

The association is not scheduled to meet again in Philadelphia until 1942. It is hoped that many members may take this opportunity of seeing the recent developments in some of these oldest and most renowned scientific institutions of America.

#### RECENT DEATHS

DR. LOUIS M. DENNIS, for thirty-two years professor of chemistry at Cornell University until his retirement in 1932 as professor emeritus, died on December 9 at the age of seventy-three years.

DR. ARTHUR WITTER GILBERT, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, died on December 7 at the age of fifty-four years. Dr. Gilbert was assistant professor and professor of plant breeding at Cornell University from 1909 to 1917 and Massachusetts State Commissioner of Agriculture from 1919 to 1934.

DR. CHARLES METCALFE BYRNES, associate in neurology at the Johns Hopkins Medical School, died suddenly on November 9. He was fifty-five years old.

THE death is announced of Dr. Edgar Hartley Kettle, professor of pathology in the British Post-Graduate Medical School of the University of London and consulting pathologist to St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

THE death is reported of Dr. Valdemar Henriques, director of the Rockefeller Institute of Copenhagen, formerly professor of physiology at the University of Copenhagen.

JUAN DE LA CIERVA, inventor of the autogyro, was killed on December 9 in an airplane accident at the Croydon Airdrome, England. He was forty years of age.

### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Charles Frederick Chandler Medal of Columbia University has been awarded to Dr. John Howard Northrop, member of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, "for fundamental discoveries concerning bacteria, the constitution of protein and the chemistry of digestion." This is the sixteenth award of the medal. It will mark the centennial of the birth of Dr. Chandler. Dr. Northrop will deliver the Chandler lecture in the spring.

THE Associated Grocery Manufacturers Association of America, at their annual banquet in New York City on December 1 presented to Dr. George R. Minot, professor of medicine at the Harvard Medical School, its annual award "for research in the field of nutrition leading to the prevention of disease and the advancement of health." The selection of Dr. Minot was made by the following committee: Dr. George R. Cowgill, professor of physiological chemistry, Yale University, *chairman*; Dr. James S. McLester, Birmingham, Ala., past president of the American Medical Association; Dr. George W. McCoy, director of the National Institute of Health of the U. S. Public Health Service; Dr. Mary D. Swartz Rose, professor of nutrition, Teachers College, Columbia University, and Dr. Leonard A. Maynard, professor of animal nutrition, Cornell University. The presentation address was made by Dr. Morris Fishbein, Chicago, editor of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

MRS. MARY L. JOBE AKELEY received the gold medal for "distinguished achievement in exploration" of the National Travel Club at the annual dinner given in New York City on December 3. The silver medal was given to H. R. Ekins, of the Scripps-Howard newspapers, for "his distinguished contribution to the science of transportation and communication."

DR. CARLOS E. PORTER, director of the Zoological Institute of the University of Chile, founder and editor of the *Revista Chilena de Historia Natural*, has been awarded a gold medal in commemoration of his forty years of scientific work as editor of the *Revista*. A gathering was held in his honor on September 23 by representatives of the university and of the scientific and cultural societies of Chile. Dr. Porter was this year the recipient of a gold medal from the International Faculty of Sciences of London.

THE John Anisfield Prize of \$1,000 of *The Saturday Review of Literature* has been awarded to Julian S. Huxley, secretary of the Zoological Society of London, and to Dr. Alfred C. Haddon, formerly reader in ethnology in the University of Cambridge, for their book, entitled "We Europeans: A Survey of 'Racial' Problems." The John Anisfield Award, established in 1934 by Mrs. Edith Anisfield Wolf, of Cleveland, in memory of her father, John Anisfield, is awarded annually "to encourage and reward the production of good books in the field of racial relationships, either here or abroad." The committee of judges consisted of Henry Pratt Fairchild, professor of sociology in New York University; Donald Young, of the Social Science Research Council, and Henry Seidel Canby, contributing editor to *The Saturday Review*.

AT the centennial convocation at Emory University the degree of doctor of science was conferred on Dr. Thomas M. Rivers, member of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research.

*Industrial and Engineering Chemistry* announces that of the men nominated by the local sections for officers of the American Chemical Society, the following have received the largest number of votes: *Presi-*

*dent-elect*, C. A. Kraus, E. Emmet Reid, H. S. Taylor and F. C. Whitmore; *Councilors-at-Large*, E. K. Bolton, R. A. Dutcher, W. L. Evans, Per K. Frolich, Edward Mack, Jr., C. E. K. Mees, Alexander Silverman and C. M. A. Stine.

