Experiment Station, Riverside, "Adaptations to the Parasitic Life in Insects"; May 1, Dr. Ralph W. Chaney, professor of paleontology, University of California, "Forest Migrations Around the Pacific"; May 22, Dr. P. H. M.-P. Brinton, research chemist and visiting professor of chemistry at the University of Southern California, "The Work of the Chemist in the Detection of Crime."

THE American Institute has announced the following lectures: March 12, "Biological Effects of Radiation of Various Wave Lengths," by Dr. Ellice McDonald, director of cancer research at the University of Pennsylvania, with Dr. Hugh S. Taylor, director of the Frick Chemical Laboratory of Princeton University, as guest authority; March 19, "Modern Fermentation Processes and Products," by Dr. Charles N. Frey, director of the Fleischmann Laboratories, with Dr. John A. W. Hartung, chief chemist of the Jacob Ruppert Brewing Company, as guest authority; March 25, "Recent Advances in the Treatment and Management of Chronic Arthritis," by Dr. William Bryant Rawls, lecturer in medicine at the New York Polyclinic Medical School, with Dr. Russell L. Cecil, clinical professor of medicine at Cornell University, as guest authority.

THE annual meeting of the Alabama Academy of Science will be held on April 12 and 13 at the State Teachers College at Florence, Ala., which is situated in the Muscle Shoals district. Titles for papers to be read at the meeting should be sent to the secretary, P. H. Yancey, Spring Hill College, Mobile, Ala., not later than March 20.

THE eleventh scientific session of the American Heart Association will be held on Tuesday, June 11, from 9:30 to 5:30 P.M. at the Hotel Claridge, Atlantic City, N. J. The program will be devoted to various subjects on cardiovascular disease.

THE committee on scientific research of the American Medical Association invites applications for grants of money to aid in research on problems bearing more or less directly on clinical medicine. Preference is given to requests for moderate amounts to meet specific needs. Application forms can be obtained from the committee at 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois.

THE New Hampshire Forestry Department announces that applications for research fellowships in forestry and allied subjects should be made to the Caroline A. Fox Research and Demonstration Forest, Hillsboro, N. H., not later than April 15. The fellowships are open to men and women who have completed three years' work, not necessarily in forestry, in a college of recognized standing. Projects may be undertaken in fields allied to forestry, such as botany, zoology, soil science, climatology, economics and sociology. Appointments, which ordinarily carry a stipend of $150, are for one year from June 1. Appointees must be in residence at Hillsboro and in the field in New Hampshire for a minimum of two months.

FORMAL approval has been given by the board of supervisors of Louisiana State University to the establishment of schools of dentistry and pharmacy in the division of medical instruction. The division is to be known as The Louisiana State University Medical Center. Pending erection of a new building on the Charity Hospital grounds in New Orleans, the two schools will be housed in the main building of the center. Applications for enrolment are now being accepted.

DISCUSSION

BACKGROUND AND ORIGIN OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

THOSE who are interested in the history of American science and in the organization of scientific men will find in the most recent volume of "Summarized Proceedings" of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (for 1929–1934) a short but unusually interesting and valuable historical chapter contributed by Austin H. Clark and Leila Forbes Clark. A short review of that chapter for the readers of SCIENCE seems worth while. Beginning with a sketch of the status of science in the American colonies of England and in the mother country, about the middle of the seventeenth century, the authors point out that freedom of thought and action was at that time greater in the colonies and that there consequently arose an embryo plan, according to which some of the leaders of British science (Boyle and others) were to join John Winthrop the younger in New England, there to establish a "Society for the Promotion of Natural Knowledge." The proposed emigration did not occur, however, and the Royal Society, chartered by King Charles II in 1662, published in its *Transactions* most of the records of American research for over a century.

Under the leadership of Benjamin Franklin an "American Philosophical Society" was started about 1743, but its life was short. Another organization, "The American Society for Promoting and Propagating Useful Knowledge held in Philadelphia," was formed in 1766, with Benjamin Franklin president, and two years later its title was changed to "The American Society held at Philadelphia for Promoting Useful Knowledge." A new "American Philosophical

Society" had been formed in the meantime and these two became merged in 1769, after prolonged negotiations, with a new name that has since become familiar, "The American Philosophical Society held at Philadelphia for Promoting Useful Knowledge."

