

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. F. L. RANSOME, since 1927 professor of economic geology at the California Institute of Technology, previously from 1897 to 1924 assistant geologist and geologist to the U. S. Geological Survey, later professor of economic geology and dean of the Graduate College of the University of Arizona, has been elected an honorary member of the Geological Society of Belgium.

HONORARY fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons, London, will be conferred on October 10 on Dr. William B. Coley, professor of clinical cancer research at Cornell University Medical College. He will at that time deliver a lecture on "The Treatment of Inoperable Malignant Tumors with the Toxins of Erysipelas and Bacillus Prodigiosus," based on a study of end-results from 1893 to 1935.

DR. HOWARD DITTRICK, Cleveland, has been named an official delegate from the United States to the tenth International Congress of the History of Medicine, which will be held in Madrid from September 23 to 29.

THE gold medal of the Royal Agricultural Society will be conferred this year on Lord Ernle. The medal is given in recognition of services rendered to the agricultural industry generally. Sir Merrik Burrell, who is chairman of the veterinary and research committees of the society, has been nominated for the presidency.

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association states that the Sternberg Memorial Medal has been awarded by the executive faculty of the University of Michigan Medical School to William George Gordon; this is an annual prize given to the medical student who has the best record in preventive medicine. The Wee Kim Lim scholastic key was awarded to student Robert Toru Masuhara for his work in roentgenology. This key was established by the Michigan Alpha chapter of Alpha Lambda, the international Chinese fraternity, to be presented to a distinguished senior medical student each year.

At a recent meeting of the board of regents in Los Angeles, the term of Dr. Langley Porter as dean of the University of California Medical School, San Francisco, was continued one year. Dr. Porter's normal retirement period was reached this year. He has been dean of the medical school since 1927.

DR. RUDOLPH MATAS has resigned as chief of the department of surgery at Touro Infirmary, New Orleans, and Dr. Isidore Cohn has been appointed to succeed him. It was stated that Dr. Matas wished "to free himself of administrative and teaching duties so that he would have more time to devote to strictly pro-

fessional activities." Following his resignation, Dr. Matas was named honorary chief of the surgical service. He is now seventy-four years old.

JOHN M. WESTGATE, director of the Hawaii Station since 1915, has resigned to become professor of tropical agriculture in the University of Hawaii. He leaves for the Oriental tropics in September to make studies relating to tropical crops. He is succeeded by Dr. O. C. Magistad, formerly chemist for the Pineapple Experiment Station, Honolulu. Dr. G. V. Parris, who obtained his doctorate at Cornell University in June, 1935, will become plant pathologist for the Hawaii Station on September 1. William Storey, formerly student assistant, has been appointed assistant in horticulture. He was recently awarded a university fellowship and will pursue graduate studies in the field of genetics.

ROBERT L. PENDLETON, for nearly twelve years professor of soil technology and for the past five years in addition head of the Department of Soils, College of Agriculture, of the University of the Philippines, at Los Banos, has retired to accept a position as soil technologist and agriculturist to the Department of Agriculture of the Siamese Government. His headquarters will be in Bangkok, Siam.

Industrial and Engineering Chemistry reports that Dr. Felix Singer has been retained as consulting ceramic engineer by The United States Stoneware Company, New York, N. Y. In 1933 Dr. Singer was obliged to resign his connection with the Deutsche Ton- und Steinzeug-Werke and to leave Germany for England, where he now resides.

THE New Hampshire Forestry Commission announces the appointment of two research fellows under the Fox Trust Fund for Forest Research for the period of one year from June 1, 1935. The fellowships carry a base stipend of \$150.00 and require a minimum of two months' residence. A. Heaton Underhill, Dartmouth, 1936, will study the relation of forest and soil types to conditions for fish life in streams and ponds. He will work especially on the Pillsbury State Forest. Miss Helen E. Hazard, Cornell, 1935, will investigate the relation of floristic composition of forest types to site quality in southern New Hampshire. The investigations will be carried out under the Caroline A. Fox Research and Demonstration Forest at Hillsboro, N. H.

Nature states that the managers of the Royal Institution, London, have awarded the Dewar research fellowship to A. R. Ubbelohde, formerly senior scholar of

Christ Church, Oxford, and at present holder of a senior research award of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. Mr. Ubbelohde's researches have been largely in physical chemistry, and it is expected that his experience will be valuable in connection with the researches directed by Sir William Bragg on the structure of matter.

