August 10 at the age of seventy-nine years. He was president of the Australian National Research Council from 1911 to 1913 and was president of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science in 1911 and 1912.

DR. JOHN GORDON THOMSON, professor of medical protozoology in the London School of Tropical Medicine, died on August 14 at the age of sixty years. Dr. Thomson was exchange lecturer in protozoology in the School of Hygiene at the Johns Hopkins University in 1926.

PROFESSOR DAVID MORGAN LEWIS, emeritus professor of physics at University College, Aberystwyth, died on July 28 at the age of eighty-five years.

PROFESSOR ALFRED WILM, of the faculty of engineering of the University of Göttingen, discoverer of duralumin, died on August 11 at the age of sixty-eight years.

The Experiment Station Record states that ground has been broken for a new building for the New York State Veterinary College at Cornell University to be named in honor of the late Dean Veranus A. Moore. It is expected that this building will be completed about May 1, 1938, at a cost of about $300,000.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. WALTHER NERNST, professor of physics at the University of Berlin, and Dr. Hans Horst Meyer, professor of pharmacology at the University of Vienna, celebrated this month the fiftieth anniversary of their doctorates.

THE Mittag-Leffler medal of the Mathematical Institute at Stockholm has been awarded to Dr. David Hilbert, professor of mathematics at the University of Göttingen.

SIR NAPIER SHAW, formerly director of the British Meteorological Office and honorary president of the Commission for the Exploration of the Upper Air, received the honorary degree of doctor of science at the recent celebration of the centenary of the University of Athens.

THE Royal Society of Edinburgh has awarded the Gunning Victoria Jubilee Prize for the period 1932–36 to Professor C. G. Darwin, master of Christ's College, Cambridge, formerly Tait professor of natural philosophy in the University of Edinburgh, for his "distinguished contributions in mathematical physics."

AT a meeting of the Royal College of Physicians, London, the Baly gold medal was presented to Professor E. L. Kennaway for his biochemical investigations, which have led to the identification of a group of substances provoking malignant growth of tissues and having relations in structure to certain hormones and vitamins. At the same meeting Sir Edward Mellanby was appointed Harveian orator for 1938. Sir Arthur Hurst will deliver the Harveian Oration for 1937 on October 18.

DR. HUGH H. YOUNG, professor of urology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, was presented with the Keyes gold medal of the American Association of Genito-Urinary Surgeons during its recent annual meeting in Quebec.

A GOLDEN anniversary reunion dinner and reception was given on June 12 by the alumni of the Agricultural College of the University of Vermont to Dean J. L. Hills, director.

IN honor of Dr. Henry K. Pancoast, who has held the chair of roentgenology at the University of Pennsylvania since it was established twenty-five years ago, the issue for July of the *American Journal of Roentgenology and Radium Therapy* was dedicated to him.

THE annual corporation meeting of the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory was held at Gothic, Colo., on July 15. The following officers were elected for the year 1937–38: *President,* Dr. A. O. Weese, professor of zoology, University of Oklahoma; *Vice-president,* Dr. Frances Ramaley, professor of botany and head of the department of biology, University of Colorado; *Secretary,* C. H. Stone, attorney-at-law, Gunnison, Colo.; *Treasurer,* George W. Hunter, III, assistant professor of biology, Wesleyan University, Conn.; *Trustee* (for five years), A. Richards, professor of zoology and director of the Biological Survey of the University of Oklahoma; *Director,* John C. Johnson, professor of biology and head of the division of science, Pennsylvania State Teachers College, West Chester.

THE British Institution of Electrical Engineers has elected the following officers: *President,* Sir George Lee; *Vice-presidents,* Sir Noel Ashbridge and J. R. Beard; *Honorary Treasurer,* W. McClelland.

DR. M. H. JACOBS, professor of general physiology at the University of Pennsylvania, presented his resignation as director of the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole at the annual meeting of the corporation on August 11. Dr. Jacobs was appointed associate director of the laboratory in 1925, becoming director in 1926.

DR. DONALD M. HETLER, assistant professor of bacteriology and immunology and of public health, Wash-

ington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, has been appointed head of a new department of bacteriology and public health at the University of Montana, Missoula.