The well-known "American Academy of Arts and Sciences," established in Boston, was incorporated in 1780. The "Academy of Arts and Sciences of the United States of America" was started about 1788 in Richmond, Virginia, but did not thrive very long.

In the presidential administration (1801–1809) of Thomas Jefferson, who was prominent in the American Philosophical Society and was in touch with the intellectual life of his period, was established the United States Corps of Engineers, which was a nucleus for the "United States Military Philosophical Society." The latter, which was apparently the first truly national American scientific society, died soon after 1810. The "Columbian Institute for the Promotion of Arts and Sciences," incorporated by Congress in 1818, soon passed into the "National Institution for the Promotion of Science," organized in 1840. That institution arranged a national congress of scientific men, held in Washington in April, 1844, to which were invited all other American scientific organizations and all individuals interested in the advancement of knowledge, but no other meetings of that kind were held and the National Institution finally went out of existence in 1861.

Under the leadership of Dr. John Collins Warren, a Boston group urged the desirability of forming an American association after the pattern of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, but they referred their proposal to the American Philosophical Society and received a discouraging reply in April, 1839. Meanwhile, the "Association of American Geologists" had been organized. It held its first and second meetings at Philadelphia (1840, 1841) and its name was changed to "The Association of American Geologists and Naturalists" at its third meeting, held at Boston in 1842. The last meeting of this organization occurred in 1847, also in Boston. At that meeting, in which Dr. Warren took part, it was voted that the "Association of American Geologists and Naturalists" should resolve itself into the "American Association for the Promotion of Science" and it was arranged that the resulting enlarged association should hold its first meeting at Philadelphia the following year. At the first session of that first meeting, on September 20, 1848, the name of the organization was changed to the "American Association for the Advancement of Science," and William C. Redfield was elected and installed in the afternoon of the same day, as the first president of the association. The association was incorporated by act of the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in March, 1874.

An account of the history of the American Association, by Dr. Herman W. Fairchild, presented at the seventy-fifth anniversary meeting, at Cincinnati, in December, 1923, was published in SCIENCE, Volume 59, 1924.

Besides the chapter on background and origin, this last volume of Summarized Proceedings contains much interesting information about the recent activities of the association. A graph shows that the paid-up membership increased rather steadily from 10,002 in 1920 to 18,269 in 1931, after which it decreased to only 15,728 in 1933, but it increased to 16,429 in 1934. The volume reports annual meetings held at Des Moines, Cleveland, New Orleans, Atlantic City and Boston, and the intervening summer meetings, with the usual lists of officers and references to notes and addresses that were published in SCIENCE. It contains the complete list of sustaining and life members and the very useful Directory of Fellows and other Members, corrected to June, 1934.

For the first time, the value and usefulness of the directory are greatly enhanced by the addition of an 82-page geographical index, which shows the section enrolment of every member. By means of this index, it is easy to ascertain exactly which members reside in any locality and to classify them according to the branches of science in which they are engaged.

Copies of the book may be obtained from the office of the American Association, Smithsonian Institution Building, Washington, D. C., the postpaid prices being $3.00 (cloth binding) or $2.50 (paper cover) to those whose names occur in the directory, and $4.00 or $5.00 to others.

BURTON E. LIVINGSTON

REMARKS ON SULAIMAN'S THEORY OF RELATIVITY

IN view of the interest aroused in Sir Shah Sulaiman's new theory of relativity[1] by Professor Shapley's characterization of it in SCIENCE for November 16, 1934, as one of the "high-lights of astronomy during the past year," the following considerations may be of interest.

Sulaiman bases his theory of gravitation on "gravitons," fine particles "at present beyond the range of our perceptions." It appears, from the brief statement in his first paper, that this hypothesis is essentially the same as that put forward by LeSage in 1764 as an explanation of gravitation.[2] Also, both

[1] *Proc. Acad. of Sciences, U. P., India*, Vol. 4, Part 1, pp. 1–36, 1934.

[2] Cf. *Enc. d. Math. Wiss.*, Band V–1, pp. 57–64 or, more briefly, Lorentz, *Lect. on Theor. Phys.*, vol. 1, pp. 151–155.