Britain and secretary of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, is chairman of the executive committee on the congress organizing committee, and Dr. H. J. Gough, superintendent, Engineering Department, National Physical Laboratory, is chairman of the British International Association for Testing Materials committee.

A NEW SOIL SCIENCE SOCIETY

AT a joint meeting of the Soils Section of the American Society of Agronomy and of the American Soil Survey Association in Washington, D. C., in late November, these organizations voted to merge and form the Soil Science Society of America. The object of the new society is to foster all phases of soil science. Sections have been organized in soil physics, soil chemistry, soil microbiology, soil fertility, soil morphology, classification and cartography and soil technology. A close affiliation with the American Society of Agronomy will be maintained. The papers presented at the annual meeting will be published in a volume of *Proceedings*. This volume will supersede the annual *Bulletin* of the American Soil Survey Association. The society elected the following officers:

President, Richard Bradfield, the Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

Secretary and Vice-President, A. M. O'Neal, Sugar Cane Soil Laboratory, Houma, La.

Secretary-Treasurer, P. E. Brown, Department of Soils, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa.

Chairmen of the various Sections:

I. Soil Physics, H. E. Middleton, Division of Research, Soil Conservation Service, Washington, D. C.

II. Soil Chemistry, S. F. Thornton, Purdue Agriculture Experiment Station, Lafayette, Ind.

III. Soil Microbiology, L. M. Turk, Department of Soils, Michigan State College, East Lansing.

IV. Soil Fertility, W. H. Pierre, Department of Agronomy, West Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station, Morgantown.

V. Soil Morphology, Classification and Cartography, L. C. Wheeting, Department of Agronomy, Washington State College, Pullman, Wash.

VI. Soil Technology, L. R. Schoenmann, Department of Land Use, University of Michigan.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

AS has already been announced in SCIENCE, the annual meeting of the British Association will be held next year in Nottingham from September 1 to 8, under the presidency of Sir Edward Poulton. Presidents of the sections have been elected as follows: Section A (Mathematical and Physical Sciences), Dr. G. W. C. Kaye; B (Chemistry), Dr. F. L. Pyman; C (Geology), Professor L. J. Wills; D (Zoology), Professor F. A. E. Crew; E (Geography), Professor C. B. Fawcett; F (Economics), Professor P. Sargant Florence; G (Engineering), Sir Alexander Gibb; H (Anthropology), Dr. J. H. Hutton; I (Physiology), Dr. E. P. Poulton; J (Psychology), Dr. Mary Collins; K (Botany), Professor E. J. Salisbury; L (Education), H. G. Wells; M (Agriculture), J. M. Caie.

THE Penrose Medal of the Geological Society of America for 1936 was presented on December 30 to Dr. Arthur Philemon Coleman, professor of geology emeritus at the University of Toronto. The award is made "in recognition of eminent research in pure geology and of outstanding original contributions of achievements which mark a decided advance in the science of geology."

DR. RICHARD E. SHOPE, of the department of animal and plant pathology of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research at Princeton, N. J., has been awarded the John Phillips Memorial Medal for the year 1937 by the American College of Physicians.

THE New York Academy of Sciences has awarded the A. Cressy Morrison prize of $250 to Dr. Albert F. Blakeslee, A. Dorothy Bergner and Amos G. Avery, of the department of genetics, Carnegie Institution of Washington, Cold Spring Harbor, L. I., for their paper on "The Geographical Distribution of Chromosomal Prime Types of the Jimson Weed." The second prize of $150 has been awarded to Dr. Frederick Fey Sheldon, of the University of California, for his paper on "The Bones, Muscles and Probable Evolution of the Catfish and Related Species."

THE American Institute, New York City, has made the following awards: A fellowship to Watson Davis, director of Science Service, for "interpreting to the people of the nation the rapid progress of science upon which modern civilization depends and for the organized dissemination of research findings as news"; a gold medal to the Bell Telephone Laboratories for "researches in electrical science which, applied to communication, have promoted understanding, security and commerce among people by transmitting human thought instantly throughout the world."