G. S. HARSHFIELD, assistant professor in the department of animal hygiene and animal pathology at the North Dakota Agricultural College for the past seven years, has become assistant professor of pathology in the division of veterinary medicine of the Colorado State Agricultural College, Fort Collins.

DR. W. M. SANDSTROM has been promoted to an associate professorship in the Division of Agricultural Biochemistry of the University of Minnesota.

DR. F. WOOD JONES, professor of anatomy in the University of Melbourne, has been appointed professor of anatomy in the University of Manchester, to succeed Professor J. S. B. Stopford, who is now vice-chancellor of the university.

SECRETARY WALLACE has appointed Milton S. Eisenhower coordinator in the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The work on flood control, erosion work, forestry, soil surveys and the purchase and use of land has been placed under his direction in order that the department may be in a position to carry out any large flood relief or similar program of which the Congress may approve.

LEONARD W. WING, research assistant in wild-life management at the University of Wisconsin, has joined the Biological Readjustment Unit of the Tennessee Valley Authority as game manager of the Norris Reservoir Area.

DR. EDYTHE P. HERSHEY, director of the child health and maternity divisions of the Texas State Health Department, has been appointed a member of the staff of the division of maternal and child health in the Children's Bureau of the U. S. Department of Labor to make a special study of facilities for maternal care. Dr. Hershey was formerly director of school health in the Dallas school system.

PERCY H. WALKER has retired from the National Bureau of Standards, with which he has been connected since 1917, and is now associated with John T. Lewis and Bros. Company, a subsidiary of the National Lead Company, as consulting chemist. His headquarters will continue to be in Washington, D. C.

DR. T. SMITH TAYLOR, professor of physics at Washington and Jefferson College, Washington, Pa., has been appointed manager of the engineering laboratory and experimental department of the Diehl Manufacturing Company, the electrical division of the Singer Manufacturing Company, Elizabethport, N. J.

C. F. H. ALLEN, associate professor of chemistry at McGill University, has resigned to become assistant superintendent of the Eastman Kodak Company, in charge of research in synthetic organic chemistry. At its convocation McGill University conferred upon Dr. Allen the degree of doctor of science.

DR. HOWARD A. KELLY, emeritus professor of gynecology at the Johns Hopkins University, has been named honorary chairman and Thomas F. Cadwalader, chairman, of the bicentennial committee of the Univerversity of Pennsylvania in the Baltimore district. The committee will assist in planning the program for the two hundredth anniversary of the university in 1940, as well as aiding in strengthening its present facilities.

R. H. WESTVELD, assistant professor of forestry in the University of Missouri, has been appointed chairman of a committee that will make a study of farm forestry in the United States, under the direction of the Society of American Foresters. The group will concern itself with educating farmers on how to preserve their woodland, replant it and market the timber.

AT the University of Cambridge, representatives at various centenary celebrations have been appointed. The vice-chancellor of the university will take the place of the late Sir Edwyn Hoskyns at the four-hundredth anniversary of the foundation of St. Mary's College, St. Andrews, at the end of September; Dr. F. W. Aston, Trinity College, and Dr. J. D. Cockcroft, St. John's College, have been appointed to represent the university in Bologna on October 18 at the celebration of the bicentenary of the birth of Galvani, and Dr. Cockcroft and Professor R. G. W. Norrish, Emmanuel College, will attend the Congrès du Palais de la Decouverte, to be held in Paris between September 30 and October 7.

AT a recent meeting in London of the Royal College of Physicians the following were appointed representatives of the college: Sir Humphry Rolleston, on the executive committee of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund; Dr. Edwin Bramwell, on the council of King's College, Newcastle; Lieutenant-Colonel Hugh Stott, delegate to the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of the University of Allahabad; Professor F. R. Fraser and Dr. A. H. Proctor, dean of the British Postgraduate Medical School, delegate to the International Congress for Medical Postgraduate Study; Dr. W. S. C. Copeman, delegate to the centenary of the Royal Medical Society of Budapest, and Lord Horder, its president, delegate to the International Cremation Congress, London.

THE Minnesota Academy of Science held its annual summer field trip on July 24, making a visit to the Anoka San Plain north of the Twin Cities. Drs. Cooper, Rosendahl, Breckenridge, Dawson and Swan-

son acted as guides to explain the various geological, botanical and zoological features encountered.

THE seventy-second meeting of the Electrochemical Society will be held at St. Louis from October 13 to 16.

