

with the meetings, and the bureau was able to demonstrate the use of its new vehicular scale-testing unit by a complete test of a 40,000-pound motor-truck scale at the United States Naval Academy, in Annapolis. Buses were provided to carry the members to and from the academy. A tour of the bureau's laboratories was also arranged, featuring particularly the work of the Weights and Measures Division.

At the last session, on June 4, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: *President*, Dr. Lyman J. Briggs, director, National Bureau of Standards; *Vice-presidents*, W. S. Bussey, of Texas; C. J. P. Cullen, of Pennsylvania; J. J. Levitt, of Illinois, and R. E. Meek, of Indiana; *Secretary*, F. S. Holbrook, National Bureau of Standards; *Treasurer*, Geo. F. Austin, Jr., of Detroit, Mich.

WOODS HOLE CONFERENCE ON THE PROBLEM OF AGING

THE main function of the Union of American Biological Societies is the promotion of *Biological Abstracts*. The union is interested, however, in any activity which will tend to focus otherwise divergent biological specialties on a specific problem of fundamental importance. The problem of aging belongs in this category. Its investigation is timely; because, with improved living conditions and advances in the medical sciences, people on the average live longer, so that the services of proportionally more elderly individuals are available. Over the same period unemployment has increased, which results in a tendency

to enforced earlier retirement or failure to employ men and women past maturity to give place to younger groups. Two factors therefore operate in the same direction to accentuate the social problem of the place of the aged as useful members of the community. Though they may not be 100 per cent. effective, the 80 or 50 per cent. or whatever it may be should not be entirely lost. The kind of service to be performed must also be considered. Aging is at the present time our greatest and most neglected human problem. Scientific data on its biological and medical aspects are urgently needed. Consequently, the union sponsored a conference on the problem viewed from these angles held at the Cape Codder Hotel, Woods Hole, Mass., on June 25 and 26. The Divisions of Medical Sciences, Biology and Agriculture and Anthropology and Psychology of the National Research Council cooperated. The expense of the conference was defrayed by a grant from the Josiah Macy, Jr., Foundation. Those attending the conference were: A. J. Carlson, Alfred E. Cohn, E. V. Cowdry, William Crocker, Louis I. Dublin, E. T. Engle, Lawrence K. Frank, Jonas S. Friedenwald, Alfred Friedlander, W. S. Hunter, H. S. Jennings, E. B. Krumbhaar, C. M. McCay, Wm. deB. MacNider, E. D. Merrill, Walter R. Miles, Jean Oliver, F. Fremont-Smith, T. Wingate Todd and Clark Wissler. They include representatives of the union, the council, the foundation, contributors to a book on aging being prepared by the foundation and other interested persons.

E. V. COWDRY

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. MARSTON T. BOGERT, professor of organic chemistry at Columbia University, has been elected an honorary fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. Other fellows elected included: Professor C. U. Ariëns Kappers, professor of comparative neurology in the University of Amsterdam and director of the Central Institute of Brain Research, and Professor Max Planck, emeritus professor of theoretical physics and director of the Institute for Theoretical Physics in the University of Berlin.

At the commencement exercises of the University of Michigan, the degree of doctor of engineering was conferred on Dean R. L. Sackett, of the School of Engineering of the Pennsylvania State College, who resigned at the close of the college year and was made dean emeritus. The degree was also conferred on Professor Henry E. Riggs, honorary chairman of the department of civil engineering of the University of Michigan.

At the recent centennial celebration of Mount Holyoke College, the degree of doctor of science was con-

ferred on Dr. Margaret Tyler, associate clinical professor at the Yale Medical School; on Dr. Anna Pell Wheeler, chairman of the department of mathematics of Bryn Mawr College, and on Dr. Margaret C. Ferguson, research professor of botany at Wellesley College.

At the fourth centenary celebration of the University of Lausanne, the degree of doctor of medicine (*in absentia*) was conferred on Sir Frederick Gowland Hopkins, Sir William Dunn professor of biochemistry at the University of Cambridge, and the degree of doctor of pharmacy was conferred on Dr. G. Barger, professor of chemistry in relation to medicine at the University of Edinburgh.

