

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Sylvanus Albert Reed Medal of the Institute of Aeronautical Sciences was presented to Professor Edward S. Taylor, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, at the annual dinner of the Aeronautical Institute on January 28 at the Columbia University Faculty Club. Professor Taylor received the award in recognition of his invention of the dynamic vibration absorber.

DR. JAMES B. CONANT, president of Harvard University, has been elected a member of the Athenaeum Club, London, under the provision which empowers the annual election by the committee of a certain number of persons of distinguished eminence in science, literature, the arts or for public service.

THE Order of B'rith Abraham has established a new lodge in honor of Dr. Einstein to be known as the Albert Einstein Lodge.

AMONG alumni awards of merit to be conferred on Founders Day on January 23 by the University of Pennsylvania are the following: Dr. George E. de Schweinitz, emeritus professor of ophthalmology and trustee of the university; Dr. Robert Tait McKenzie, research professor of physical education, and Dr. Witmer Stone, vice-president of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, director emeritus of the museum and director of North American Birds and Historical Research.

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association reports that the January, 1937, issue of the *Archives of Dermatology and Syphilology* is a special number dedicated to Dr. William Allen Pusey. The volume was authorized by the Board of Trustees of the American Medical Association in recognition of the founding of the publication by Dr. William Allen Pusey and of his service to it since that time. All the contributors have been associated with Dr. Pusey in various activities. Dr. Pusey retires as editor of the *Archives of Dermatology and Syphilology* with the current issue. The new editor, Dr. Howard Fox, concludes the special issue with an editorial rendering tribute to the manner in which the *Archives* has been conducted by Dr. Pusey.

HONORARY membership in the Explorers Club of New York was conferred on January 18 at a luncheon at the Soviet Embassy in Washington, D. C., on Dr. Otto Yulievich Schmidt, professor in the University of Moscow and director of the Soviet Arctic Institute, in recognition of his "leadership and outstanding achievements in Polar exploration."

THE College of Physicians of Philadelphia has elected the following officers for the year 1937:

President, Dr. George P. Müller; *Vice-president*, Dr. Edward B. Krumbhaar; *Secretary*, Dr. J. Harold Austin; *Treasurer*, Dr. T. Grier Miller.

DR. D. P. MORGAN, chemical economist of Seudder, Stevens and Clark, investment counsel, has been made chairman for 1937 of the New York section of the American Chemical Society. He succeeds Dr. Lawrence W. Bass, who resigned recently as director of research for the Borden Company to join the staff of the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research in Pittsburgh. Dr. Duncan A. MacInnes, of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, was elected *vice-chairman*, Dr. Cornelia T. Snell, *secretary*, and C. R. de Long, *treasurer*.

DR. J. B. JOHNSTON, professor of neurology and since 1914 dean of the College of Science, Literature and the Arts at the University of Minnesota, having passed the age of sixty-eight years, will retire at the close of the academic year. He will be succeeded as dean by Dr. John T. Tate, professor of physics, who will take office on July 1.

DR. R. S. HAWKINS has been appointed acting dean of the College of Agriculture and director of the Experiment Station of the University of Arizona, beginning on November 1. He takes the place of Dr. Paul S. Burgess, who was recently elected president to succeed Dr. Homer LeRoy Shantz.

DR. BYRON STOOKEY, associate professor of neurological surgery at the Columbia University School of Medicine, will succeed Dr. Charles Albert Elsberg as chief of neurosurgical service at the Neurological Institute of New York, an affiliate of the Columbia Medical School. Dr. Elsberg, who has been associated with the Neurological Institute since its founding in 1909, will retain his post as professor of neurological surgery in the medical school of the university.

DR. WILLIAM BOYD, professor of pathology in the University of Manitoba, has been appointed professor of pathology in the University of Toronto, to succeed the late Dr. Oskar Klotz.

DR. LEVERING TYSON, director of the National Advisory Council on Radio in Education under the auspices of the Carnegie Corporation, has been elected president of Muhlenberg College.

ARTHUR S. COGGESHALL, chief of the Illinois State Museum, Springfield, has been appointed director of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, California.

DR. C. C. MACDUFFEE, professor of mathematics at the University of Wisconsin, has been chosen man-

aging editor of the *Transactions* of the American Mathematical Society for a period of two years.

