

May 4, Dr. R. A. Gortner, chief of the Division of Agricultural Biochemistry at the University of Minnesota, "Recent Advances in Chemistry in Relation to Agriculture."

Speakers each year will be chosen by a Foster Lecture Committee composed of five members appointed by the chancellor. Members of the committee, who have just been appointed, are as follows: Dr. Groves H. Cartledge, head of the department of chemistry at the university, *chairman*; Dr. Harold G. Hewitt, assistant professor of chemistry; Dr. David F. Smith, professor of chemistry; Dr. Wilson D. Langley, associate professor of bio-chemistry; Dr. Preston Hoff, manager of chemical research at the du Pont-Rayon Research Laboratories in Buffalo.

#### THE INSTALLATION OF A CHAPTER OF SIGMA XI AT THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

At the winter convocation of the George Washington University on February 22 a chapter of the Sigma Xi was installed. Dr. Edward Ellery and Dr. G. B. Pegram, who are national officers of Sigma Xi, conducted the exercises. Dr. Paul Bartsch, president of the petitioning group at the George Washington University, read the petition. Dr. Ellery presented the charter of the new chapter to its secretary, Dr. Paul Bowman, assistant professor of biology in the university. Dr. Pegram delivered the charge to the new chapter.

Forty-three members of the university faculty who were members of Sigma Xi chapters at universities where they took their degrees, and who formed the petitioning group, are charter members of the chapter. Fifty members have been elected. Delegates representing thirty-one chapters of the Society of the Sigma Xi in colleges and universities throughout the country were present at the convocation. Three hundred and fifteen students were graduated from the various colleges and schools of the university.

The convocation address was delivered by Dr. William Alanson White, professor of psychiatry at the George Washington University and superintendent of St. Elizabeth's Hospital. He spoke on "The Function of Education as Viewed from the Standpoint of the Present World Crisis."

At the ceremonies honorary degrees were conferred, President Marvin reading the following citations:

#### DOCTORATES OF SCIENCE

CHARLES GREELEY ABBOT: Persistent and courageous investigator in the field of astrophysics, in whom scientific thinking and religious reflections are not separated; secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

PAUL BARTSCH: Eager scientist; teacher; quick to appreciate human values; who, for years, has devotedly served in the George Washington University.

WILLIAM BOWIE: Graduate of Trinity College (Connecticut); cheerful colleague and tried friend of those who seek for truth; to whom long experience in scientific endeavor has brought recognized leadership.

LYMAN JAMES BRIGGS: Sincere scholar and worthy public servant, in whom firmness of conviction and tolerance toward the beliefs of others go hand in hand; chosen to direct the Bureau of Standards.

GEORGE BRAXTON PEGRAM: Son of the South; well known investigator and expounder of physical sciences; worthy servant of Columbia University; acting-president of the Society of the Sigma Xi.

#### DOCTORATES OF LAWS

EDWARD ELLERY: Teacher, administrator and man of science, skillful in encouraging scientific endeavor, general secretary of the Society of Sigma Xi.

JOHN CAMPBELL MERRIAM: Master in the field of paleontology, painstaking leader in scientific investigation, philosopher and man of letters; devoted to the principles of natural law and fully cognizant of their application in the life of to-day; president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

WILLIAM ALANSON WHITE: Productive scholar, devoted teacher, enlightened executive, able to make knowledge a saving power in the lives of men; to know him is to desire his friendship.

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. EJNAR HERTZPRUNG, director of the University Observatory at Leiden, has been awarded the Catharine Wolfe Bruce Gold Medal for 1937 of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific. He has also been appointed to the newly established Alexander F. Morrison memorial research associateship in the Lick Observatory.

DR. SELMAN A. WAKSMAN, professor of soil microbiology at Rutgers University, has been elected a corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences, Institute of France. He fills the place in the section of rural economy vacant by the death of Sir Arnold Theiler.

DR. A. N. WINCHELL, professor of mineralogy and petrology at the University of Wisconsin, and Dr. Douglas Johnson, professor of physiography at Columbia University, have been elected corresponding members of the Geological Society of China, Nanking.