THE annual field meeting of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers will be held at Vancouver, B. C., in conjunction with the annual meeting of the British Columbia Section of the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy during the week beginning on September 13. Members of the American Institute, who recently completed annual business sessions at New York, will be entertained on a two-day inspection tour of the mining area of British Columbia. Premier T. D. Pattullo will speak at luncheon on the first day of the meeting. In the evening a motion picture on gold mining, supplied by the Department of Mines and Resources at Ottawa, will be shown. On Tuesday, the delegates will go to Victoria, where they will be received at Government House by Lieutenant-Governor Eric W. Hamber. The American delegates will take charge of technical sessions on Wednesday, when the luncheon address will be made by Dr. J. W. Finch, director of the United States Bureau of Mines, and a description of operations at Nabosna Gold Mine in Alaska will be given by Philip H. Holdsworth. On Thursday Dr. W. A. Carrothers, head of the Economic Council of the Government of British Columbia, will discuss the relationship between the provincial mineral output and world markets, and R. H. Coats, Dominion statistician, will give an address entitled "Mining in Our National Economy." On Friday morning a technical session will be devoted to a symposium on silicosis.

The Experiment Station Record reports that an Advisory Committee on Research of the U. S. Department of Agriculture has been set up by Secretary Henry A. Wallace, consisting of F. D. Richey, H. G. Knight, J. R. Mohler and L. A. Strong, chiefs, respectively, of the Bureau of Plant Industry, the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, the Bureau of Animal Industry and the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, and E. N. Bressman, of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. This committee will advise the secretary and director of research on such specific research problems as may be assigned them from time to time. It will also, upon its own initiative, survey the field of research within the department with a view to developing uniform research project systems and to obtaining an able research personnel. The *Record* points out that the appointment by transfer from the Soil Conservation Service of Merrill Bernard, hydraulic engineer, to succeed M. W. Hayes, deceased, as chief of the River and Flood Division of the Weather Bureau, marks a new departure of the bureau, namely, the selection of a hydrologist rather than a meteorologist as the head of one of its important divisions. The severe floods of the last few years have shown the need of hydrologists in the task of developing new flood-forecasting methods.

ACCORDING to a correspondent of the London *Times* the research ship, *Discovery II,* which has been in the Antarctic since October, 1935, returned to Plymouth on May 24 after an absence of twenty months, during which she sailed 50,000 miles. The investigators on board have been making a study of the smaller forms of sea life and the distribution of whales in the Antarctic. Particular attention has been paid to the small shrimp-like creatures on which the whales feed. During the first eight months, the ship was to have circumnavigated the Antarctic Continent, but when she reached the edge of the ice south of West Australia she was summoned to take part in the search for Mr. Lincoln Ellsworth. Subsequently, the plans for the *Discovery* were changed and observations were made on the hydrology and biology of the Ross Sea. Afterwards, similar work was undertaken south of Australia, across the Indian Ocean and in the eastern part of the Atlantic. Apart from the investigation into currents and temperatures, the result of this voyage is shown in specimens of minute sea life which have been brought home and which will be studied by experts. Some of the specimens were brought up from a depth of three miles.

THE sixteenth Arctic expedition, under the command of Donald B. MacMillan, sailed from Gloucester, Mass., on June 24 on the fishing schooner *Gertrude L. Thebaud.* The expedition, which is expected to last ten weeks, planned to learn whether the Baffin Land ice caps are remnants of a glacier that covered most of this continent during the Ice Age, to go to Frobisher Bay to examine a mountain covered with fossils, to study game birds in Baffin Land and to make a biological survey of Resolution Island, most portions of which had never been visited. A telegram sent to *The New York Times,* dated July 24, reads in part: "We worked through the ice in Hudson Straits to Resolution Island and found it to be a mass of islands instead of one. A conservative estimate makes it a group consisting of at least 500 islands. We found the group to be very interesting scientifically, botanically and geologically. This undoubtedly will necessitate change in maps, navigation charts and atlases," which now show Resolution to be a single island about 175 miles long and 50 miles wide. Six investigators, accompanied by twenty students from various institutions, are taking part in the expedition. The former are Professor Martin J. Berger, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Dr. Davis Potter, botanist of

Clark University; Dr. Alfred O. Gross, ornithologist of Bowdoin College; V. C. Wynne-Edwards, zoologist of McGill University; Harold Peters, biologist of the U. S. Biological Survey, and Dr. Kenneth Sewell, anthropologist of the Massachusetts Memorial Hospital.