CURTIS P. CLAUSEN, in charge of foreign parasite introduction for the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and H. L. Parker, head of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine Laboratory at Hyères, France, will represent the department at the sixth International Congress on Entomology, in Madrid, from September 6 to 12. Mr. Clausen sailed from New York on August 20.

DR. W. R. GREGG, chief of the Weather Bureau, sailed on August 14 for England, *en route* to the Continent, where he will attend international meetings of meteorologists. He was accompanied by J. B. Kincer, chief of the Climate and Crop Weather Division of the bureau. After conferring with British and French meteorologists they will attend the triennial meetings of the International Climatological Committee and the International Committee of Agricultural Meteorology in Danzig the last of August and the first of September. They will then go on to Warsaw for a meeting of the International Meteorological Committee. Mr. Gregg will attend the general session of the international meeting of meteorological directors in Warsaw, from September 5 to 13. Mr. Kincer will spend this time conferring with officials of the meteorological services of Denmark, Sweden and Norway. Both will confer with the meteorological officials of USSR in Moscow and of Germany in Berlin, with a view to working out better methods for exchanging weather observations used in preparing the daily forecasts on both sides of the Atlantic. The trip will end with a visit to the Deutsche Seewarte in Hamburg.

DR. H. A. GLEASON, head curator at the New York Botanical Garden, recently elected deputy director of the garden, is spending two months at the Biological Station of the University of Michigan, on the shores of Douglas Lake.

THE Royal College of Physicians, London, has appointed lecturers as follows: Sir Walter Langdon-Brown, Harveian orator, 1936 (the forthcoming Harveian Oration in October next will be delivered by Sir Henry Dale); Dr. Edward Mapother, Bradshaw lecturer, 1936; Dr. E. L. Middleton, Milroy lecturer, 1936; Dr. R. A. McCance, Goulstonian lecturer, 1936; Dr. John Parkinson, Lumleian lecturer, 1936; Dr. Joseph Needham, Oliver-Sharpey lecturer, 1936; Dr. J. D. Rolleston, FitzPatrick lecturer, 1936; Dr. R. R.

Traill, Mitchell lecturer, 1936, and Dr. Edwin Bramwell, Croonian lecturer, 1937.

DR. HENRI COUTARD, chief of the department of the roentgentherapy of cancer at the Curie Institute, University of Paris, France, will deliver the twelfth Lewis Linn McArthur lecture of the Frank Billings Foundation of the Institute of Medicine of Chicago, on October 1. The subject of the lecture will be "The Conception of Periodicity as a Possible Directing Factor in the Roentgentherapy of Cancer."

DR. FRANK C. WHITMORE, dean of the School of Chemistry and Physics at the Pennsylvania State College, during the period from October 14 to 31 will speak before various Southern Sections of the American Chemical Society on "Some Simple Aliphatic Chemistry." He will discuss the simpler normal and abnormal reactions of organic chemistry from the point of view of the general chemist rather than that of the specialist, speaking at the following places: Richmond and Lynchburg, Virginia; Kingsport and Knoxville, Tennessee; Gainesville, Florida; New Orleans; Tuscaloosa, Alabama; Athens, Georgia; Greenville, South Carolina; Atlanta, Georgia; Birmingham, Alabama; Nashville, Tennessee; Lexington, Kentucky, and Charleston, West Virginia. From October 31 to November 2, he will be at the Mid-west Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society at Louisville, Ky., where he will present a paper on molecular rearrangements.

THE American Chemical Society meeting in San Francisco, under the presidency of Professor Roger Adams, has adjourned to meet in Kansas City in the spring of 1936. The following meeting will be held in the autumn at Pittsburgh, Pa. The spring and fall meetings of 1937 will be held in Chapel Hill, N. C., and Rochester, N. Y., respectively.

THE fifth convention of the Biological Photographic Association will be held at the Stevens Hotel, Chicago, on September 12.

THE ninth annual conference of the Western Section of the International Crop Improvement Association was held this year at the Wisconsin College of Agriculture on July 26 and 27. About seventy-five alfalfa seed producers, distributors and consumers attended with the purpose of discussing the intricate problems of the alfalfa seed industry.

