

technic Institute, died on June 7 at the age of seventy-one years.

DR. HIRAM COLVER McNEIL died on June 8 at the age of seventy years. He was lecturer in chemistry at the George Washington University from 1910 to 1918 and head of the department from 1918 to 1933, when he retired. Dr. McNeil had previously been at various times a member of the U. S. Geological Survey, the Bureau of Chemistry and the National Bureau of Standards.

THE death on June 8 is announced at the age of eighty years of Victor Lieberman, at one time an associate of Louis Pasteur.

EMERITUS PROFESSOR ARTHUR GEORGE PERKIN, of the University of Leeds, distinguished for his work in

color chemistry, died on May 30 at the age of seventy-five years. He was the second son of the late Sir William Henry Perkin, founder of the coal tar color industry.

*Nature* reports the death of J. H. Field, formerly director of observatories in India, on May 19, aged sixty-four years, and of Professor Albert Griffiths, formerly professor of physics in Birkbeck College, University of London, on May 24.

A BRONZE plaque in memory of the late Roger Griswold Perkins has been erected by his friends in the reading room of the department of hygiene and bacteriology of Western Reserve University. Dr. Perkins was professor of preventive medicine from 1910 to 1930 and professor emeritus from 1930 to 1936.

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. EDWARD LAURENS MARK, Hersey professor of anatomy, emeritus, at Harvard University, director of the Zoological Laboratory from 1900 to 1921 and director of the Bermuda Biological Station for Research from 1903 to 1931, attained his ninetieth birthday on May 30. His friends and former students celebrated the occasion by writing letters expressing personal congratulation and appreciation of his important services to biological science. The letters, numbering about a hundred, were collected and substantially bound into a volume, which was informally presented to him on his birthday.

THE retirement in June of Dr. William Webber Ford as professor of bacteriology in the School of Hygiene and Public Health of the Johns Hopkins University is being made the occasion for the presentation of a token of regard from his former students and associates. A number of rare or unusual books in bacteriology and mycology have been chosen for the gift. Among these are early editions of the complete works of Fracastoro, Redi and Spallanzoni and the recently published *Icones Farlowianae* from Harvard.

DR. PHILIPP LENARD, professor of physics at the University of Heidelberg, celebrated his seventy-fifth birthday on June 7.

DR. G. F. HERBERT SMITH retired from the British Museum (Natural History) on May 26. He joined the staff of the museum in 1897, when he was attached to the mineral department. From 1921 to 1935 he acted as secretary of the museum, returning in the latter year to his original department as keeper.

DR. L. O. HOWARD has been elected an honorary member of the German Entomological Association, Berlin.

AMONG honorary degrees conferred at the hundred

and fifth commencement of New York University was the doctorate of science on Dr. Charles Franklin Kettering, president of the General Motors Research Corporation, and the doctorate of public health on Dr. James Alexander Miller, president of the New York Academy of Medicine.

WILLIS R. GREGG, chief of the U. S. Weather Bureau, received on June 7 the honorary degree of doctor of science from Norwich University. Colonel Porter H. Adams, president of the university, made the citation: "To Willis Ray Gregg, meteorologist and executive; chief of the United States Weather Bureau; pioneer in the study of the meteorological problems of aeronautics, who justly is acclaimed as a distinguished contributor to the advancement of the science of meteorology."

PROFESSOR H. H. NININGER, director of the Nininger Laboratory, curator of meteorites in the Colorado Museum of Natural History, Denver, and secretary-treasurer of the Society for Research on Meteorites, has been awarded the honorary degree of doctor of science at the fiftieth annual commencement exercises of McPherson College, Kansas.

MISS WINIFRED GOLDRING, assistant state paleontologist, New York State Museum, Albany, has received the honorary degree of doctor of science from Russell Sage College, Troy, N. Y.

DR. E. V. ALLEN, of the Mayo Clinic at Rochester, Minn., has been elected president of the section for study of peripheral vascular disease of the American Heart Association; Dr. Irving Wright, of the Post-Graduate Hospital, New York, has been elected vice-president, and Dr. Irvine H. Page, of the Hospital of the Rockefeller Institute, New York City, was re-elected secretary-treasurer.