THE American Society of Agronomy held its annual meeting in Washington, D. C., from November 17 to 20. Officers elected for the next year are: F. D. Richey, Bureau of Plant Industry, *president*; Emil Truog, University of Wisconsin, *vice-president*; Richard Bradfield, the Ohio State University, *chairman of the Soils Section*; O. S. Aamodt, University of Wisconsin, *chairman of the Crops Section*; J. D. Luckett, New York Agronomy Experiment Station, *editor*, and P. E. Brown, Iowa State College, *secretary-treasurer*. L. J. Stadler, University of Missouri, and G. W. Conrey, Ohio Agronomy Experiment Station, were selected to represent the society on the council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1937.

DR. GEORGE B. PEGRAM, professor of physics at Columbia University, has been appointed dean of the Graduate School, the appointment to become effective on January 1. Dr. Pegram has been the acting dean of the school since the death of Professor McBain on May 7. He will head the non-professional graduate faculties, which include the faculties of political science, philosophy and pure science.

AT the Massachusetts State College at Amherst, John G. Archibald has been appointed research professor of animal husbandry; Dr. James E. Fuller, research professor of bacteriology; Dr. Emil F. Guba, research professor of botany, and Warren D. Whitcomb, research professor of entomology.

DR. R. S. POOR, professor of geology at Birmingham-Southern College, Alabama, has been appointed head of the department of geology. Dr. J. Allen Tower has been appointed assistant professor of geography.

AT the University of London the title of professor of applied physical chemistry has been conferred on G. I. Finch, in respect of the post held by him at the Royal College of Science; that of professor of pathology of mental disease in the university has been conferred on F. L. Golla, in respect of the post held by him at the Maudsley Hospital; that of professor of psychiatry in the university on Dr. Edward Mapother, in respect of the post held by him at the Maudsley Hospital, and that of reader in mathematics in the university on Dr. L. S. Bosanquet, in respect of the post held by him at University College. The title of emeritus professor of statistics has been conferred on Professor A. L. Bowley, on his retirement from the university chair of statistics of the London School of Economics.

HANS F. PRZYBYLSKI, of the National Grain Yeast Corporation, has been awarded the American Potash Institute fellowship in the department of agricultural biochemistry at the Pennsylvania State College.

DR. MARY COLLETT, associate professor of biology at Flora Stone Mather College of Western Reserve University, has received a grant from the Committee on Therapeutical Research of the Council of Pharmacognosy of the American Medical Association for material required for research on the effect of certain hormones on basal metabolism and general health conditions carried on under the direction of Dr. Torald Sollmann and Dr. Joseph T. Smith.

THE Medical School of the University of Oregon is the recipient of \$400 from the council of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology for the continuation of studies by Drs. Olof Larsell and Ralph A. Fenton on the relation between sinus infections and disease of the chest.

DR. EARL B. MCKINLEY, dean of the School of Medicine and professor of bacteriology, George Washington University, has been granted sabbatical leave for the second semester. He will leave in January for the Orient, where he will conduct research on leprosy under the auspices of the American Leprosy Foundation (formerly the Leonard Wood Memorial). Later, on traveling around the world, additional material will be gathered concerning the geographical distribution of disease for inclusion in a volume, to follow one recently published on the geography of disease, entitled, "A Cartography of Disease," now in preparation under a grant from the Carnegie Institution of Washington. Dr. McKinley will return to his post at the School of Medicine in September.

DR. HENRY B. WARD, professor emeritus of zoology at the University of Illinois, permanent secretary of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, gave on December 17 an illustrated lecture on "Salmon Psychology" before the Washington Academy of Sciences.

DR. W. F. G. SWANN, director of the Bartol Research Foundation, Swarthmore, Pa., spoke on December 11 before the New York University Chapter of Sigma Xi on "The Nature of Cosmic Ray Phenomena."

DR. HANS ZINSSER, professor of bacteriology at the Harvard Medical School, will give on January 22 at the Cornell University Medical College the annual Theobald Smith Memorial Lecture of the New York Society of Tropical Diseases. The title of the address will be "Rickettsia Diseases."

