

from the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, the Illuminating Engineering Society, the Optical Society of America, the American Physical Society and the Bureau of Standards. E. C. Crittenden and C. H. Stickney were reelected, respectively, to the offices of president and secretary-treasurer of the United States Committee, as well as being reappointed United States members of the International Executive Committee, of which body Dr. C. H. Sharp, vice-president, is also a member.

The United States Committee reviewed the reports of its representatives on the twenty-seven technical committees and made plans for participation in the Berlin meetings. The United States secretariats manage three of these technical committees, namely: Factory and School Lighting, Aircraft Lighting and Lighting Education. In Factory and School Lighting, world-wide statistical surveys are being made on conservation of eyesight, special attention being given to the welfare of school children with defective vision. Because of the international character of aerial navigation, important standards for lighted signals are being set while the practices are still flexible. An English-French-German vocabulary of special terms is being established.

The commission is cooperating with the International Committee on Weights and Measures, an organization established under international treaty to which this country is a party. Progress is well under way to the establishment of a primary standard of light and toward the elimination of certain discrepancies in light measurement, which have proved embarrassing. The accurate measurement of the new gaseous tube electric illuminants, which is becoming more and more increasingly important, will also be considered.

These and many other vital questions are scheduled for discussion in Berlin, not the least of which are street and automobile lighting, in connection with which considerable differences of opinion exist in various countries.

The National Committee is endeavoring to secure a large attendance of American experts in order to insure an adequate expression of the view-points prevailing in this country.

#### GRANTS FOR RESEARCH AT WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY's interest in research, which has already brought endowments of more than \$100,000 for this work, has resulted in a special grant of \$9,500 by the trustees to supplement the endowment funds. The previously established endowments for research work include the Charles Himrod Denison Foundation for biological research of \$75,000 and the Atwater fund of \$30,000 to support research in chem-

istry. The position of a research associate in astronomy is also regularly maintained.

The grant for the current year is to be used for needs not supplied from these funds. A portion is allotted to secretarial service in various departments of the college, while \$1,000 is set aside as a travel fund to defray expenses incurred by members of the faculty in attending meetings of learned societies. The balance is given to aid special projects.

In the department of astronomy a grant is given Professor Slocum for employment of student computers in connection with the observatory program of study of stellar parallaxes. Professor Camp, of the department of mathematics, is given funds for special assistance in connection with mathematical problems which have been submitted by the research committee of the American Statistical Association. These are chiefly economic problems of which a statistical analysis is desired. A grant is given Professors Cady and Van Dyke of the department of physics for a research program on piezo-electricity and related problems. These investigations are of importance in the science of radio transmission. Assistant Professor Langlie of the department of psychology is given a grant for secretarial help in connection with his personnel work with Wesleyan students and his special studies on relation of learning and temperament.

#### COMSTOCK HALL AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY

ACCORDING to *The Cornell Alumni News*, Comstock Hall is now the official name of the building formerly occupied by the College of Home Economics of Cornell University, which now houses the department of entomology. It is named for the late Professors John Henry Comstock, '74, and Anna Botsford Comstock, '85. The *News* writes:

Professor Comstock it was who first worked out a system by which insects, like plants, might be identified and classified, based on the venation of their wings. His books and other writings, for the proper illustration of which Mrs. Comstock learned wood engraving, are still the standard authorities in the field. Most of the leading entomologists in the country have been his students as have those in the field of nature study followed the lead of Mrs. Comstock. Besides their unquestioned leadership in their chosen fields, Professor and Mrs. Comstock became, in their fifty years of residence at Cornell, among the best-loved members of the university community. Mrs. Comstock died on August 24, 1930, and Professor Comstock six months later, on March 20, 1931. The bulk of their estate was left to the university, including their interest in the Comstock Publishing Company, which they owned with Professor Simon H. Gage, '77. Their will provided also for the establishment of the Grove Karl Gilbert Student Loan Fund.

