

of geography; A. H. Warner, instructor to assistant professor of physics.

In the College of Agriculture the following promotions were made: P. L. Hibbard, associate chemist to chemist; H. R. Guilbert, assistant to associate animal husbandman; A. J. Winkler, associate viticulturist to viticulturist; P. M. Barr, assistant to associate professor of forestry; W. M. Hoskins, assistant professor and assistant entomologist to associate professor and associate entomologist; T. E. Rawlins, assistant professor and assistant plant pathologist to associate professor and associate plant pathologist; F. N. Briggs, assistant to associate agronomist; S. H. Cameron, assistant to associate plant physiologist; E. C. Voorhies, associate to full professor of agricultural economics; F. J. Veihmeyer, associate to full professor of irrigation investigations and practice; M. Kleiber, associate animal husbandman, additional title of associate professor of animal husbandry; H. J. Almquist, instructor and junior poultry husbandman to assistant professor and assistant poultry husbandman; D. E. Bliss, junior to assistant plant pathologist.

NOTES FROM THE CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

WILLIAM L. SLATE, director of the Agricultural Experiment Station at New Haven, Conn., has been appointed chairman of the State Planning Board by Governor Wilbur L. Cross. The Planning Board was given legal status by the recent General Assembly. For the past year it had functioned in an advisory capacity, as the Governor's Planning Board, carrying on research under the chairmanship of Director Slate.

Dr. Donald F. Jones, head of the department of genetics at the Agricultural Experiment Station at New Haven, has been granted leave of absence beginning on September 1. He will carry on special

research at the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena. Dr. Jones is president of the American Genetics Society.

Director William L. Slate and Dr. M. F. Morgan, of the Agricultural Experiment Station at New Haven, will attend the International Congress of Soil Science, meeting at Oxford, England, from July 30 to August 7. Dr. Morgan will read two papers based on the experimental work he has carried on at the station. The first, on the simultaneous estimation of active chemical factors in plant nutrition through tests of sodium acetate-acetic acid soil extract, is the background for Dr. Morgan's simplified method of soil testing, described in Station Bulletin 372, now on the press. In the second, Dr. Morgan will talk about changes in exchangeable bases in soils as related to fertilizer application, leaching and crop removal. This paper is based on the results of lysimeter investigations made at the substation at Windsor in which he has studied the effects of nitrogen-carrying fertilizers on different types of soil.

Besides attending the conference, Director Slate and Dr. Morgan will hold conferences with Dr. L. Dudley Stamp, director of the Land Use Survey of Great Britain. The Connecticut Stations at New Haven and at Storrs have been engaged in a somewhat similar project for several years. Because of Connecticut's vital interest in the Dutch elm disease, the director also plans to spend some time investigating control in European countries where the disease is wide-spread.

Dr. George P. Clinton, head of the department of botany at the New Haven Experiment Station, will attend the sixth International Botanical Congress to be held at Amsterdam, the Netherlands, early in September. During his European trip, Dr. Clinton will make special inquiries about the Dutch elm disease in England, Holland and in other European countries.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. MARSHALL A. HOWE, assistant director of the New York Botanical Garden for the past twelve years, a member of the scientific staff for thirty-four years, has been appointed director. He succeeds Dr. Elmer D. Merrill, who has resigned to assume the newly created post of director of the eight botanical units of Harvard University.

DR. HENRY B. WARD returned to the University of Nebraska for a homecoming celebration of the department of zoology which he founded in 1893 upon the invitation of the then Chancellor James H. Canfield. He was given a departmental breakfast by Professor D. D. Whitney, present head of the department, and an evening reception by Dean Lyman, one of his

former students. At the commencement on June 10 the degree of doctor of laws was conferred on him.

At the closing session on July 17 of the International Astronomical Union, Dr. Ernest Esclançon, director of the Paris and Meudon Observatories and professor of astronomy at the University of Paris, was elected president for the next three years, succeeding Dr. Frank Schlesinger, director of the Yale Observatory. Dr. W. S. Adams, of the Mount Wilson Observatory; Harold Spencer Jones, Astronomer Royal of Great Britain, and Dr. Hilding Bergstrand, of Sweden, were elected vice-presidents. The union accepted the invitation of the Swedish government to meet in Stockholm in 1938.