The British Medical Journal reports that at the celebration of the hundredth anniversary of the founding of the University of Athens, honorary doctorates were conferred on: Sir Charles Sherrington, Oxford; Professors O. Naegeli, Zurich; von Koranyi, Budapest; L. Aschoff, Freiburg; Augustus Bier, Berlin; R. Krehl, Heidelberg; Hymans van den Bergh, Utrecht; and J. Wagner von Jauregg, Vienna.

THE University of St. Andrews on July 5 conferred the doctorate of laws on Dr. G. F. Stout, emeritus professor of logic and metaphysics, and on Dr. W. T. Calman, president of the Linnean Society, lately keeper of the department of zoology in the British Museum.

SIR HARRY LINDSAY, director of the British Imperial Institute, has accepted nomination as president of the Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux for the year 1937-38. The association will hold its fourteenth annual conference at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, during the week-end beginning on September 24.

THE William H. McFadden Medal of the American Foundrymen's Association has been awarded to Charles Willers Briggs, of the United States Naval Research Laboratory at Anacostia, D. C.

THE council of the Royal Society of Arts has awarded the Albert Medal for 1937 to Lord Nuffield, who recently gave a large sum to the University of Oxford for the endowment of medical research, "for services to industry, transport and medical science." The medal was instituted in 1862 as a memorial to the Prince Consort, for eighteen years president of the society, and is awarded annually for "distinguished merit in promoting arts, manufactures or commerce."

DR. CARL C. MONRAD, of the Standard Oil Company of Indiana, for the past seven years a chemical engineer in the research department at Whiting, has been appointed associate professor of chemical engineering at the Carnegie Institute of Technology.

DR. CHARLES S. McCLESKEY, formerly assistant professor in the department of bacteriology of the Iowa State College, has been appointed associate professor of bacteriology at the Louisiana State University. Dr. McCleskey is visiting professor at the university this summer and will take up his work as a regular member of the faculty next term.

AT the Long Island College of Medicine, Brooklyn, N. Y., Dr. Jean A. Curran has been appointed dean, and Dr. Tasker Howard, professor of clinical medicine, has been appointed professor of medicine and physician-in-chief to the Long Island College Hospital, to succeed the late Dr. Luther F. Warren. A separate department of preventive medicine and community health has been established under the direction of Dr. Alfred E. Shipley. Dr. Robert L. Moorhead has been appointed professor of clinical otolaryngology, and Dr. Fedor L. Senger, formerly assistant clinical professor in the department of urology, has been promoted to the professorship of clinical urology. They succeed, respectively, Dr. C. W. Stickle and Dr. J. S. Read, who have retired with the title emeritus.

PROFESSOR JACQUES PARISOT, head of the department of hygiene and preventive medicine at the University of Nancy, has been elected chairman of the committee of hygiene of the League of Nations to succeed Dr. Thorvald Madsen, director of the Royal Serologic Institute of Copenhagen.

DR. DANIEL BUCHANAN, dean of the faculty of arts and sciences at the University of British Columbia, is conducting two courses in astronomy during the summer session of the University of California at Los Angeles.

DR. MONROE DAVIS EATON, last year associate professor of bacteriology and immunology at Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, has resigned to become associated with the International Health Board of the Rockefeller Foundation of New York.

DR. GLENN FRANK, for twelve years president of the University of Wisconsin, has become president of Rural Progress, Inc., and editor of the magazine, a monthly agricultural publication.

MEMBERS of the Canadian National Research Council elected for three-year terms are Sir Frederick Banting, head of the Banting Institute of the University of Toronto, and Professor E. F. Burton, head of the department of physics; W. R. Campbell, Windsor, general manager of the Ford Motor Company of Canada; Professor R. H. Clark, head of the department of chemistry, University of British Columbia, and Professor E. P. Fetherstonhaugh, dean of the faculty of engineering and architecture, University of Manitoba.

THE London *Times* states that the Secretary of State for Scotland and the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries have appointed Dr. W. L. Burgess, Dr. W. R. Wooldridge, Sir Louis J. Kershaw and Professor Sir Joseph Barcroft to be members of the committee set up in November, 1936, to review the facilities available for veterinary education in Great Britain. Mr. Thomas Loveday, vice-chancellor of the University of Bristol, has been appointed chairman.

DR. GRANT FLEMING, professor of public health and preventive medicine and dean of the faculty of medicine at McGill University, is making a critical study of the administration of seven county units of the Michigan community health program sponsored by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, at Battle Creek, Mich.