DR. WILLIAM BERRYMAN SCOTT, professor of geology, emeritus, at Princeton University, celebrated his seventy-ninth birthday on February 12.

DR. HOWARD A. KELLY, professor of gynecology, emeritus, at the Johns Hopkins University, the only surviving member of the group that was instrumental

in the founding of the Medical School, celebrated his seventy-ninth birthday on February 20.

THE Western New York Section of the American Chemical Society has awarded the Jacob F. Schoellkopf Medal for 1937 to James G. Marshall, general superintendent of the Niagara and Welland plants of the Union Carbide Company and the Electro Metallurgical Company, in recognition of his "technical contributions to the calcium carbide and ferro-alloy industry, his untiring efforts in behalf of civic betterment and his unceasing interest in the improvement of working conditions." Formal presentation of the medal will be made early in October.

PROFESSOR J. R. SHANK, assistant director of the Engineering Experiment Station of the Ohio State University, received the Research Medal of the American Concrete Institute for his article entitled "The Plastic Flow of Concrete" at the annual dinner of the institute on February 26. This medal is awarded for the best research published in the proceedings of the institute during the year.

THE Alvarenga Prize for 1936 of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia has been awarded to Dr. Harry Eagle, passed assistant surgeon, U. S. Public Health Service, who is at present stationed at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. Dr. Eagle's Essay, "The Present Status of the Blood Coagulation Problem," will be published in a forthcoming issue of *Medicine*.

DR. CLARENCE J. WEST, technical editor at the Institute of Paper Chemistry affiliated with Lawrence College, Appleton, Wis., was presented with the gold medal of the Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry at a luncheon given at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York City, on February 24. The presentation was made by Dr. Harry F. Lewis, dean of the institute and a member of the Technical Association. The medal was awarded to Dr. West for his work in the bibliography of technical and scientific literature dealing with pulp and paper.

DR. HENRY DWIGHT CHAPIN, professor emeritus of pediatrics at the New York Post-Graduate Medical School and Hospital, was the guest of honor at the annual dinner of the Faculty Association of the school on January 23. The occasion celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of Dr. Chapin's appointment as professor of pediatrics and his eightieth birthday, which was on February 4. The speakers at the dinner included Drs. Arthur F. Chace, president of the board of directors; Frederic E. Sondern, formerly president of the Medical Society of the State of New York; Adolph G. G. De Sanctis, president, and Walter T. Dannreuther, formerly president, of the Medical Society of the County of New York, and Charles Gordon Heyd, presi-

dent of the American Medical Association. The Faculty Association presented to Dr. Chapin a silver loving cup.

DR. GEORGE W. MCCOY has been relieved as director of the National Institute of Health, effective on January 31. He had held the position since 1915, when the institute was known as the Hygienic Laboratory. It is reported that he will be assigned to investigations on leprosy.

DR. RAYMOND PEARL, professor of biology in the School of Hygiene and Public Health at the Johns Hopkins University, has been appointed Heath Clark lecturer for the year 1937 at the University of London.

DR. RONALD GEORGE WREYFORD NORRISH, Humphrey Owen Jones lecturer, has been appointed to succeed the late Professor T. M. Lowry as professor of physical chemistry at the University of Cambridge.

AT the University of London the title of professor of biochemistry has been conferred on Dr. A. C. Chibnall, in respect of the post held by him at the Imperial College, Royal College of Science, and the title of emeritus professor of mining geology has been conferred on Dr. C. G. Cullis, on his retirement from the university professorship of mining geology at the Imperial College, Royal College of Science.

DR. ADOLF BUTENANDT, professor of organic and biological chemistry at Danzig, has been made director of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Biochemistry at Berlin-Dahlem.

EDWIN H. COLBERT, of the American Museum of Natural History, New York, has become associate curator of the department of geology and paleontology of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

DR. JOHN C. HOSTETTER, who had charge of the construction of the 200-inch telescope mirror at the Corning Glass Works, has been made vice-president of the Hartford Empira Company, Connecticut.

DR. D. R. PYE has been appointed director of scientific research in the British Department of the Air and member for research and development in the air ministry, to take the place of H. E. Wimperis. W. S. Farren has been appointed deputy director of scientific research in succession to Dr. Pye.