SIR CHARLES SHERRINGTON, since 1913 Waynflete professor of physiology at the University of Oxford, has retired. He has been appointed Gifford lecturer for the years 1936-37 and 1937-38.

At the commencement exercises of the University of California at Los Angeles the degree of doctor of laws was conferred upon Dr. Robert Grant Aitken, director of the Lick Observatory, who has since retired.

DEAN E. J. McCAUSTLAND has retired as dean of the faculty of engineering of the University of Missouri after serving for twenty-one years. He is succeeded by Professor F. Ellis Johnson, head of the department of electrical engineering of the Iowa State College.

DR. CHARLES H. MAYO, of the Mayo Foundation of the University of Minnesota, observed his seventieth birthday on July 19.

DR. BERNARD SMITH has been appointed director of the British Geological Survey and Geological Museum as from October 1, on the retirement from that office of Sir John Flett, who has been director since 1920. Dr. Smith became geologist to the survey in 1906, and was made assistant to the director in England in 1931. The new Geological Museum in South Kensington was opened by the Duke of York on July 3.

THE doctorate of laws of Trinity College at Hartford, Conn., was conferred at commencement on Francis P. Garvan, president of the American Chemical Foundation.

THE degree of doctor of science has been conferred by the University of Cambridge on Dr. Leslie Harris, director of the Nutritional Laboratory of the university.

THE University of St. Andrews has conferred the honorary doctorate of laws on Dr. J. Hutchinson, of the herbarium of the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew, England.

DR. RICHARD ANSCHÜTZ, professor of chemistry in the University of Bonn, has been elected a foreign honorary fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

THE Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, has elected to fellowship Professor Alfred Fowler, formerly Yarrow professor of the Royal Society and emeritus professor of astrophysics at the college.

THE *British Medical Journal* reports that at a special meeting of fellows of the Royal Society of Medicine on May 21, five new honorary fellows were elected. These were: Sir St. Clair Thomson, who was president of the society in 1924-25; Dr. Sigmund Freud, of Vienna; Dr. Joseph Jadassohn, of Zurich; Dr. George

R. Minot, of Harvard University, and Dr. R. F. J. Pfeiffer, of Breslau.

IN the department of physics of the University of Michigan, Dr. D. M. Dennison has been promoted from an associate professorship to a professorship, and Dr. W. W. Sleator and Dr. Otto Laporte have been promoted from assistant professorships to associate professorships.

DR. C. B. AIKEN, of the Bell Telephone Laboratories, New York, has been appointed associate professor of electrical engineering in charge of the department of communication engineering at Purdue University. Under Dr. Aiken's direction, the department will be completely reorganized in order to strengthen the undergraduate courses and introduce several graduate courses.

DR. FRANK H. KRUSEN, associate dean of Temple University School of Medicine, has resigned to take charge of the department of physical therapy at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn. Dr. Krusen has been director of the department of physical medicine at Temple University Hospital since 1931.

DR. MILTON S. PLESSET, who for the past two years has been studying with Professor Niels Bohr at Copenhagen, has been appointed instructor in physics at the University of Rochester.

DR. ROBERT F. BACHER has been appointed instructor in physics at Cornell University and will begin his work there in September. After receiving the Ph.D. degree from the University of Michigan, Dr. Bacher spent one year each as National Research fellow at the California Institute of Technology and at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Recently he has been instructor in physics at Columbia University.

HOWARD A. SMITH, until recently a National Research Fellow at the Metals Research Laboratory of the Carnegie Institute of Technology, is now a research associate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. With another associate, he is investigating fundamental causes for the corrosion of stainless steels in the interests of the Chemical Foundation. This work is being guided by a faculty committee of which R. S. Williams is chairman.

ROBERT C. STAUFFER, A.B., Dartmouth, 1934, a graduate student at the University of Minnesota, has been appointed an instructor in biology at Dartmouth College. Mr. Stauffer will spend the latter part of the summer at Woods Hole, going to Dartmouth in September.

