

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE LINNEAN SOCIETY OF LONDON

ACCORDING to an account given in *Nature* of the anniversary meeting of the Linnean Society of London, which was held on May 24, the title of the presidential address of Dr. W. T. Calman was "James Eights, a Pioneer Antarctic Naturalist."

The Linnean Gold Medal was presented to Dr. F. F. Blackman, formerly reader in botany in the University of Cambridge. In making the presentation, the president said that the modern period of research on some of the fundamental problems of plant physiology began with the medallist's "Experimental Researches in Vegetable Assimilation and Respiration" in 1896. These "Researches," carried on with the aid of students, now number twenty-one, and recently a new series, "Analytical Studies in Plant Respiration," has been added. In 1905 Dr. Blackman published a paper entitled "Optima and Limiting Factors," which is a landmark in the study of the influence of external factors on physiological processes. The Trail Award of the society "to encourage study that throws light on the substance known as protoplasm, or the physical basis of life" was made to Dr. C. F. A. Pantin, Harding lecturer in zoology in the University of Cambridge, for his work on the mechanism of amoeboid movement showing that the protoplasmic changes involved are fundamentally similar to the processes which go on in cilia and in muscle.

The following were elected officers of the society for the year 1937-38: *President*, John Ramsbottom; *Treasurer*, Francis Druce; *Secretaries*, I. Henry Burkill and Martin A. C. Hinton; *New members of Council*, I. Henry Burkill, Miss M. L. Green, Dr. H. S. Holden, Fred Howarth and Professor F. E. Weiss. *Foreign members* elected were: Dr. Reinhard Dohrn, director of the Marine Biological Station, Naples; Dr. Herman Augustus Spoehr, director of sciences at the Division of Plant Biology of the Carnegie Institution, Stanford University; Professor Erick Anderson Stensiö, director of the Riksmuseets Paleontologiska Avdelning, Stockholm, distinguished for his researches on Old Red Sandstone fishes; Professor Nils Eberhard Svedelius, director of the University Institute at Uppsala and treasurer of the Swedish Linnean Society, known for his contributions to the knowledge of the taxonomy, morphology and life-histories of marine algae; Dr. Richard Woltereck, for many years professor of zoology in the University of Leipzig, and until recently director of the Zoological Institute, Ankara, Turkey. Professor Woltereck is known for his work in limnology. He organized and was the first director of the Freshwater Biological Station at Lunz in Austria and

has been editor of the *Internationale Revue der Gesamten Hydrobiologie und Hydrographie* since its commencement in 1908.

ST. LOUIS MEETING OF THE EASTERN SECTION OF THE SEISMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

THE twelfth annual meeting of the eastern section of the Seismological Society of America was held at St. Louis University on June 11 and 12. Although this is the first time that the section has met so far west since plans for its organization were first made in St. Louis more than ten years ago, a representative group attended.

All sessions and the business meetings were held in the Commerce and Finance Building of the university. A brief address of welcome was given by the Rev. T. M. Knapp, S.J., chancellor of the university.

After attending to the usual business of the society, the reports of the chairmen of the various standing committees were given; of these, that by Rev. J. B. Macelwane, S.J., on amateur seismology was the most discussed. Plans were outlined to stimulate further the interest already manifest and to distribute information and a list of references on the construction and operation of amateur seismographs. Hope was also expressed that more space might be obtained in popular scientific magazines for publishing the activities and latest developments of amateur seismologists.

Colombia, South America; Ontario, Canada; the District of Columbia and the states of Texas, Alabama, Missouri, New York and Massachusetts were represented in the twenty papers that were presented following the business meeting.

On Saturday morning officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows:

Chairman, E. C. Jacobs, of the University of Vermont, Burlington, Vt.

Vice-chairman, H. E. McComb, of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey.

Secretary, A. J. Westland, S.J., of the Department of Geophysics, Saint Louis University.

Treasurer, A. C. Chick, of Providence, R. I.

Fifth member of the Executive Committee, L. B. Slichter, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

On Friday evening the members as a group attended a performance of "The Great Waltz" at the Municipal Open Air Theater. On Saturday, after a luncheon in the Pine Room of the Coronado Hotel as guests of the university, the group divided into two parties; the one visiting the Chester Illinois land slide, sixty-five miles southeast of St. Louis, and the other the Florissant