PAUL H. ALLEN has been appointed resident manager of the Tropical Station of the Missouri Botanical Garden at Balboa, Panama. He plans to conduct a scientific survey of plant life in Panama and to make collections.

THE Lord President of the council of the British Department of Scientific and Industrial Research has appointed Dr. E. B. Bailey, professor of geology in the University of Glasgow, to be director of the Geological Survey of Great Britain and of the Museum of Practical Geology. Professor Bailey served on the staff of the Geological Survey from 1902 until December, 1929.

D. L. EDWARDS, of Sidmouth, has been appointed director of the Norman Lockyer Observatory at Salcombe Hill, England, in succession to the late Dr. W. J. S. Lockyer. Mr. Edwards joined the observatory staff when the late Sir Norman Lockyer was in charge. The new assistant is D. R. Barber, of Exeter.

PROFESSOR EARLE R. CALEY, of the department of chemistry of Princeton University, has been granted a leave of absence for the second semester in order to establish a field laboratory at the site of the Agora Excavation in Athens, Greece. As a member of the excavation staff he will continue his investigations on the composition, restoration and preservation of ancient materials and objects. This project has been made possible by a grant from the Penrose Fund of the American Philosophical Society.

DR. RICHARD T. COX, associate professor of physics at New York University, will lead an expedition to South America in order to make a study of electric eels in their natural environment. The expedition will make its headquarters at the Goeldi Museum, at Para. Dr. Carlos Estevam, director of the museum, will permit the use of several large pools on the museum premises as proving grounds. Part of the time will be passed at Marajo Island at the mouth of the Amazon.

EMMOT R. BLAKE, assistant curator of birds at the Field Museum of Natural History, sailed from New York for Georgetown, British Guiana, on January 21, to be absent about five months. He plans to collect specimens of the hoatzin, a rare bird, for a proposed habitat group in the museum. On his arrival in British Guiana, he will organize a group of native helpers. The first work will be along the coast, and on the Berbice River, where the hoatzins will be sought. When this is completed, he will proceed into the interior.

DR. SYLVANUS GRISWOLD MORLEY, of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, and Dr. Frans Blom, Maurice Ries and Daniel Leyrer, associates in the department of Middle American research of Tulane University, sailed on separate expeditions for Guatemala on January 13. Dr. Morley will supervise the restoration of a staircase bearing Maya hieroglyphics. Dr. Blom will engage in a six-week expedition through Guatemala on muleback, by airplane and automobile for the International Railroad of Guatemala, to compile data and gather photographs to be used in a book on the country.

DR. ARTHUR H. COMPTON, professor of physics at the University of Chicago, will give the main address at the convocation of the University of Missouri on February 9.

DR. HENRY NORRIS RUSSELL, research professor of astronomy and director of the observatory at Princeton University, lectured on "The Atmospheres of the Planets" in the Dohme series at the Johns Hopkins University on January 2.

DR. DEXTER S. KIMBALL, dean emeritus of the College of Engineering at Cornell University, was guest lecturer at the University of Maine on January 14 and 15. He spoke on "Engineering as a Vocation" before students in the orientation course and delivered two lectures to engineering students on "Administrative Engineering."

PROFESSOR WALTER SCHILLER, of Vienna, who is visiting the United States, gave a Mayo Foundation lecture on January 22 on "New Findings in Ovarian Tumors."

THE departments of geology and geography at Syracuse University and the Institute of Geographical Exploration at Harvard University have arranged a series of exchange lectures. On February 9, 10 and 11, Professor George B. Cressey will deliver a series of lectures at Harvard on the geography of China, and on April 29 through May 1, Professor Erwin Raisz will lecture on cartography at Syracuse.

PROFESSOR NIELS BOHR, director of the University Institute for Theoretical Physics at Copenhagen, is giving lectures in America and will proceed to Japan. On January 28 and 29 he lectures under the auspices of the departments of mathematics, philosophy and physics of New York University. The subjects of the two lectures are "The Structure of Nuclei" and "The Problem of Causality." They will be given at 4:30 in the main building of the Washington Square division. On February 8 and 9, Professor Bohr lectures at the University of Toronto. These lectures are entitled "The General Problem of Measurements in

Atomic Theory," "Transmutations of Atomic Nuclei" and "Light and Life," the last a popular lecture. Professor Bohr will also lecture on "The Problems of Elementary Particles" at the third Washington Conference on Theoretical Physics, held from February 8 to 13 under the auspices of the Carnegie Institution of Washington and the George Washington University.

