Professor Dr. Ernst Wertheimer, Jerusalem, for continuation of the study of the relationship between free and bound glycogen in normal and pathological conditions.

Dr. M. M. Wintrobe, the Johns Hopkins Hospital, for continuation of studies of macrocytic anemia in animals.

DEGREES CONFERRED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

AMONG the honorary degrees conferred at the graduation ceremonial of the University of Edinburgh were the doctorate of laws on Dr. Leo Hendrik Baekeland, president of the Bakelite Corporation, honorary professor of chemical engineering at Columbia Unversity, and on Sir William (Henry) Bragg, president of the Royal Society. The degrees were conferred by Sir Thomas Holland, vice-chancellor and principal of the university. Candidates for the degree of doctor of laws were presented by Professor James Mackintosh, dean of the faculty of law. The citations were as follows:

"Born in Ghent in 1863, Leo Hendrik Baekeland, having won his doctorate in chemistry and the hand of his professor's daughter, emigrated to America, where he engaged in chemical research. The first fruit of his investigations was Velox printing paper, long prized for its sensitive qualities by photographers throughout the world. After effecting certain improvements in the apparatus used in the production of caustic soda and chlorine, Dr. Baekeland turned his attention to synthetic resins. He found that phenol and formaldehyde interacted to yield an insoluble, infusible material, which looked like amber, but had much more serviceable properties. Here was a superresin which nature had not furnished; it had been built to specification in the research laboratory. This substance, called Bakelite after its parent, now meets us at every turn in our daily life. It is there when we turn on the electric light, the wireless set, or the gramophone record; it provides us with fountain pens, billiard balls, even artificial dentures—in truth, it enters into every modern contrivance for our convenience or discomfort. Meanwhile, its genial inventor dives for sponges from his yacht off the coast of Florida and continues to devise fresh methods for their utilization. His career is indeed a striking example of the romance of applied science, which has brought him high honor in the land of his adoption, and is eminently worthy of being crowned with our academic laurel."

"Sir William Bragg won his earliest laurels in the Cavendish School at Cambridge, the greatest nursery of experimental physics in this country. After Cambridge he found for a time a quiet haven for reflection and experiment at the Antipodes. It was felt, however, when his fame came to be noised abroad, that he should not be left too long to 'waste his genius on the desert air,' and he was brought back to occupy the chair of physics in the Universities of Leeds and London successively, and was ultimately promoted to the directorship of the Royal Institution of Great Britain, a position for which he was eminently fitted by his zeal for the application of scientific methods to new problems and his gift of infecting others with the same enthusiasm. His early work on x-ray diffraction, leading up to the design of a spectrometer applicable to the study of crystals, was undertaken in collaboration with his son, Professor W. L. Bragg, and was recognized by the joint award of the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1915. During the war the Admiralty placed Sir William in charge of an experimental station for the investigation *inter alia* of methods for the detection of submarines. Since that time a band of crystal gazers under his supervision have perfected a technique for determining the structure of crystals, and they now form the acknowledged vanguard in crystallographic research. The high position Sir William has attained in the world of science is shown by the many distinctions that have been bestowed upon him, and he enjoys the special gratification of seeing the directorship of another great national institution—the National Physical Laboratory—in the hands of the son who inherits his talents. Unfortunately, science has not shown us how to split the doctorate of laws; for the present we must be content to award it *pro indiviso*—as a birthday gift, I am happy to say—to the distinguished President of the Royal Society."

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. ROSS G. HARRISON, Sterling professor of biology at Yale University, has been elected a foreign honorary member of the Royal Academy of Medicine of Belgium.

THE University of Belfast on the occasion of the recent meeting there of the British Medical Association conferred the degree of doctor of laws on the president of the association, Sir E. Farquhar Buzzard, professor of medicine in the University of Oxford.

THE James E. Stacey award of the University of Cincinnati, consisting of a gold medal and $100, was recently presented to Dr. Edward C. Rosenow, professor of bacteriology and immunology in the Graduate School of Medicine of the University of Minnesota, Rochester, Minn., "because of recent establishment of the fact that certain types of spasmodic disease—such as chronic hiccup, torticollis and other types of spasm involving particularly the respiratory muscle group—

were dependent on central nervous system infections originating in symptomless infections of the tonsils, from which micro-organisms and toxins were recovered which on injection into experimental animals reproduced identical forms of the disease."