THE officers, executive committee and members of the Division of Geology and Geography, National Research Council, for the year beginning on July 1, are as follows: *Chairman*, Chester R. Longwell; *Vice-chairman*, Robert S. Platt; *Executive Committee*, Chester R. Longwell, Robert S. Platt, Edson S. Bastin, John L. Rich, J. F. Schairer and John K. Wright; *Representatives of Societies*, A. F. Buddington and John L. Rich, Geological Society of America; J. F. Schairer, Mineralogical Society of America; Charles Butts, Paleontological Society; Preston E. James and Robert S. Platt, Association of American Geographers; John K. Wright, American Geographical Society; Edson S. Bastin, Society of Economic Geologists; Robert B. Sosman, American Ceramic Society; F. H. Lahee, American Association of Petroleum Geologists; *Members at Large*, Florence Bascom, Chester R. Longwell and L. F. Thomas.

THE annual meeting of the Royal Society of Canada was held at the University of Toronto from May 25 to 28, under the presidency of Lawrence J. Burpee, of Ottawa, who took as the subject of his presidential address "The Discovery of Canada." During the meeting the Flavelle Medal for scientific research was presented to Dr. Frank D. Adams, the Lorne Pierce Medal for literature to Dr. Stephen Leacock and the Tyrrell Medal for historical research to Aegidius Fauteux. In the three sections devoted to science and their various sub-sections, two hundred and twenty papers were presented. Dr. A. G. Huntsman, consulting director of the Biological Board of Canada, editor of its publications and professor of marine biology at the University of Toronto, was elected president of the society for the year 1937-38.

AT Kansas State College, Dr. A. B. Cardwell has been appointed head of the department of physics, succeeding Professor J. O. Hamilton, and Dr. W. T. Stratton has been appointed head of the department of mathematics, succeeding Professor B. L. Remick. Professors Hamilton and Remick have served on the college faculty since 1900 and will continue teaching for part time.

DR. RICHARD WEISSENBERG, for many years a member of the medical faculty of the University of Berlin, has been appointed visiting professor of cytology at the School of Medicine of Washington University, St. Louis.

DR. WOLDEMAR WEYL has been appointed professor of glass technology at the Pennsylvania State College, effective next January. For the past six years Dr. Weyl has been in charge of investigations on glass at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institut. During the academic year 1936-37 he has been visiting professor at the Pennsylvania State College and has given lectures at

the Ohio State University, Princeton University and the University of Illinois. He is at present in Germany.

DR. ROBERT WALLACE VIRTUE, instructor of biochemistry in the Louisiana State University, has been appointed assistant professor of biochemistry at the University of Denver.

DR. R. M. CALDWELL, of the U. S. Bureau of Plant Industry, has been appointed chief of the department of botany, and R. W. Samson has been appointed assistant chief at the Agricultural Experiment Station of Purdue University.

DR. LEON PRATT ALFORD has been appointed professor of administrative engineering and chairman of the department of industrial engineering at New York University to succeed Professor Joseph Wickham Roe, who is retiring as professor emeritus after sixteen years of teaching and administrative service.

DR. HENRY ROY DEAN, master of Trinity Hall and professor of pathology in the University of Cambridge, has been elected to the office of vice-chancellor for the year 1937-38.

T. G. ROSE has been appointed general director of the British National Institute of Industrial Psychology, to collaborate with Dr. C. S. Myers, the principal, who will retain the position held by him since the inception of the institute sixteen years ago.

GRANTS of the Committee on Scientific Research of the American Medical Association have been made to Dr. Fred L. Humoller, assistant professor of physiological chemistry at the Loyola University School of Medicine, for a study on the chemistry of the toxic principle found in culture fluids of *B. enteritidis*; to Dr. Elizabeth Shull Russell, of the Roscoe B. Jackson Memorial Laboratory of Bar Harbor, Me., for a study of the genetics of tumors in the fruit fly, *Drosophila melanogaster*; to Dr. Orthello R. Langworthy, of the Johns Hopkins University, for the study of the effect of ovulation and pregnancy upon the smooth muscle of the urinary bladder; and to Professor Roe E. Remington, professor of nutrition in the Medical College of the State of South Carolina, for the continuation of his work on the metabolism of iodine in the rat.