DR. HARRY SOBOTKA, chemist to the Mount Sinai Hospital, New York City, and Dr. Louis J. Soffer have received a grant-in-aid from the Committee on Scientific Research of the American Medical Association for the study of lactic acid tolerance in hepatic disease.

THE Rockefeller Foundation has made a grant of

\$3,000 to Professor Elizabeth Adams, of Mount Holyoke College, to be used during 1937 and 1938 for work on the endocrine glands.

DR. A. A. DUNLAP, assistant mycologist and plant physiologist at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station at New Haven, has been granted leave of absence for four months for research to be carried out at the Johns Hopkins University on the sand culture of seedlings.

DR. PAUL WEISS has leave of absence from the University of Chicago from April 1 to October 1. He expects to continue his study of the nervous system in several European laboratories, principally at the laboratory of Professor Bremer in Brussels. The Rockefeller Foundation is sponsoring his work.

DR. SYDNEY W. BRITTON, professor of physiology in the University of Virginia, has left for Panama for a two-months study of the wild animals of the Central American jungles. He is accompanied by the curator of the expedition, William Atkinson, and by Raymond F. Kline, research assistant. Two months will be spent at the Barro Colorado Laboratory, maintained on an island in Gatun Lake by Harvard University, the National Research Council and other organizations. While he is in the Canal Zone Dr. Britton has been invited to speak before the Society of Natural History of the Panama Canal.

THE Institute for the Study of Malaria at Rome, of which Professor G. Bastianelli is director, has sent a mission to Abyssinia to study various aspects of malaria. Members of the mission include Professor G. Lega, pathology and clinical medicine, and Professor G. Raffaele, entomology, epidemiology and prophylaxis.

DR. F. A. VENING MEINESZ, president of the International Geodetic Association, lectured on "Gravity on the Atlantic Ocean" on February 16, before a joint meeting of the Society of Sigma Xi, District of Columbia Chapter, the Geological Society of Washington and the Washington Academy of Sciences.

DR. HENRY E. SIGERIST, director of the Institute of the History of Medicine at the Johns Hopkins University, gave a Mayo Foundation lecture on "The History of the Concept of Disease" at Rochester, Minn., on February 26.

DR. GEORGE H. WHIPPLE, dean of the School of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Rochester, will deliver the fourth annual Alexander Van Rensselaer lecture at the Drexel Institute of Technology on the evening of April 15. He will speak on "Blood Hemoglobin Production within the Body as Influenced by Diet and Other Factors under Experimental Conditions."

DR. T. WINGATE TODD, professor of anatomy at the School of Medicine of Western Reserve University, gave the first annual Clarence J. Grieve Foundation lecture on March 1. He spoke on "Facial Growth and Pharyngeal Health."

DR. WILLIAM T. M. FORBES, professor of entomology at Cornell University, gave on February 19 an address entitled "Butterfly Geography" before the Royal Canadian Institute, Toronto.

DR. RICHARD P. STRONG, professor of tropical medicine at the Harvard Medical School, delivered the first Chadwick Lecture of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, London, on January 21. His subject was "Onchocerciasis in Central America and Africa." Dr. Strong was recently elected an honorary fellow of the society.

DR. HARLAN T. STETSON, research associate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, gave on February 16 the first lecture in the Springfield, Mass., Public Forums Series entitled "Recent Developments in Science." The title of Dr. Stetson's lecture was "The New Universe."

J. G. CROWTHER, London, scientific correspondent of *The Manchester Guardian*, will give a series of public lectures on "The History of American Science," at Harvard University, during the first two weeks of March.

DURING the next five months Mills College, the second oldest college for women in America, will celebrate the eighty-fifth anniversary of its founding. The School of Science will be charge of the program for the month of March, while the various other schools of the college will plan the commemorative events for the other months. Among those who will take part are Dr. Robert Grant Aitken, emeritus director of Lick Observatory; Dr. Knight Dunlap, professor of psychology at the University of California at Los Angeles, and Dr. E. O. Lawrence, director of the Radiation Laboratory at the University of California.

THE seventeenth International Congress of Agriculture will be held from June 16 to 23 at the Hague.