PRESENTATION of the Trudeau Medal to Dr. Charles J. Hatfield, associate director of the Henry Phipps Institute of the University of Pennsylvania, was made at the recent annual meeting in Milwaukee of the National Tuberculosis Association.

THE Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene has awarded the Chalmers memorial gold medal for tropical research to Professor R. M. Gordon, of Sierra Leone, and the presentation was made at the annual general meeting on June 17. The medal is awarded every two years "in recognition of research of outstanding merit contributing to the knowledge of tropical medicine or tropical hygiene." The recipient must be under forty-five years of age at the time of the award.

COTHENIUS MEDALS of the Halle Academy of Sciences have been awarded to Dr. George Barger, professor of chemistry at the University of Edinburgh, and to Dr. Dante de Blasi, professor of hygiene and legal medicine at the University of Naples.

THE gold Sven-Rinman Medal of the Swedish "Eisenkontor" has been awarded to Dr. Friedrich Körber, director of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Iron Research.

DR. WILLIAM DEB. MACNIDER, Kenan research professor of pharmacology at the University of North Carolina, has been appointed dean of the Medical School of the University of North Carolina, to succeed Dr. Charles S. Mangum, who has asked that he be relieved of the deanship to devote full time to teaching. Dr. Mangum was appointed dean in 1933 following the resignation of Dr. I. H. Manning. Dr. MacNider has been a member of the faculty for thirty-eight years.

AT the University of Missouri, Dr. Rudolph Bennitt has been advanced to a full professorship. He will be at the head of the program of wild-life studies now in process of development at Missouri in conjunction with the newly established State Conservation Commission and other agencies.

THE REV. DR. JAMES B. MACELWANE, S.J., has been appointed director of an Institute for Geophysics which has been established at St. Louis University. It is planned that the institute become a clearing house for geophysical records and related studies of earth structure in the Central States. Its inauguration was made possible by gifts to Father Macelwane from prominent St. Louisans.

AT Western Reserve University, Dr. Calvin S. Hall, assistant professor of psychology at the University of Oregon, has been appointed associate professor of psychology and acting head of the department of psychology; Dr. Harold S. Booth has been promoted from associate professor to professor of chemistry, and Dr. Robert E. Burk, from associate professor to professor of chemistry.

DR. PASCAL BROOKE BLAND, professor of obstetrics at Jefferson Medical College, has retired with the title professor emeritus and Dr. Norris W. Vaux, clinical professor of obstetrics, has been appointed to succeed him. Dr. Horace James Williams has been appointed professor of otology to succeed the late J. Clarence Keeler.

AT Pennsylvania State College, Dr. Woldemar Weyl, of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institut für Silikatforschung, Berlin-Dahlem, has been appointed professor of glass technology in the department of ceramics, effective on January 1, 1938. R. V. Boucher, formerly national research fellow at Yale University and recently nutrition specialist for the American Can Company, has succeeded J. E. Hunter as research professor in poultry nutrition in the department of agricultural biochemistry.

THE following promotions have been approved by the Board of Trust of Vanderbilt University: Dr. Edna H. Tompkins, associate professor of anatomy; Dr. Morton F. Mason, assistant professor of biochemistry; Dr. Roy J. Morton, assistant professor of preventive medicine and public health; Dr. Herbert C. Francis, assistant professor of radiology.

DR. W. ALFRED LALANDE, JR., assistant professor of chemistry at the University of Pennsylvania, has been awarded a George Leib Harrison fellowship for research for the year 1937–1938. Dr. LaLande will continue his work on the polyterpenes, especially abietic acid, at the Institute of Technology, Zurich, with Professor L. Ruzička. He also plans to visit other laboratories where work on natural organic substances is in progress.

ROY B. WILLIAMS, construction engineer of the All-American Canal and Gila projects, with headquarters at Yuma, Ariz., has been made assistant commissioner in the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation. L. J. Foster, of the bureau, has been appointed construction engineer of the canal.

DR. G. W. SCOTT BLAIR, of the department of physics, Rothamsted Experimental Station, has been appointed head of the department of chemistry at the National Institute for Research in Dairying, Shinfield, near Reading. Dr. Blair has been a member of the staff at Rothamsted since 1926. Some years ago he held a Rockefeller fellowship at Cornell University.

