

astronomer at the Dudley Observatory, Albany, N. Y., died on April 27, at the age of sixty-seven years.

A BILL has been offered by Edwin Miller in the New York Senate that would authorize the state to add the home of the late Dr. Charles Steinmetz, of the General Electric Company, containing his workshop and experimental laboratory, to its present park system.

A STATUE erected in Danielsville by the state of Georgia in honor of Dr. Crawford W. Long, as the first physician to use ether anesthesia, was unveiled on March 30. The legislature authorized the erection of the memorial at or near Dr. Long's birthplace. Mrs. O. A. Harper, daughter of Dr. Long, and E. C. Long,

Jr., assisted in the unveiling. Speakers included Governor Eugene Talmadge, Dr. Lamartine G. Hardman, Commerce, former governor; Dr. James E. Paullin, Atlanta, president of the state medical association, and Dr. Hugh H. Young, Baltimore.

THE Russian Government has decided to erect a monument to Pavlov in Leningrad and to name an institute after him, as well as to publish his works in four languages. His brain will be kept in the Moscow Institute for Cerebral Research. His widow is to receive a monthly pension of 1,000 roubles. A new asteroid discovered by the Simeiz Observatory in the Crimea has been named "Pavlodina."

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

At the annual meeting of the National Academy of Sciences held in Washington from April 27 to 29 the Agassiz Medal for Oceanography was presented to Dr. T. Wayland Vaughan, director of the Scripps Institution and professor of oceanography, the University of California. The public welfare medal was presented to Dr. F. F. Russell, lecturer on preventive medicine and hygiene at the Harvard Medical School, distinguished for his work as director of the International Health Division of the Rockefeller Foundation. The Agassiz Medal was presented by Dr. Henry B. Bigelow, of Harvard University, director of the Oceanographic Institute at Woods Hole, Mass., and the public welfare medal by Dr. Max Mason, recently president of the Rockefeller Foundation.

MEMBERS of the National Academy of Sciences have been elected as follows: Dr. Leo Hendrik Baekeland, honorary professor of chemical engineering, Columbia University; Dr. Elliot Blackwelder, professor of geology and head of the department, Stanford University; Dr. Ira Sprague Bowen, professor of physics, California Institute of Technology; Dr. Wallace Hume Carothers, research chemist, E. I. du Pont de Nemours, Wilmington, Del.; Dr. Alexander Forbes, associate professor of physiology, Harvard Medical School; Dr. William Francis Giauque, associate professor of chemistry, University of California; Dr. Clark Leonard Hull, professor of psychology, Yale University; Dr. Edwin Oakes Jordan, professor of bacteriology and chairman of the department, University of Chicago; Dr. Alfred Vincent Kidder, chairman of the division of historical research of the Carnegie Institution; Dr. Warren Harmon Lewis, professor of physiological anatomy, the Johns Hopkins University, and research associate of the Carnegie Institution; Dr. Robert Sanderson Mulliken, professor of physics, the University of Chicago; Dr. William Cumming Rose, professor of physiological chemistry, University of Illinois; Dr.

Edmund Ware Sinnott, professor of botany, Columbia University; Dr. Joseph Leonard Walsh, associate professor of mathematics, Harvard University, and Dr. Orville Wright, director of the Wright Aeronautical Laboratory at Dayton, Ohio.

DR. EDWIN GRANT CONKLIN, who in 1933 became professor emeritus of zoology at Princeton University, was at the recent meeting of the American Philosophical Society reelected as one of the vice-presidents and was made executive vice-president, a new office. Mrs. Caroline French Skinker, who for the past twelve years has been executive secretary, will retire on June 30. A minute was adopted expressing appreciation of her services.

EDMUND NORRIS GATHERCOAL, professor of pharmacognosy of the School of Pharmacy of the University of Illinois, Chicago, has been awarded the Remington Honor Medal for 1936 of the New York Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association "in recognition of his service to pharmacy as chairman of the Revision Committee of the National Formulary VI, his work in promoting higher standards for pharmaceutical products, his efforts to bring about the standardization of color nomenclature, his exhaustive study of prescription ingredients, his research in pharmacognosy and his record of many years of faithful service as a teacher."

THE Trudeau Medal of the National Tuberculosis Association has been awarded to Dr. Edward W. Archibald, professor of surgery at McGill University and consulting surgeon at the Royal Victoria Hospital.

