majoring in some specialized branch of engineering for which they have the necessary prerequisite training. No student may be admitted to candidacy for this new degree whose training does not include work in one foreign language, equivalent to two units of entrance.

UNDER the auspices of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia the two-masted schooner *Morrissey*, commanded by Captain Rob Bartlett, has sailed from New York for a three months' exploring and collecting trip along the west coast of Greenland as far north as Ellesmere Land. The members of this expedition, which is sponsored by R. R. M. Carpenter, of Wilmington, Delaware, a trustee of the academy, are: William K. duPont Carpenter, son of Mr. Carpenter; Harry J. Lance, Jr., of the museum staff, and Robert F. Dove, who will join the ship at St. John's, Newfoundland, and a representative of the Canadian Government. An expert photographer will accompany the expedition to make motion pictures. The ship is stocked with provisions and fuel for a two years' stay in case unusual conditions should be encountered. The chief objectives will be to secure specimens of birds and animals and collect fishes and other sea animals. It also is hoped that some definite information may be obtained as to the nesting and breeding habits of the greater snow goose and the common brant, two birds which summer in Arctic lands and in the autumn migrate southward to North Carolina, and even as far as

Cuba. After skirting the coast of Labrador, the *Morrissey* will proceed through Davis Strait into Baffin Bay and head for Cape York to inspect the Peary memorial monument erected there last summer. Captain Bartlett was commander of the *Roosevelt* when Peary made his successful trip to the Pole in 1909.

THE birth rate in the United States during 1933 was 16.4 per 1,000 population, according to a report of the Census Bureau in the *New York Times*. The infant mortality rate was 58.2 per 1,000 live births. These figures represent a reduction in the birth rate but a slight increase in the infant mortality rate from 1932. However, in 1932 there were no figures for Texas. In 1932 the rates were as follows: Births, 17.4; infant mortality, 57.6, and still births, 3.8. The still birth rate for 1933 was 3.7 per hundred. The birth rate for 1933 is the lowest reported since 1915, when registrations began. New York, Pennsylvania, Texas and Illinois lead the states with the greatest number of births, respectively, as follows: 187,139, 157,046, 107,924 and 105,861. The states with the highest birth rates per 1,000 population are New Mexico, 26.7; North Carolina and Utah, each with 22.9; South Carolina, 22.7; Mississippi, 21.6; Alabama, 21.1, and Virginia, 21.0. The lowest birth rates are for Oregon, 12.2, and California, 12.4. Infant mortality rates, which are based on the number of deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births, are excessively high in New Mexico (134.2) and Arizona (111.4)—both states with large nomadic Indian and Mexican populations. The next highest rate is 78.4 for South Carolina. The lowest rates reported are those for Washington and Oregon, 38.9 and 39.3, respectively. The birth rate decreased from 1932 to 1933 in every state except Nevada, Oklahoma and Vermont. The infant mortality rate, while showing a slight increase for the entire country, actually decreased in twenty-three states.

DISCUSSION

REFORMS IN CHEMICAL PUBLICATION (DOCUMENTATION)

IN recent years it has become increasingly evident that a reorganization of the production and distribution of chemical publications is needed. The number of journals and other documents is now so heterogeneous that, even though one has access to excellent libraries, it is practically impossible to obtain and consult all original published articles on a given subject. An amelioration of this situation is necessary if chemistry is to continue to advance at a rapid rate.

With this object in view, the Office International de Chimie (O. I. C.) was organized several years ago for the purpose of enlisting the cooperation of representatives of various countries, qualified by experi-

ence and authority, in finding a solution of this problem. Several meetings have been held and attention has been directed in the first place towards establishing the form and methods of international cooperation. As a basis for suggestions along these lines the existing situation in regard to chemical documentation has been studied. The local, specialized and national efforts have been reviewed. The relation of chemical documentation to that of other sciences and human interests has been considered. From this broader point of view the O. I. C. has endeavored to enlist the aid of the International Institute of Intellectual Cooperation of the League of Nations. The suggestion has been made that a comprehensive International Guide to Documentation be prepared.