DR. FREDERICK WALLACE EDWARDS has been appointed a deputy keeper in the department of entomology of the British Museum. He undertook collecting expeditions on behalf of the museum to Patagonia in 1926–27 and to East Africa in 1934–35.

THE chief geologist of the U. S. Geological Survey, Dr. G. F. Loughlin, is engaged in the examination of certain manganese and other mineral deposits in Maine. Dr. H. E. Gregory, of the survey, has resumed his studies of the geology, physiography, etc., of the plateau region in Utah. In these studies he has cooperated with the National Park Service in supplying descriptions of geologic features in areas embraced in national parks and monuments.

WATSON DAVIS, director of Science Service and president of the American Documentation Institute, has been appointed by the Secretary of State chairman of the delegation of the United States to the World Congress of Universal Documentation to be held at Paris from August 16 to 22. Mr. Davis will sail on August 4 and while in Europe he will visit scientific institutions in various countries and attend on behalf of Science Service the meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science at Nottingham beginning on September 1.

WILLIAM D. CAMPBELL, field associate of the department of mammalogy of the American Museum of Natural History, sailed on July 29 for Africa to obtain material for five habitat groups in the Akeley African Hall of the museum. He expects to be in the Sahara for six weeks, starting from Khartoum. Major W. V. D. Dickinson, who accompanied Mr. Campbell on his previous journeys, will join him in Africa.

DONALD MACKAY, the Australian explorer, and three companions left Sydney, Australia, on July 19, in three aeroplanes to make an aerial survey of little-known parts of the interior from Tanami and Wave Hill, in Northern Territory. Thence they will cross the desert to the Western Australian coast.

DR. EJNAR HERTZSPRUNG, director of the University Observatory at Leiden, who was awarded in February the Catherine Wolfe Bruce Gold Medal for 1937 of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, has arrived in the United States. He expects to take up at the Lick Observatory the work of the newly established Alexander F. Morrison memorial research associateship. The presentation of the medal will take place during his stay in the United States.

DEAN J. MCLEAN THOMPSON, of the University of Liverpool, sailed for England on July 31. He had been visiting professor of botany at the Iowa State College during the first summer term, teaching courses in advanced floral morphology and evolution of plants. In addition, he gave seminar addresses on "Teaching Botany in English Schools," "The Morphology of the Filicales" and a public lecture on "Plants and People of Tropical America."

THE twenty-second annual meeting of the Optical Society of America will be held at the Lake Placid Club in the Adirondacks, on October 14, 15 and 16. A special program of invited papers is being arranged on the general topic of optical materials. Papers are being prepared on the following subjects: Optics and the Glass Industry, The Availability of Optical Glasses, Glass Requirements of the Optical Manufacturer, and Crystal-Growing for Optical Purposes. The program committee is attempting to leave afternoons free for recreation, except as this time may be required for committee meetings and similar activities. Presentation of the Frederic Ives Medal will be made at the annual dinner, which will be held on Friday evening, October 15. The meeting will be open to non-members as well as members of the society. Further information may be obtained from Dr. L. B. Tuckerman, secretary of the Optical Society of America, National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C.

THE forty-fifth annual meeting of the American Psychological Association will be held at the University of Minnesota under the presidency of Professor Edward Chace Tolman, of the University of California, from September 1 to 4.

THE American Chemical Society will meet at Rochester on September 6, not on September 11, as stated in the issue of SCIENCE for July 9. The meeting will continue through September 10. The headquarters will be the Seneca Hotel and all the meetings of the divisions will be held in the downtown section of Rochester as close to headquarters as satisfactory rooms can be found.

THE ninth annual meeting of the Society of Rheology will be held at Akron, Ohio, on October 22 and 23. A correspondent writes: "A member society of the American Institute of Physics, the Society of Rheology is a relatively small group concerning itself with the flow of matter under stress. Specific properties studied include viscosity, plasticity, consistency, elasticity and others of like nature. These properties are of great interest to a wide variety of industries since many products depend for their perfection upon flow characteristics, as well as to those in academic research since many fundamental concepts can be based upon observed stress-flow relations. Discussions in this group are invariably free and enlightening. It is felt that many physicists actively interested in rheology have failed, through oversight, to avail themselves of opportunities offered by the Society of Rheology. It is hoped that these physicists will plan to attend the Akron meeting."