THE sixth Floating Congress of the Pan American Medical Association, en route to New York City from its cruise to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, stopped off at San Juan, Puerto Rico, on July 29. The School of Tropical Medicine contributed as its share in the entertain-

ment program for the congress a series of exhibits of the various phases of tropical diseases, on which the faculty of the school has been working. All departments were represented. After viewing these exhibits, the visitors attended a symposium on tuberculosis held under the auspices of the Insular Department of Health.

At the time of the International Neurological Congress in London, a meeting of those particularly interested in epilepsy was held on July 31 at the Lingfield colony. Thirty-two doctors, representing fourteen countries, were present. After discussion, it was unanimously decided that the International League against Epilepsy should be revived. The immediate efforts should be directed toward the improvement of the social condition and the institutional care of persons with epilepsy. To this end, it was agreed that there should be a publication, issued annually or oftener, acquainting readers with facilities and with remedial efforts carried on in various countries. Plans were also laid for a meeting of the league at the time of the next Neurological Congress in Copenhagen. At an adjourned meeting held on August 2 (Professor A. Ley, of Brussels, in the chair) the following officers were elected: *President*, William G. Lennox, Boston, Mass., U. S. A.; *Secretaries*, H. I. Schou, Philadelphia, Denmark; L. J. J. Muskens, Amsterdam, Holland; *Treasurer*, J. Tylor Fox, Lingfield, Surrey, England. All persons interested in improving the condition of epileptics are invited to join the league.

THE members of the third International Congress of Soil Science took part in a post-congress tour of Britain, making a three-day visit to Aberdeen. They made a tour of the experimental farm of the North of Scotland College of Agriculture at Craibstone, the Rowett Research Institute, the Duthie Experimental Stock Farm, and the Macaulay Institute of Soil Research. They were received at Craibstone by Professor J. Hendrick, of Aberdeen University, and were shown the drain gauges, soil profiles and various experiments in the woodland fields. At the experimental farm W. Godden and A. Crichton explained the work carried out by the institute. In the evening the delegates were given a civic reception at Aberdeen Art Gallery.

THE General Education Board recently made a gift of \$2,500,000 to Vanderbilt University for the School of Medicine. About \$700,000 will be used for build-

ings and equipment and the remainder for an endowment.

DR. GODFREY LOWELL CABOT, of Boston, a trustee of Norwich University at Northfield, Vt., has given to the university in memory of his son, who died in the war, a "substantial" sum to found "the James Jackson Cabot professorship of air traffic, regulation and transportation," in the hope that it will promote the formulation of an international air safety code in which the United States might lead the way.

F. D. RICHEY, chief of the U. S. Bureau of Plant Industry, writes: "A letter from Dr. F. J. F. Shaw, director of the Imperial Institute of Agricultural Research, Delhi, India, under date of July 25, notes that 'the Pusa Institute was wrecked in the great Bihar earthquake of the thirteenth of January, 1934. The Government of India in consequence of this decided to move the entire Research Institute to a site near Delhi where new laboratories are now in process of erection and the farm is being laid out. For this reason I am now stationed in Delhi as the work of design and layout falls upon me and the Botanical Section at Pusa is for the present in charge of Dr. Pal. I am glad to say that we had no loss of life and that the actual Botanical Section Laboratory did not sustain serious damage. I am sending you this information so that our correspondents abroad should realize that the Delhi Institute is the same as the Pusa Institute. I expect to complete the transfer of all the staff and equipment to the new site about October, 1936.'"

A SPECIAL frost forecasting service for Florida, lasting from the middle of November till April, has been provided by the U. S. Weather Bureau. The service, made possible by a \$15,000 federal and a \$10,000 state appropriation, will be similar to the services already set up in California, Washington, Oregon, Texas and southern Alabama. Headquarters have not been selected. E. S. Ellison—trained in frost forecasting in California—will have charge of the work. Five others will forecast each day minimum temperatures for the following night in the sections assigned to them. These forecasts—based on the regular weather maps and on special temperature, moisture and air mass observations made with equipment installed for the purpose throughout the state—will be published by the press and broadcast. Besides warning growers of dangerous crop weather, thermometers and equipment used in heating orchards will be checked.

DISCUSSION

ON THE FORMATION OF LAKE BALLS

BALLS of vegetable or animal matter are at times found on the shores of lakes or of the sea, but only

in a few widely scattered localities. They have been variously named (see Ganong^{1, 2} and Schröder³) and

¹ *Rhodora*, 7: 41, 1905.