DR. CHARLES N. FREY, director of the Fleischmann Laboratories, New York City, was a delegate from the United States to the Technical and Chemical Congress of Agricultural Industries held at Scheveningen, Holland, from July 12 to 19.

DR. VICTOR G. HEISER has returned to the United States after an absence of six months during which he

made a study of leprosy in southern Africa. He plans to raise a fund of two million dollars for a study of the disease, its prevention and cure. Great Britain has volunteered \$100,000 annually toward the leper general fund.

DR. AUSTIN W. CHEEVER has left for the Cherokee Indian Reservation in North Carolina, where he will carry on research on the skin diseases of the American Indians in connection with the Harvard School of Tropical Medicine.

PHILIP S. SMITH, chief Alaskan geologist of the U. S. Geological Survey, left Washington on June 11 to attend the International Geological Congress at Leningrad and Moscow. He will participate in pre-congress and post-congress geological excursions to the Caucasus and Armenia, and will return by way of Siberia and the Pacific route.

J. C. REED, of the U. S. Geological Survey, spent the last two weeks in June in Idaho, where he continued his work on the placer deposits of central Idaho in the vicinity of Grangeville. He reviewed the situation with S. R. Capps, formerly of the Alaskan Branch, who is conducting placer studies in that region. Mr. Reed will be engaged for the remainder of the summer in field work on placers of southeastern Alaska, for the Alaskan Branch.

AN expedition led by Dr. George W. Crile, emeritus professor of clinical surgery at Western Reserve University and director of the research laboratories of the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, will leave about August 1 for a six-week trip into the Canadian Arctic for research on the energy-releasing mechanism of Arctic animals.

DURING the spring semester at Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, N. Y., evening lectures were given before the Science Colloquium by Professor Selig Hecht, of Columbia University, on various phases of the photochemistry of vision, and by Professor Robley D. Evans, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, on the distribution of radioactive elements, radium poisoning and the biological effects of slow electrons.

By invitation of the Conference on Canadian-American Affairs, held at Queens University during the week of June 14, Dr. Derwent Whittlesey, associate professor of geography at Harvard University, led a discussion of papers on Canadian-American geography. As part of the program of the annual Harris Institute on International Relations at the University of Chicago, held from June 21 to 28, he conducted a round table, preceded by a lecture on "Reshaping the Map of West Africa."

THE corporation of the Marine Biological Laboratory, at Woods Hole, will hold its annual meeting on August 11.

THE American Ethnological Society announces the establishment of a new series, "Monographs of the American Ethnological Society," to be issued annually, beginning in 1938. The object of the society in establishing this series is to furnish a new medium for the publication of longer studies. The board of editors, consisting of Dr. Clark Wissler, *chairman*; Dr. A. I. Hallowell and Dr. Alexander Lesser, will select the study to be published in 1938 from manuscripts submitted on or before February 1, 1938. Manuscripts should not exceed 75,000 words (about 175-200 pages of print); must be in the field of ethnology and should be in condition for printing. They should be addressed to the secretary of the American Ethnological Society, Department of Anthropology, Columbia University, New York City.

THE European Sections of the International Committee for Bird Preservation met in Vienna on June 30 and the three following days. Among the subjects discussed were the proposals for a new convention for the preservation of the birds of Europe; the protection of the quail, and the appointment of an international sub-committee to investigate the conditions under which birds are transported by sea and the means of improving them.

SENATOR WALTER F. GEORGE, of Georgia, introduced on June 14 a bill for the national incorporation of the American Chemical Society, now incorporated under the laws of New York.

At the last meeting of the academic year of the Board of Trustees of Cornell University, it was ruled that no more students would be admitted to study medicine at Ithaca after June 30, 1938. Students in the Cornell Medical College have had the option of taking their first year at Ithaca and the remainder of their course at the Cornell University Medical Center in New York City. The division of medicine at Ithaca will be continued as a center of research and of service to the colleges of the university.

THE Supreme Court of the State of Illinois has refused to review the decision of the Appellate Court, which decision declared that the City of Chicago has the right to furnish dogs to the institutions which qualified under the terms of an ordinance passed December 1, 1931, and that the ordinance is legal. The ordinance is as follows: "Whenever any reputable institution of learning, hospitals, or their allied institutes in the City of Chicago shall make application to the Commissioner of Health for permission to use humanely unclaimed impounded animals for the good of mankind and the increase of knowledge relating to the cause, prevention,

control and care of disease, the Commissioner of Health, on being satisfied that the said animals are to be so used, shall request the Commissioner of Police to surrender said animals as applied for by the said institutions of learning, hospitals or their allied institutes, and thereupon it shall be the duty of the Commissioner of Police to cause said animals to be surrendered by the Poundmaster to said institutes of learning, hospitals or their allied institutes for said uses."