ON account of the illness of Pope Pius the date for inauguration of the new Pontifical Academy of Science, originally scheduled for February 6, has been changed to May 11.

THE forty-ninth annual meeting of the American Physical Society will be held in Memphis, Tenn., from April 21 to 24. The Hotel Peabody will serve as headquarters for the society, where the meetings of the various sections will be held. Demonstrations, in charge of Dr. O. S. Gibbs, will be made at the College of Medicine of the University of Tennessee. Dr. O. W. Hyman is chairman and Dr. T. P. Nash, Jr., is secretary of the local committee.

A MEETING of the Optical Society of America will be held at Corning, N. Y., on Friday and Saturday, March 5 and 6. Additional sessions may possibly be scheduled for March 4, if warranted by the number of contributed papers. A special feature of the meeting will be the opportunity offered through the courtesy of the Corning Glass Works to see at first hand many applications of optics in the glass industry and the contributions of the glass industry to optics. Of particular interest to members of the society is the manufacture of glasses with special transmission characteristics. Among these products are colored signal glasses, glass for "daylight" lamps, heat-absorbing and ultraviolet transmitting glasses. The Corning Glass Works has cooperated also in the production and standardization of signal glasses for railroad, airplane and automobile transportation.

THE Midwestern Psychological Association will hold its twelfth annual meeting at the University of Illinois, on April 23 and 24, under the presidency of Dr. Harvey A. Carr. The title of Dr. Carr's address will be "The Search for Certainty."

THE first session of the twelfth annual meeting of the Hawaiian Academy of Science was held on the evenings of December 3 and 4 in Honolulu. President Harold A. Wadsworth, professor of soil physics at the University of Hawaii, presided. Ten papers on physics, geology, botany, plant migrations, plant quarantine, plant physiology, population, standards of living and medical science were read.

THE following resolution was adopted by the American Society of Naturalists at the recent Atlantic City

meeting: The American Society of Naturalists observes with regret an increasing tendency in certain parts of the world to require of investigators the conformity of their research to officially prescribed doctrines. This society wishes to emphasize that intellectual progress is compatible only with perfect freedom in the conduct of investigation and in the announcement both of results and of conclusions based upon those results. Attention is called also to the fact that the scientific world can place no reliance upon reports of research carried on under conditions which limit its freedom by an enforced agreement with any preconceived views or dogmas.

School and Society prints a communication entitled "Racial Hygiene and the Nobel Prize," signed "Nobel Laureate." It reads: "In a recent Munich paper is a picture of Prof. Dr. med. Alfred Ploetz of Herrsching bei München, who—it is stated—has been proposed for the Nobel Prize on the ground of his researches in Racial Hygiene. It is not stated whether the candidature is in respect of Peace, Literature or Medicine. In the *Münchener Neueste Nachrichten* of November 3, 1936, is an article: 'Nervengifte: Zur medizinischen Nobelpreisverleihung,' referring to this year's award of the Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine to Sir Henry Dale, of London, and Dr. Otto Loewi, of Graz. The work on 'Vagusstoff' is described, together with the demonstration by H. H. Dale that this is acetylcholine. The name, however, of Dale's colleague in the work and the prize, Otto Loewi of Graz, is altogether withheld. Presumably it would not be in the interests of 'Racial Hygiene,' or perhaps of Dr. Ploetz's candidature, to print it."

WILLIAM A. SARGENT, of Brookline, who died on December 20, bequeathed \$300,000 to Amherst College. The sum of \$200,000 is left in memory of his mother to be divided between the Massachusetts General Hospital and the New England Deaconess Hospital.

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association states that Dr. William T. Corlett, professor emeritus of dermatology, Western Reserve University School of Medicine, has furnished and endowed a room in the Cleveland Medical Library dedicated to research in dermatology and syphilology. Dr. Corlett has given his library, which is said to contain many rare items in several languages, and has placed in the room the mahogany furniture used in his office before his retirement. There are also portraits and busts of famous figures in the history of dermatology. Dr. Corlett, who is now eighty-two years old, retired from the faculty of Western Reserve in 1924.