DR. MAURICE HOLLAND, who is at the head of a delegation that is visiting laboratories in England, Germany and France under the auspices of the Division of Engineering and Industrial Research of the National Research Council, spoke at a luncheon given by the American Chamber of Commerce in London on May 25.

EDGAR BROWN, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and Mancel T. Munn, of the State Agricultural

Experiment Station, Geneva, N. Y., have been appointed official delegates of the U. S. Government to the eighth International Seed-Testing Congress at Zurich. The congress will hold its sessions from June 29 to July 4.

DR. Z. KOZMINSKI, of the Wigry Biological Station at Suwalki, Poland, is carrying on research work in limnology at the University of Wisconsin during the month of June. During July and August he will be in residence at the Trout Lake Limnological Laboratory, where he will study the photosynthesis of the phytoplankton and the copepod fauna of the lakes of that district.

DR. HAROLD ST. JOHN, botanist at the Bishop Museum, Honolulu, will sail on June 28 for Fiji to continue the exploration sponsored by the museum of the South Sea Islands. He expects to collect plants for two months, principally on the interior plateau of Viti Levu, which is relatively unknown botanically.

Professor J. G. FITZGERALD, director of the School of Hygiene at the University of Toronto, has a year's leave of absence to study the teaching of preventive medicine in medical schools in the United States, Canada, the British Isles and other countries of Europe for the Rockefeller Foundation. Professor FitzGerald gave a Chadwick Public Lecture in London on May 26. His subject was "Preventive Medicine—an Avenue of Good Will."

DR. C. H. ROBERTSON recently completed a lecture tour of eight chapters of Sigma Pi Sigma, physics honor society, at Miami University, the University of Kentucky, Berea College, the University of Chattanooga, the College of William and Mary, the University of Richmond, West Virginia University and the Ohio State University. The subject of the series was "Gyroscopes and Boomerangs."

SIR ARTHUR EDDINGTON, director of the observatory and Plumian professor of astronomy at the University of Cambridge, gave the eighth annual Haldane Me-

morial Lecture at Birkbeck College, London, on May 26. His lecture was entitled "The Reign of Relativity, 1915-1937."

THE seventh annual research conference of the department of chemistry of the Johns Hopkins University is being held from June 7 to June 25, at the Cavalier Hotel, Virginia Beach. The subjects are "Enzymes" during the first week, "Phenanthrene Chemistry" during the second week and "The Mechanism of Some Homogeneous Organic Reactions," including oxidation, chlorination and polymerization, during the third week. These conferences provide an opportunity for discussion among a group of specialists in a particular field of chemistry. The meetings are kept as informal as possible, there are no printed papers, and no formal record of the proceedings is kept. It is preferred that attendance be limited to those working in the field under discussion or in closely allied fields, so that the groups may be small enough for each person to take part in the discussion. The conference is under the direction of Professor F. O. Rice, department of chemistry, the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.

SIGMA PI SIGMA, physics honor society, installed its thirty-first chapter on May 10 at John B. Stetson University, DeLand, Florida. Dr. Marsh W. White, the Pennsylvania State College, was the installing officer and spoke at the first open meeting of the chapter, following the installation, on "Modern Alchemy."

THE installation of the Illinois Alpha Chapter of the Alpha Epsilon Delta Honorary Premedical Fraternity at Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, was held on May 21. Dr. Emmett B. Carmichael, professor of physiological chemistry at the School of Medicine of the University of Alabama and grand president of the fraternity, conducted the ceremonies, which marked the installation of the eighteenth chapter since the establishment of the fraternity at the University of Alabama in 1926.

## DISCUSSION

### THE EXCESSIVE MEEKNESS OF AMERICAN BOTANISTS

THE meekness of American botanists has been so long and so generally recognized that no comment was offered and certainly no surprise was occasioned when some years ago Seifrizz<sup>1</sup> quoted a visiting Swiss botanist as calling attention to the fact that it is easy in most American universities to recognize the botany

building, because it is the "oldest building to be seen anywhere." We have, however, taken a certain satisfaction in the feeling that our zoological friends were ready to assert themselves, to think and to act independently, and that thus a fair balance would be maintained, and the general field of biology adequately, if not evenly, cultivated.

Rather recently, however, there has appeared in various quarters the more disturbing suggestion that

<sup>1</sup> *The Scientific Monthly*, May, 1928.