AT the one hundred and eighteenth annual meeting of the New York Academy of Sciences, Dr. George H. Sherwood, educational director of the American Museum of Natural History, was reelected honorary president. Honorary members were elected as follows: Professor K. S. Lashley, of Harvard University; Pro-

fessor Henri Breuil, of the College of France; Dr. Julian S. Huxley, of the Zoological Park, London; Dr. Aleš Hrdlička, of the U. S. National Museum; Dr. Alfred Cort Haddon, of Christ's College, University of Cambridge; Sir Arthur William Hill, director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and Professors Maurice Caullery and Octave Duboscq, of the Sorbonne.

SIR ROBERT MOND has been elected an associate foreign member of the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres in Paris, in succession to the late King Fuad of Egypt.

PROFESSOR EMIL ABDERHALDEN, director of the Physiological Institute at Halle, has been elected an honorary member of the Cuban Society of Biology.

PROFESSOR FRIEDRICH ZAHN, president of the Bavarian Statistical Office, has been nominated president of the International Statistical Institute.

DR. HANS MOLISCH, professor of botany at the University of Vienna, celebrated his eightieth birthday on December 6.

DR. LANGLEY PORTER, a member of the faculty of the University of California for twenty years and dean of the Medical School for nine years, has consented to a rescinding of his recent retirement and will again assume the deanship, his reappointment to become effective immediately. This action was made necessary because of the sudden death of Dr. William McKim Marriott, who went from the deanship of Washington University Medical School to take Dr. Porter's place last July in conformance with retirement regulations. Dr. Porter will return to his post as an emergency measure with the understanding that efforts will be made to secure a new dean as soon as possible.

DR. HAROLD MESTRE has been appointed visiting associate professor and fellow in biophysics for the spring semester at Bard College, Columbia University, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York.

DR. E. G. ANDERSON, of the California Institute of Technology, will spend the period from December 15 to March 15 as visiting professor in the Division of Agronomy and Plant Genetics, University of Minnesota. Dr. Anderson is going to Minnesota in the absence of Dr. H. K. Hayes, temporarily on leave in China, to teach courses in advanced genetics, aid in the direction of seminars and assist with the genetics research program.

DR. WILLIAM H. TALIAFERRO, dean of the Division of the Biological Sciences of the University of Chicago Medical School, will spend the coming three months at the School of Tropical Medicine, at San Juan, Puerto Rico, conducting special research studies on the mechanism of immunity to trichiniasis. Dr. Lucy G. Taliaferro accompanies Dr. Taliaferro and is collaborating with him on this work, which is a joint project of the University of Chicago and the School of Tropical Medicine.

The Experimental Station Record reports that a laboratory for basic research in the biological and chemical problems of handling and processing citrus fruits and their products has been established by B. C. Skinner at Dunedin, Fla. Dr. R. B. Harvey, professor of plant physiology and botany at the Minnesota University and station, has been granted a year's leave of absence to take charge of the laboratory, which now has a staff of four coworkers. Attention will be given to improved methods of processing, utilization of cull citrus and other phases of citrus production and marketing.

DR. I. V. NEWMAN, who holds the Macleay fellowship of the Linnean Society of New South Wales and is known for his investigations of acacia, has been appointed lecturer in charge of botany at Victoria College, Wellington, New Zealand.

THE Faculty Committee on Research at Wesleyan University, of which Dr. T. A. Langlie is secretary, has made fourteen grants in various fields to members of the faculty. Those in science include the following: *Astronomy,* Professor Frederick Slocum, for assistance in computing work on photographic determination of the distances of stars and the measurement and reduction of photographs of the asteroid Eros; *Mathematics,* Professor Burton H. Camp, for computing aid in mathematical research; *Physics,* Professor Karl S. Van Dyke and Professor Walter G. Cady, for technical assistants to aid them in their work with piezo-electric resonators; *Psychology,* Associate Professor T. A. Langlie, for assistance in personnel research, with specific reference to Wesleyan University procedures with students; *Geology,* Assistant Professor Joe Webb Peoples, for the preparation of a monograph on the Stillwater Igneous Complex, Montana.

DR. RAYMOND W. WAGGONER, associate professor of neurology at the University of Michigan School of Medicine, has been appointed medical director of the State Psychopathic Hospital to succeed the late Dr. Albert M. Barrett, who was director for thirty years.