In recognition of her forty years' service to New York City Dr. Anna W. Williams, formerly assistant director of the research laboratories of the New York City Department of Health, received on April 27 a testimonial scroll presented by the Women's Medical

Society of New York State. The presentation was made by Dr. S. Josephine Baker, president of the National Women's Medical Association, at the annual dinner of the society at the Hotel Pierre.

THE friends and students of the roentgenologist, Dr. Antoine Louis Gustave Beclère, Paris, presented to him on March 17, his eightieth birthday, a medal and a book containing a summary of his contributions to his specialty.

THOMAS ULVAN TAYLOR, for thirty years dean of the College of Engineering of the University of Texas, a member of the university staff since 1888, who has now reached the age of seventy-eight years, will retire at the end of the academic year with the title of dean emeritus. He will continue part-time teaching. Dr. Taylor was the guest of honor at a banquet given by students, alumni and faculty on April 30.

DR. ESMOND R. LONG, director of the Henry Phipps Institute of the University of Pennsylvania, was elected president of the National Tuberculosis Association, at the New Orleans meeting, succeeding Dr. James J. Waring, of Denver. Dr. Hugh S. Cumming, Surgeon-General of the United States, retired, was elected an honorary member.

AT a meeting of the American Association of Pathologists and Bacteriologists held in Boston on April 9 the following officers were elected: *President*, Dr. N. C. Foote; *Vice-president*, Dr. Earl B. McKinley; *Treasurer*, Dr. F. B. Mallory; *Secretary*, Dr. H. T. Karsner; *Incoming Member of the Council*, Dr. S. Bayne-Jones; *Assistant Treasurer*, Dr. F. Parker, Jr., and *Assistant Secretary*, Dr. A. R. Moritz. The next meeting of the association will be held at Northwestern University Medical School, Chicago, on March 25 and 26, 1937. The topic for discussion at that meeting will be "The Genesis of Tumors."

AT the meeting of the American Society for Experimental Pathology held in Washington recently, the following officers were elected: *President*, Alphonse R. Dochez, Presbyterian Hospital, New York; *Vice-president*, C. Phillip Miller, University of Chicago; *Secretary-treasurer*, Shields Warren, Palmer Memorial Hospital, Boston; *Councilors*, Morton McCutcheon, University of Pennsylvania Medical School; Ernest W. Goodpasture, Vanderbilt University Medical School. The next meeting of the society will be held at Memphis, Tenn., from April 21 to 24, 1937.

THE Cornell University Chapter of Sigma Xi has elected seventy-one new members. Of these seven are faculty members, two are resident doctors, fifty-two are graduate students, and two are alumni members. Officers elected for the coming year are: *President*, B. F. Kingsbury, professor of histology and embry-

ology; *Vice-president*, K. M. Wiegand, professor of botany; *Secretary*, L. F. Randolph, research associate in cytology; *Treasurer*, A. J. Heinicke, professor of pomology. Among those elected to membership are: *Alumni Members*, Professor Charles Joseph Ling and Professor Lucy Porter Sutton; *Faculty Members*, Professor P. N. Coryllos, Professor Jacob Furth, Professor Edwin S. Harrison, Dr. Daniel C. Lewis, Jr., Professor True McLean, Dr. Edward W. Saunders and Professor John N. Spaeth.

THE Sigma Xi Club of the University of Utah held its regular quarterly luncheon and business meeting for the election of officers on April 17. Dr. Thomas J. Parmley, vice-president during the past year, was elected president for the ensuing year. Dr. Charles Blumenfeld, associate professor of anatomy, was elected vice-president. Dr. Margaret Schell, secretary and treasurer for the past several years, was reelected. The retiring president is Dr. F. F. Hintze, associate professor of geology and paleontology. The club held its quarterly dinner meeting on May 2, when Mrs. H. L. Marshall presented a thesis on "The Present Status of the Recapitulation Theory."

THE Smith Chapter of the Society of the Sigma Xi held its annual initiation exercises on April 20. Nine members of the faculty and seventeen students were initiated. Dr. Florence R. Sabin, of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, was elected an alumna member. Professor William Henry Weston, Harvard University, spoke on "The Significance of Recent Investigations of the Sexuality of the Lower Fungi." Newly elected officers of the chapter are: Dr. Neal H. McCoy, *president*; Dr. Jessie Y. Cann, *vice-president*; Dr. Geo. Olds Cooper, *secretary*, and Dr. Elizabeth S. Hobbs, *treasurer*.