The new quarters of the department comprise some 30,000 square feet of floor space. In 1872 the systematic study of insects at the university began in the tower room of McGraw Hall, just below the university's great bell and the nine smaller bells of the McGraw chimes. John Henry Comstock, then a junior in the Natural History Course, was also master of the chimes. In the fall term of 1872-73 C. V. Riley, of St. Louis, Missouri, gave a course of twelve lectures on economic entomology, but it was not until the next year, with Dr. Comstock an instructor in economic entomology in the School of Agriculture, that resident courses in the subject were given. In 1881 the department was moved to the second floor of White Hall, and since 1906 had been housed in Roberts Hall.

The work in entomology, limnology and apiculture now occupies the five floors of Comstock Hall, with a staff of nine professors under the headship of Dr. James G. Needham, '98, two assistant professors and twelve instructors. Ornithology, under the direction of Professor Arthur A. Allen, '07, remains in McGraw Hall. In addition to the numbers of undergraduates who take courses

in the department, fifty-six graduate students chose majors in entomology in 1933-34.

Outlying links with the department include an insectary, an experimental fish cultural station, a biological field station, and three wild life preserves, all of them aggregating 650 acres.

#### RECENT DEATHS

DR. THEOBALD SMITH, president of the board of scientific directors of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, from 1915 to 1929 director of the department of animal pathology at Princeton, New Jersey, died on December 10 at the age of 75 years.

DR. PALMER C. RICKETTS, president since 1901 of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and a member of the faculty since 1875, died on December 10 at the age of 78 years.

SIR HORACE LAMB, from 1885 until his retirement in 1920 professor of mathematics at Owens College and the University of Manchester, has died at the age of 85 years.

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. GEORGE H. WHIPPLE, of the School of Medicine and Dentistry of the University of Rochester, and Dr. George R. Minot and Dr. William P. Murphy, of the Harvard Medical School, joint recipients of the Nobel prize in physiology and medicine, were present at ceremonies held in Stockholm, on December 10, on the occasion of the presentation to them by King Gustaf of the diplomas, gold medals and money awards. Professor Harold C. Urey, of Columbia University, who was awarded the prize in chemistry, was unable to be present, but expects to go to Stockholm in February.

At the annual dinner and meeting of the New York Academy of Sciences, to be held at the American Museum of Natural History on December 17, the speakers will be Dr. Harlow Shapley, director of the Harvard College Observatory, and Dr. Clyde Fisher, of the American Museum. The subjects of their addresses are, respectively, "An Explorer in the Metagalaxy" and "The Sun and Moon in Motion Pictures."

DR. CHARLES NORRIS, who since 1918 has been chief medical examiner of New York City, has been presented with a gold medal by the New York Academy of Medicine for "his outstanding work in forensic medicine." On this occasion Dr. James Ewing made the presentation, and Mayor La Guardia delivered an address.

DR. ERNEST BROWNING FORBES, director of the Institute of Animal Nutrition of the Pennsylvania State College, was the honor guest of the American Society

of Animal Production at its twenty-seventh annual meeting in Chicago on November 30 and December 1. At the banquet, a portrait of Dr. Forbes, painted by Robert W. Grafton, was presented to the Saddle and Sirloin Club for inclusion in its portrait gallery of those who have notably served animal industry and agriculture.

A PORTRAIT of Dr. Leo F. Rettger, professor of bacteriology at Yale University, was presented to the department by his friends and former students at a meeting on December 1 of the Connecticut River Valley Branch of the Society of American Bacteriologists. The portrait was painted by W. S. Cummings, of the Yale School of Fine Arts.

DR. GEORGE A. BOLE, for nine years director of ceramic research in the Engineering Experiment Station of the Ohio State University, was recently presented by the Ohio Ceramic Industries Association, in recognition of his contributions to the ceramic industry, with three vases, the work of Dr. Charles F. Binns, whose death has since occurred, accompanied with an illuminated manuscript. Presentation was made at the annual meeting of the association by W. Keith McAfee, past-president, who spoke briefly of the career of Dr. Bole.

A. E. MARSHALL, consulting chemical engineer of New York City, was reelected president of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers at its recent annual meeting in Pittsburgh.

PROFESSOR ARTHUR W. HIXON, of Columbia Uni-