AN affiliation has been established between the New York City Department of Hospitals and the medical departments of Columbia University, Cornell University and New York University, respectively, for the organization of Welfare Hospital as a teaching and research center. The medical staff of Welfare Hospital will comprise three college divisions: First Division, affiliated with Columbia University, College of Physicians and Surgeons; Second Division, affiliated with Cornell University Medical College; Third Division, affiliated with New York University College of Medicine. The three divisions are of equal rank. The following nominations for the medical board and staff of the hospital have been received from the affiliated medical colleges and have been approved: *Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons*: Dr. Randolph West, director of medicine; Dr. William Barclay Parsons, director of surgery; *Cornell University Medical College*: Dr. Irving Sherwood Wright, director of medicine; Dr. Ralph Firestone Bowers, director of surgery; *New York University College of Medicine*: Dr. Norman Jolliffe, director of medicine; Dr. William Howard Barber, director of surgery.

GROUND was broken on June 8 for the new twelve-story building of the Memorial Hospital for the Treatment of Cancer and Allied Diseases in New York City. The new hospital adjoins the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research and the New York Hospital and Cornell University Medical College, with which Memorial Hospital is affiliated. The site was given by John D. Rockefeller, Jr. A year ago the General Education Board made a grant of \$3,000,000 toward the erection and equipment of the institution. It is expected that the building will be completed within two years. Plans for the new hospital were drawn by James Gamble Rogers and Henry C. Pelton. The building contract has been awarded to Marc Eidlitz and Son, Inc. The building will front on Sixty-eighth Street. It will provide at the outset 168 beds, and will

also have facilities for diagnostic and treatment clinics, surgery, research laboratories, out-patient service, x-ray and radium treatment.

CONSTRUCTION work on the extension of the University Hospital of the School of Tropical Medicine at San Juan, Puerto Rico, was begun on May 1. The plans which have been accepted call for an expenditure of \$240,000 and will provide for extra research facilities in clinical and surgical tropical medicine. On May 27, three acres of the land east of the present research laboratories of the institution were transferred to the school for future building purposes. This land was formerly in the possession of the U. S. Army and has an approximate evaluation of \$378,000. Plans have been practically completed for the new animal and primate house which is to be built on a part of this site. The school has also acquired the Island of Santiago, off the east coast of Puerto Rico, composed of thirty-four acres of wooded land, for a free ranging colony of primates. These animals are to be used in connection with the experimental work of the institution and for special studies in psychobiology under the direction of Dr. C. R. Carpenter, of Columbia University. Dr. Carpenter is now in Siam collecting primates, primarily the gibbon (*Hylobates*).

THROUGH the generosity of John B. Laing, of Lewisburg, West Virginia, president of the Little Stony Game and Fish Preserve, the Virginia Polytechnic Institute has recently acquired for the use of its biology department a tract of 2,500 acres of land in Giles County, Virginia. This tract lies adjacent to and between the Jefferson National Forest and lands aggregating 11,000 acres which the University of Virginia Biological Station and the Little Stony Game and Fish Preserve own. The 2,500 acre tract which will be conducted by the Virginia Polytechnic Institute has an elevation varying between 2,000 and 4,000 feet above sea level and is covered extensively with second growth hardwoods. Numerous springs, small streams and several bogs on the area provide a variety of flora and fauna which includes most species found from Virginia to Canada. It is planned to manage the area so that primitive conditions will be restored generally, although some demonstration wildlife and forestry management will be undertaken. Only eighteen miles from the college and near a good road, the tract will be of value for advanced students in wildlife conservation, forestry, botany, zoology, plant pathology and entomology.

DISCUSSION

AN OLD ANSWER TO A PRESENT-DAY PROBLEM

THE letters of Hess, MacClintock and Shepard published in *SCIENCE* for April 3, 1936, June 26, 1936, and

June 18, 1937, deal with the hypothesis of a change in the earth's rate of rotation, proposed in order to produce a change in oceanic depths and thus to account