WILLIAM D. HARKINS, formerly Carl William Eisen-drath professor of physical chemistry at the University of Chicago, has been made Andrew MacLeish distinguished service professor, with duties restricted to research and the supervision of seminars. His researches will be in the fields of nuclear chemistry, surface chemistry and electrical discharges. Dr. Henry W. Newson, from the Radiation Laboratory of the University of California, has been appointed research instructor and Robert J. Moon full-time research assistant in nuclear chemistry. Dr. Robert J. Myers, of the Johns Hopkins University, has become research associate in surface chemistry. A large amount of apparatus is under construction for use in both nuclear and surface chemistry, and a part of the old power house of the university has been taken over for nuclear research.

DR. J. G. FITZGERALD, dean of the Faculty of Medi-

cine and director of the School of Hygiene and of the Connaught Laboratories of the University of Toronto, has been invited by the Rockefeller Foundation to make a study of the methods at present employed in the teaching of preventive medicine to undergraduates in medical schools. It is anticipated that the study will occupy a period of one year from September 15. Dr. Charles Edward Smith, of the Stanford University Medical School, San Francisco, will assist in the undertaking. University medical schools in the United States and Canada, the British Isles and in European countries will be visited in the course of the survey. Dr. FitzGerald will resign as dean of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Toronto on June 30. He will be given leave of absence by the governors of the university for the necessary period and will, it is expected, return to the university in September, 1937, as director of the School of Hygiene and of the Connaught Laboratories.

DR. NOLAN D. C. LEWIS, director of the laboratories of St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Washington, has been appointed professor of neurology in the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, and associate director of the Neurological Institute of the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center.

PROFESSOR BRADLEY STOUGHTON, since 1923 head of the department of mechanical engineering at Lehigh University, has been appointed dean of the newly organized College of Engineering.

PROFESSOR JAN SCHILT, of the department of astronomy at Columbia University, has been named director of the Rutherford Observatory.

DR. FRANK FREMONT-SMITH, until recently assistant professor of neuropathology at the Harvard Medical School and associate psychiatrist at the Massachusetts General Hospital, has become a member of the staff of the Josiah Macy, Jr., Foundation. He will be in charge of the medical division to which he will give full time.

DR. CLYDE FISHER, director of the Hayden Planetarium of the American Museum of Natural History, who will be a member of the solar eclipse expedition sent by Harvard College Observatory and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, plans to visit after the eclipse the meteor craters formed in Siberia in 1908.

AMONG the visiting professors who recently spent the winter term at the School of Tropical Medicine, Puerto Rico, was Dr. William Thornwall Davis, of the School of Medicine of the George Washington University. Dr. Davis gave two lectures, one before the members of the Insular Medical Association, gathered at their annual meeting, on "Ophthalmology

in the Tropics," and the other at the regular weekly session of the school on "The Orthoptic Treatment of Squint." During his stay in Puerto Rico Dr. Davis was the guest of Governor Blanton Winship.

THE twelfth annual faculty research lecture of the University of California at Los Angeles was given on May 6 by Dr. Vern O. Knudsen, professor of physics. His subject was "Modern Acoustics and Culture." The selection of faculty research lecturer is made by members of the faculty who have been accorded the honor in former years.

JOHN H. WOLFEND, lecturer in physical chemistry at the University of Oxford, has been appointed Frank B. Weeks lecturer at Wesleyan University.

DR. PAUL B. SEARS, head of the department of botany at the University of Oklahoma, gave a lecture on "Postglacial Climate and Vegetation" under the auspices of the Kansas State College Chapter of Sigma Xi at Manhattan on April 24. He also spoke before a group of research workers on "The Ecological Approach to Conservation."

DR. R. E. ROSE, director of the Technical Laboratory of the E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company, Inc., on April 23 addressed the Pittsburgh Section of the American Chemical Society and members of Phi Lambda Upsilon in Pittsburgh on "Recent Advances in the Field of Dyestuffs." Dr. Rose also addressed the Lehigh Valley Section of the American Chemical Society in Reading, Pa., on April 24, when he spoke on "The Last Ten Years in Dyestuff Manufacture."

PROFESSOR G. A. BAITSSELL, of Yale University, spoke on "The Molecular Pattern of Living Matter" at the Biological Seminar at Brown University on April 17.

DR. LEON ASHER, professor of physiology at the University of Berne, will deliver a lecture on "Integration by Internal Secretions" at Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, on May 11.

ON the evening before the meeting of the executive committee of the American Association for the Advancement of Science at Lancaster, Pa., on April 18, a dinner was given to the members of the committee by the Lancaster Branch, which has now reached its limit of one thousand members. Remarks were made by Dr. Otis W. Caldwell, general secretary; Dr. Henry B. Ward, permanent secretary, and Dr. J. McKeen Cattell, chairman of the executive committee. An address was then given by Dr. Edwin G. Conklin, president of the association.