THE Thomas Vicary Lecture of the Royal College of Surgeons of England was given on December 10 by Dr. George W. Corner, professor of anatomy in the

University of Rochester. His subject was "Salernitan Surgery in the Twelfth Century."

DR. CHARLES H. KELLAWAY, director of the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Research in Pathology and Medicine, at Melbourne, Australia, delivered on November 27 a lecture on "The Peripheral Actions of Snake Venoms," at the Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis.

DR. WILLIAM V. HOUSTON, of the California Institute of Technology; Dr. F. K. Richtmyer, Cornell University; Dr. George B. Pegram, Columbia University, and Dr. Henry G. Gale, University of Chicago, who were delegates to the Austin meeting of the American Association of Universities, delivered addresses before the recent Physics Colloquium at the University of Texas.

THE annual meeting of the Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Diseases will be held at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York on December 28 and 29. The program will be devoted to considerations of the pituitary gland. Among the speakers will be: Dr. Frederick Tilney, professor of neurology and neuroanatomy, Columbia University; Dr. Andrew T. Rasmussen, professor of neurology, University of Minnesota; Dr. Herbert M. Evans, professor of anatomy, University of California; Dr. Hector Mortimer, Montreal, Canada; Dr. Cyril N. H. Long, professor of physiological chemistry, Yale University, and Dr. James B. Collip, professor of biological chemistry, McGill University.

THE bacteriologists in Ohio met in Columbus on December 5 and organized an association. Papers were presented at the afternoon scientific session and Dr. C. A. Doan, Columbus, addressed the dinner meeting, speaking on "The Place of Bacteriology in Modern Medical Science." Dr. N. Paul Hudson, Columbus, was elected chairman of the association; Dr. Merlin L. Cooper, Cincinnati, *vice-chairman*, and Dr. W. A. Starin, Columbus, *secretary-treasurer*. It is planned to hold meetings semi-annually.

THE ninth annual Children's Science Fair of the American Institute, New York City, sponsored by the

American Museum of Natural History, will be held in the Education Hall of the museum from May 9 to 16. Prizes amounting approximately to \$3,000 will be awarded for individual school exhibits, school group exhibits, individual club exhibits and club group exhibits. Eighteen special prizes will also be awarded for winning displays. Exhibits may be entered in any one of the following ten groups: Stars and the solar system, earth studies, plant and animal life, biology, physics, chemistry, conservation, industries, history of science and special. Group exhibits may be entered by any school, the number of entries depending upon the register of the school. Each entry must be entirely the work of the students. Teachers may suggest ideas and sources of materials, and may offer criticism and instruction in technique, but they are not permitted to take part in the preparation of exhibit materials. Student science clubs may enter exhibits, as may individual students.

THE University of Pennsylvania has been authorized to continue the work of the George S. Cox Research Bureau in the study of diabetes for a further period of ten years by Judge Charles Sinkler in Orphans' Court. Judge Sinkler, adjudicating the account of the trustees, ordered them to continue payment of the income from the residuary estate to the trustees of the university for the purpose under the will.

SCIENTIFIC studies affecting New Jersey's dairy and oyster industries are planned by the Bureau of Biological Research of Rutgers University. It is reported that considerable losses incurred by the oyster industry as a result of the high death rate among young oysters may be checked as a result of research being carried on by Drs. Thurlow C. Nelson and James B. Allison. Other projects include studies of the spoilage and off-flavors of milk, the possibility of encroachment by the Spotswood pine-barren "island" on surrounding fertile areas, and the possibility of increasing the effectiveness of the pneumonia immunization serum. The bureau was established by the trustees of the university last May to coordinate the research of the eleven members of the departments in bacteriology, botany, physiology and zoology.

## DISCUSSION

### THE ACTION OF ESERINE AND PROSTIGMIN ON SKELETAL MUSCLE

ROSENBLUETH, Lindsley and Morison<sup>1</sup> reported that injections of prostigmin cause a decrease of the re-

sponses of cat's skeletal muscles stimulated indirectly by shocks applied to their motor nerves at regular intervals. Eserine led to inconsistent and slight effects in similar conditions.

Wilson and Wright,<sup>2</sup> on the other hand, have demon-

<sup>1</sup> A. Rosenblueth, D. B. Lindsley and R. S. Morison, *Am. Jour. Physiol.*, 115: 53, 1936.

<sup>2</sup> A. T. Wilson and S. Wright, *Quart. Jour. Exp. Physiol.*, 26: 127, 1936.