A LARGE collection of the mammals, birds, reptiles and plants of Panama has been brought to the U. S. National Museum by Dr. Gerrit S. Miller, Jr., curator of mammals at the Smithsonian Institution. By accompanying detachments of U. S. Army engineers engaged in cutting new roads through the jungle, Dr. Miller was able to secure a considerable variety of epiphytes, or air plants, which grow in the tops of trees often more than 100 feet above the ground. He also obtained a large number of bats by visits to the Chilibrillo bat caves just north of the Canal Zone proper. Among the mammals secured were eight porpoises from the Pacific Coast of Panama. The types of these sea mammals along the coast of Southern California are fairly well known, and collections have been made off the western coast of South America. Little has been known of those dwelling in what might prove to be a transition zone. Dr. Miller made a special effort to secure a collection of the "night monkeys" of the Panama jungle to supplement the collection in the National Museum. The expedition also made a trip to the Pearl Islands, about fifty miles west of Panama City. The collection brought back to Washington includes about 450 mammals, 150 birds, 150 reptiles and amphibians and 400 specimen sheets of plants.

C. S. HOWARD, of the U. S. Geological Survey, and members of the Bureau of Reclamation recently sent to Washington samples collected at several points in Lake Mead for study of conditions of temperature, composition of the water and quantity of suspended matter at different depths of the lake. Previous observations showed the presence of suspended matter near the bottom of the lake in the vicinity of Boulder Dam and these later observations show that a comparatively large quantity of suspended matter was present in the lower ten per cent. of the depth of the lake at one point 20 miles above the dam and at another point 50 miles above the dam.

AN audit of returns from oil and gas properties under Federal lease and prospecting permit, completed in the Washington office of the Conservation Branch, U. S. Geological Survey, discloses production of 3,500,549 barrels of petroleum, 7,222,066,000 cubic feet of natural gas and 9,642,220 gallons of natural gasoline, having an aggregate royalty value of $545,202.14, from public lands and naval reserves during the month of March, 1937. Compared with the corresponding figures for March, 1936, these returns show increase of 13 per cent. in petroleum produced, of 4 per cent. in natural gas produced and 3 per cent. in natural gasoline produced and of 9 per cent. in royalty and rental accruals.

DISCUSSION

MAHOMET AND THE MOUNTAIN

TO-DAY the great public has an even more naive idea of the evolution and course of life on the globe than that satirized in the "Princess of Babylon" by Voltaire nearly two hundred years ago.

> "Sire," answered the Phoenix, "I am not old enough to have an opinion about antiquity. I have not lived more than about 27,000 years, but my father, who was five times as old, had it from his ancestors that the generations of all animals started on the banks of the Ganges. For my part I am not conceited enough to hold this opinion. I can not believe that the foxes of Albion, the marmots of the Alps, and the wolves of Gaul come from my country; and I do not believe either that the firs and oaks of your country are descendant from the palms and cocos palms of the Indies."

In attempting to broaden the ideas of people over and above schools, we are certainly much dependent on our series of national parks and monuments. In developing them, therefore, we should omit all that is merely grandiose, even if it come from the heads of dignified research institutions. We should confine ourselves entirely to the plain and the concrete—that which rests in its own dignity, that which will speak now and to the future in terms of dollars.

Fulfilling such requirements, not one of our national monuments is more outstanding than Fossil Cycad National Monument, as briefly told in SCIENCE last March 19. It has been for some years the lively expectation that a plain, exceedingly simple and dignified museum might be put on the main mesa front and that the area would be submarginally added to up to at least one square mile. In fact, this has been the plan and virtually the only plan discussed for some time. Of course, at present the chief thing against it, as Senator Joseph T. Robinson said, is "the concerted drive among members of Congress for economy in the National Government."

Nevertheless, I have just received from Harry Slattery, personal assistant to the Secretary of the Interior, the following statement in somewhat different tone, of date July 23:

> The Department appreciates your untiring efforts in behalf of Fossil Cycad National Monument but it can not agree with you regarding the development which you propose. A $95,000 expenditure on this monument now is not consistent with the best interests of the program of