THE title of professor of statistics has been conferred by the University of London on Dr. E. S. Pear-

son, in respect of the post held by him at University College.

DR. ORESTES H. CALDWELL, electrical engineer, has been named science director of the Hall of Science of the National Electrical and Radio Exposition, to be held at the Grand Central Palace from September 18 to 28.

THE Dutch and French Governments have officially recognized the International Office for the Protection of Nature and have appointed the following delegates to be their representatives to the general council of the office: *Delegates for Netherlands and Dutch East Indies*: Dr. P. G. van Tienhoven, president of the Society for Nature Protection in Netherlands; Dr. W. A. J. M. van Waterschoot van der Gracht, chief engineer of Mines; Professor Dr. L. Ph. le Cosquino de Bussy, director of the Colonial Institute, Amsterdam; Dr. J. C. Koningsberger, former Minister of Colonies. *Delegates for France and Colonies*: M. Bolle, conservator of forests, Ministry of Agriculture, Paris; Professor Dr. A. Gruvel, general secretary of the National Committee for the Preservation of Fauna and Flora in the Colonies; Raoul de Clermont, president of the Section for Nature Protection of the Société Nationale d'Acclimatation de France.

Nature reports that Dr. R. F. Lawrence, who has been assistant in charge of reptiles, amphibians and arachnids at the South African Museum since 1922, has been appointed director of the Natal Museum, Pietermaritzburg.

THE Secretary of the Interior has appointed as executive secretary of the Division of Geographic Names Dr. George Curtis Martin, of Corvallis, Oregon, who was for twenty years a geologist with the U. S. Geological Survey. The Division of Geographic Names, successor to the U. S. Geographic Board, was set up by Secretary Ickes under the authority of President Roosevelt's Executive Order of April 17, 1934.

DR. OSCAR RIDDLE, of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, sailed on July 20 for Europe where he will present a paper "On Anterior Pituitary Hormones" before the fifteenth International Physiological Congress at Leningrad and Moscow, which meets from August 9 to 17. While abroad he will visit various physiological laboratories in England,

Denmark, Russia, Yugoslavia, Germany, Holland and France.

DR. HOWARD DITTRICK, of the School of Medicine of Western Reserve University, has been appointed official delegate of the United States Government to the tenth International Congress on the History of Medicine, to be held in Madrid, Spain, from September 23 to 29. Dr. Dittrick has also been appointed delegate of the American Association of the History of Medicine.

SIR HUBERT WILKINS arrived in the United States from Europe on July 24 *en route* to South America to join an expedition of the National Geographic Society to the Antarctic. After his return next March he expects to begin preparations for his second under-sea exploration of the North Polar seas.

AT the close of the initial program presented by west coast geographers in connection with the meetings of the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, held at the University of California at Los Angeles during the last week of June, the formal organization of an Association of Pacific Coast Geographers was completed. Dr. Otis W. Freeman, of the Washington State Normal School at Cheney, was elected *president*; George C. Kimber, of the Sacramento Junior College, *vice-president*, and Willis B. Merriam, of the University of Washington, *secretary-treasurer*. The meeting in 1936 will be held in conjunction with the regular meetings of the Pacific Division in Seattle under the auspices of the University of Washington.

AT a meeting on July 26 of Arctic explorers at the American Museum of Natural History steps were taken to organize the American Polar Society, which will issue semi-annually as the organ of the society *The Polar Times*. The first number of the magazine has recently appeared. The society has an initial roll of eighty-four members living in eighteen states and in England, France, Norway, Germany, Turkey and Cuba. Its chief object is to compile data relating to the polar regions in cooperation with the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge, England, the New Zealand Antarctic Society, the Arctic Institute at Leningrad and similar groups throughout the world.

DISCUSSION

THE NEW ERGOT ALKALOID

PERHAPS I ought not to intervene in a discussion in which I am not directly concerned; but, apart from the fact that I have been engaged in research on the

pharmacology of ergot, and side issues therefrom, for over 30 years, I have been in close touch with Dudley and Moir's work from the very beginning. When Moir, in June, 1932, published the observations which