The fourth International Congress on the History of Science will be held in Prague from September 22 to 27, under the presidency of Professor Quido Vetter. Papers will be discussed dealing with the development of the sciences during the eighteenth and first half of the nineteenth centuries, the history of science in education and other historical subjects. The one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the birth of Jan Evangelista Purkyně (or Purkinje), the distinguished Czech biologist, will be celebrated during the congress.

THE fourteenth National Colloid Symposium will meet at the University of Minnesota on June 10, 11

and 12. Professor Herbert Freundlich, of University College, London, will be the guest speaker and will open the symposium. It is planned to hold the sessions in the Chemistry Building of the university on June 10 and 11, and then to drive to Rochester where the papers of the last day will be given at the Mayo Clinic. The sessions there will be devoted to papers of a bio-colloidal nature. Opportunity will be given to spend some time in visiting the Clinic Building and the research laboratories connected with the Mayo Foundation. The program for the symposium is rapidly being filled and it is suggested that authors, wishing to have papers considered for the meeting, should write at once to Professor H. B. Weiser, The Rice Institute, Houston, Texas. The local committee making arrangements for the symposium consists of D. R. Briggs, Geo. Glockler, R. A. Gortner, I. M. Kolthoff and L. H. Reyerson, chairman.

THE attention of scientific workers is called to the Theobald Smith award established by Eli Lilly and Company and approved by the council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science at the Minneapolis meeting. The conditions of the award as recommended by the executive committee after study of the situation and as adopted by the council are given in *SCIENCE* for July 26, 1935, p. 75. Members of the committee of award for 1936-37 are: Drs. Edwin G. Conklin, *chairman*; Anton J. Carlson, Howard T. Karsner, Chauncey D. Leake and Hans Zinsser. This committee will serve until it reports at the Denver meeting. By request of the committee and with the approval of the council all correspondence in the matter should be addressed to the Permanent Secretary and not to the individual members of the committee.

THE National Research Council announces that in the administration of its fellowships in the natural sciences, consideration will be extended to applications for fellowships of post-doctorate grade for the coming year in the fields of geology, paleontology and physical geography. The basic stipend will be \$1,600 per year. Requests for application blanks should be addressed to the Secretary, National Research Fellowships Board in the Natural Sciences, National Research Council,

2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D. C. Applications to be considered should be returned to the Research Council by April 1.

At the recent Atlantic City meeting both the Ecological Society of America and the American Society of Zoologists passed resolutions condemning the so-called "vermin" campaigns that are destroying some of our most interesting animals by the hundreds of thousands. The former society appointed one of its members to write certain articles for publication and wide distribution to call the attention of those interested in nature to what is being done.

SOIL survey reports and maps are in great demand and in many instances all available supplies are exhausted. Dr. Henry G. Knight, chief of the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, urgently requests that any one having copies of these reports for which they have no further use send them to the bureau for distribution to people needing them. Upon request Government blanks will be forwarded for the purpose.

E. L. PACKARD, of Oregon State College, writes that the Oregon State Board of Higher Education has announced the establishment of the Institute of Marine Biology at Coos Head, on an eighty-five acre tract acquired for the purpose from the Federal Government through Congressional Acts of 1931 and 1935. Preliminary studies are said to indicate an abundant and diversified fauna and flora within the waters of Coos Bay and that the life of the open ocean shows a mingling of both northern and southern forms. The extensive marine fisheries include the salmon and the pilchard centering in this region, and the industries based upon crabs, clams and oysters afford many opportunities for basic researches in these fields. This station is organized to serve all the institutions of the State System of Higher Education of Oregon, and cooperatively others within the state and elsewhere, as a center of biological research relating primarily to the life of the sea and as a training ground for future biologists and teachers of biology.

## DISCUSSION

### DISSEMINATION OF SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE BY MEANS OF MICROFILMS

BECAUSE of the rapidly increasing volume of scientific literature, its classification and dissemination to those who use it is becoming an ever increasingly complex and costly problem. Aid of this character to research is usually rendered by means of abstract

journals, but these require the cooperation of many persons, and their publication is very expensive.

It is believed that microfilms may serve both to supplement existing abstracts and, in cases where necessary, provide a more economical means of acquainting scientists with the work of others.