THE American Society of Mammalogists will hold its eighteenth annual meeting at the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, from May 12 to 16.

A CHAPTER of Sigma Xi, national honor society in science, was installed at Carleton College, Northfield, Minn., on April 22, with Dr. William F. Durand, of Stanford University, national president, and Dr. Ross A. Gortner, of the University of Minnesota, as installing officers. Two chapters of Sigma Xi exist in Minnesota, at the University of Minnesota and at the Mayo Foundation in Rochester. Carleton is the first liberal arts college in the West to be granted a chapter. Nineteen members of the Carleton faculty are members. Five of these are graduates of the college who were elected into the society while doing graduate work at other schools.

THE first International Conference on Fever Therapy is to be held at Columbia University, New York City, from September 29 to October 3. The subjects to be discussed will include physiologic and pathologic changes as well as the treatment of gonorrhea, gonorrheal and non-specific arthritis, syphilis, neurologic conditions such as multiple sclerosis, chorea, paresis, tabes, skin diseases, etc. The meeting will be held under the chairmanship of Baron Henri de Rothschild, of Paris, France. The French committee, of which Professor d'Arsonval is honorary president, is under the chairmanship of Professor Abrami. Other members of this committee include Professors Alajouanine, Binet, Claude, Janet, Lardennois, Laubry and Levaditi and the general secretaries of the committee, Drs. Halphen and Auclair. The American committee consists of Drs. Desjardins, Bierman, Hartman, Hinsie, Neymann, Simpson and Warren. National European committees are being formed under the direction of Professors Maranon, of Spain; Frugoni, of Italy; Volhardt, of Germany; Wagner-Jauregg and Epinger, of Austria; Michaux, of Switzerland; Bessemans, of Belgium, and Danielopolu, of Roumania. Abstracts of the papers to be read are to be published in the volume of the transactions in English, German and French. Information regarding this conference

may be secured from the General Secretary, Dr. William Bierman, 471 Park Avenue, New York City.

TWENTY students received certificates from the New York Botanical Garden on April 20 in recognition of their completion of two years of work in the course for professional gardeners. This is the third and largest graduating class in the history of the course, which was established in 1932 in order to give the gardeners employed at the Botanical Garden a background of the sciences underlying their work. Gardeners from estates around New York have also been permitted to take the work, and this year several florists, nurserymen and landscape gardeners have also been among the students.

THE American Institute of Physics has changed its address to 175 Fifth Avenue, New York City. The founder societies of the institute, which include the American Association of Physics Teachers, the Society of Rheology, the Acoustical Society of America, the Optical Society of America and the American Physical Society, will hold regular meetings jointly in New York from October 28 to 31, to signalize the fifth year of their cooperative association. In addition to the customary technical sessions there will be a Symposium on Industrial Physics and an anniversary dinner.

THE League of Nations will award the Darling prize of 1,000 Swiss francs this year for the best work in the pathology, etiology and prophylaxis of malaria. Works which have been published within the last five years, as well as unpublished works, may be submitted.

AN anonymous donor has given £10,000 for the establishment of an Institute of Experimental Psychology at Oxford University. A decree has been proposed allocating to the Institute £500 and £150 a year for five years from the fund of the Rockefeller Foundation for research in social sciences.

DISCUSSION

THE DELPORTE PLANET 1936CA

ON February 12, 1936, the astronomer, Delporte, at the Belgian National Observatory at Uccle, Belgium, discovered a tiny object, which was later identified as a planet. When the orbit of the body was calculated, it was found that it had passed very close to the Earth. In the press, many persons have speculated as to what might have happened if the object had struck the Earth. In most cases, the picture painted has been rather pessimistic.

In the accompanying figure is shown the path of the object as well as the paths of Mercury, Venus, the Earth and Mars. It should be noted that the planes

of the paths are not the same but are inclined to each other at small angles. Consequently, what appear to be intersections on the diagram are only close approaches in reality. For instance, when the Earth passed the point marked E_1 on the diagram about February 7, the small planet was very near this point, in fact only about 1,200,000 miles away. About January 19, 1936, the object passed close to the path of Venus at the point marked v_2 ; at that time Venus was in another part of its path, namely at V_2 . Before that, it had passed its point of closest approach to Mercury's path at a distance of about 13 million miles.

Ignoring for the moment the changes in the path