THE fourth International Leprosy Conference, of which Dr. Victor G. Heiser is president, will be held in Cairo, Egypt, beginning on March 21, 1938. This conference is being organized by the International Leprosy Association and is the first international conference to be arranged by this association since its inauguration in 1931. Three previous conferences have been held—at Berlin in 1897, at Bergen in 1909 and at Strasbourg in 1923. The Egyptian Government is inviting all countries concerned to send official delegates. In addition to these, physicians and others interested in the subject are invited to be present. Full information can be obtained from the Secretary of the International Leprosy Association, 131 Baker Street, London, W.1.

WE learn from the *Journal* of the American Medical Association that the second International Congress for Protecting Children will be held at Rome, from October 4 to 8. The first one was held at Paris in 1933. The welfare of children will be discussed in separate sections from social, forensic, hygienic and sanitary points of view. The topic for discussion at the hygienic and sanitary sections will be prevention of infant mortality due to nutritional diseases, establishment of climatic colonies for children of preschool age, care of the health of European children living in colonies, physical education of children attending grammar schools and the prevention of inferiority in the health of illegitimate children. The general secretary to the congress is Professor G. B. Allaria, of the pediatric clinic of Turin. Shortly before the congress takes place, the fourth International Congress of Pediatrics will be held in Rome.

THE twenty-fourth annual meeting of the French Hygiene Congress will be held on October 18 and 19 in the Pasteur Institute, Paris. The president this year is Dr. Lesné, a pediatrician. The subjects selected for special discussion are: (1) overworked school children from the medical, social and administrative points of view, (2) prophylaxis of tuberculosis in schools, (3) backward children in city schools and (4) healthful milk. Those who wish to take part in the program may write to Dr. R. Dujarric de la Rivière, 28 rue du Docteur-Roux, Paris (15).

THE quarterly meeting of the Grand Council of the British Empire Cancer Campaign was held on July 12. *Nature* states that on the recommendation of the Scientific Advisory Committee, the following grants were approved: £500 to Dr. P. M. F. Bishop, at Guy's Hospital, for the expenses for one year of certain investigations in regard to endocrine therapy in relation to cancer; £250 to Professor G. I. Finch, at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, for the expenses of an investigation, on behalf of the Scientific Advisory Committee, into the nature and structure of carcinogenic compounds; and £160 to Dr. P. R. Peacock, at the Glasgow Royal Cancer Hospital, for the purchase of special apparatus for the continuation of his cancer research. On the recommendation of the Joint Committee of the Campaign and of Mount Vernon Hospital, Dr. G. Cranston Fairchild was reappointed the William Morris research fellow in radiology at that hospital for a further period of one year. The William Morris research fellowship was established five years ago by a donation of £25,000 by Lord Nuffield.

DISCUSSION

A NEW HOUSEHOLD PALM, NEANTHE BELLA

A GRACEFUL diminutive palm discovered in eastern Guatemala in 1902 has proved well adapted to household cultivation, flowering and seeding freely under living-room conditions, enriching domestic life. Millions of people in all civilized countries are devoted to the care of house plants, finding solace in an indoor exercise of the gardening instinct that opened to our remote ancestors the course of human progress. Palms have special attractions of form and sentiment, though most of the tropical species are difficult to domesticate and rarely reach the fruiting stage, even in large conservatories.

The name Neanthe means youthful-flowering, alluding to inflorescences often appearing on plants only two or three years old, and to a like precocity of the early seedling leaves, in having the same pinnate form as the leaves of older plants. Most kinds of palms have simple grass-like leaves at first, and several years may elapse before the palm-like "character-leaves" appear that render the plants attractive. The successive leaf-forms are supposed to recapitulate the course of plant evolution, like the embryonic characters of animals. The historic Chamaerops palm at Padua drew Goethe's attention in September, 1786, to the basic concept of morphology and evolution, "the original identity of all of the parts of plants."

Suppression of the preliminary leaf-forms greatly facilitates the use of Neanthe as a household palm; even the young plants only a few inches high having a notable grace and beauty that warrant the name *bella,* rendered by Valpy as "pretty, charming, fine, neat, nice." Other "dwarf" palms are known, some