DR. JAMES SHELBY THOMAS, since 1933 president of the Clarkson College of Technology, Potsdam, N. Y., has been appointed head of the staff of the Chrysler Institute of Engineering. The institute was founded five years ago to permit graduate engineers in the engineering division to qualify for the master's degree. Since then it has been enlarged to include as under-

graduates other employees of the corporation. There are 1,000 students now enrolled.

THE address of Dr. G. E. Coghill, recently announced as Beaufort, N. C., is now Gainesville, Fla., where he expects to reside permanently.

DR. LEWIS H. WEED, professor of anatomy and director of the School of Medicine of the Johns Hopkins University, has been invited by the University of London to deliver the advanced course in anatomy. It is understood that he will lecture in London in the spring of 1937 and will choose for his subject "The Cerebrospinal Fluid."

DR. ARTHUR H. COMPTON, professor of physics, delivered the convocation address at the University of Chicago on December 15. The title of the address was "Can Science Point the Way?"

DR. RODNEY H. TRUE, chairman of the department of botany at the University of Pennsylvania, delivered a Sigma Xi lecture at the Massachusetts State College on December 7. He spoke on "Erosion."

DR. COLIN G. FINK, professor of electrochemistry at Columbia University, has planned a western trip during which he will speak before twenty local sections of the American Chemical Society, the American Institute of Mining Engineers and university groups on the following subjects: "Research in Electrochemistry," "Electrochemistry in Industry," "Corrosion" and "Chemistry in Art."

ERNEST H. ANTHES, director of the New York Division of the Bausch and Lomb Optical Company, visited the School of Tropical Medicine, San Juan, Puerto Rico, in December, where he lectured on the history of the microscope, its design and manufacture, with special reference to illumination methods.

THE annual Science Congress and Christmas lectures of the American Institute of the City of New York were held on December 28 and 29. The lecturers and their subjects were as follows: Dr. Harlow Shapley, director of the Harvard College Observatory, "Broadcasting from Antares"; Dr. Harrison E. Howe, editor of *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry*, "New Man-made Materials," and G. Edward Pendray, secretary of the American Rocket Society, "Rocketing through Space."

A DINNER in honor of the British Association was given recently by the Technical Group of the Forum Club, London. Miss Caroline Haslett, director of the Electrical Association for Women, presided, and the chief guest was Sir Josiah Stamp, president of the British Association. Other speakers were Sir Edward Poulton, president-elect of the association, and Professor William Cramp.

AT the Paris Exposition of 1937, an International Congress of Physical Education and Sport will be held during the week beginning July 14. The National Committee of French Sports and the president of the committee of organization, Dr. Collect, will have charge of the program. The object of the congress is to interest the French medical profession in encouraging boys and girls to take up sports in a more active manner than is at present the case.

FOUR fellowships named in memory of the late Dr. Arthur D. Little, for many years a member of the corporation, have been announced by Dr. Harry M. Goodwin, dean of the Graduate School of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Two of the fellowships will be known as the Arthur D. Little post-doctorate fellowships, carrying stipends of $1,500 each, with facilities for research in the institute's laboratories. The other two are to be known as the Arthur D. Little fellowships and entitle their holders to stipends of $1,000. They are open to graduate students pursuing studies for the doctor's degree in the fields of chemistry and chemical engineering, respectively. The announcement was made in connection with the dedication of the industrial museum which has been established at the headquarters of the Arthur D. Little Company on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of this widely known research organization.

THE College of Mines and Metallurgy, a branch of the University of Texas, has been unanimously accepted as a member of the Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools of the Southern States. Membership of the College of Mines followed application made last year and an examining tour by a survey committee of the association, composed of M. C. Huntley, executive secretary of the association; D. M. Key, president of Millsaps College, Jackson, Miss., and Dr. B. Gould, Sophie Newcomb College, New Orleans, La.

DISCUSSION

THE EARTH'S CORE

ONE of the problems that has long puzzled seismologists is the nature of the earth's interior. That the earth is not a homogeneous body has long been known. The existence of a definite core some half the diameter of the earth seems well established. Reflected waves from this core and refracted waves through it seem to identify its existence beyond reasonable doubt. But what is the nature of the core? Is it solid liquid or gas? Let us see some of the conditions it must satisfy.