

He was appointed professor of botany and chairman of the department of botany at Missouri in 1919. In the summer of 1924 he spent three months working with Dr. E. T. Bartholomew on internal decline, or endoxerosis, of lemons, at the Citrus Experiment Station of the University of California.

Beginning in August, 1928, he was associated for two years with the European office of the Rockefeller Foundation, assisting in the fellowship program, a duty which took him into the scientific laboratories of all European countries, including Russia, with the exception of Spain, Portugal, Greece and Turkey.

He was appointed dean of the Graduate School of the University of Missouri in 1930 and served as acting president of the institution from September, 1933, to May, 1934. He has been a member of the staff of the Marine Biological Laboratory for many years and was chairman of the National Research Fellowship Board in the Biological Sciences since 1931.

Dr. Robbins is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi, Phi Kappa Phi, Gamma Alpha, and the honorary agricultural fraternity, Gamma Sigma Delta. He is also a Mason and a member of the Presbyterian church. This year the honorary degree of doctor of science was conferred upon him by Lehigh University.

Mrs. Robbins, who was formerly Christine F. Chapman, of Springfield, Mass., is also a botanist and a member of Phi Beta Kappa. At Wellesley, from where she was

graduated in 1912, she majored in botany under Dr. Margaret Ferguson. In 1914 she received an A.M. degree from Cornell in plant physiology and then returned to Wellesley to teach in the botany department. The following year she was married to Dr. Robbins.

They have three sons: Frederick Chapman, who received his A.B. from Missouri last year and is now completing his second year of medicine; William Clinton, who will graduate from the high school at Columbia, Missouri, next spring, and Daniel Harvey, who will enter senior high school in the fall.

The results of Dr. Robbins's more than twenty years of research have been published in some forty articles which have appeared in the *American Journal of Botany*, *Botanical Gazette*, *SCIENCE*, *Soil Science*, and other periodicals. In collaboration with H. W. Rickett he has written "Laboratory Instructions for General Botany" and "Botany, A Text-book for University and College Students," both of which were published by D. Van Nostrand and Company. During the current year nine articles have appeared under his authorship, including: "Effect of 3-indole Acetic Acid on Cell Walls of Stem and Root" with John R. Jackson in the *American Journal of Botany*; "Vitamin B, and the Growth of Excised Tomato Roots" with Mary A. Bartley in *SCIENCE*; "Plant Hormones" in *School Science and Mathematics*, and "The Assimilation by Plants of Various Forms of Nitrogen" in the *American Journal of Botany*.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

A LUNCHEON in honor of the eightieth birthday of Dr. William Hovgaard, professor emeritus of naval design at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and consultant in naval construction, was given on November 27 at the Hotel Astor, New York City, under the sponsorship of the American Society of Danish Engineers, the Danish Officers Club and the Danish Luncheon Club, at which a number of naval officers and Danish engineers were present. Folmer Anderson, president of the American Society of Danish Engineers, presented to Professor Hovgaard a framed picture of *The Vigilant*, a Danish schooner used in fighting privateers off the Virgin Islands.

Nature reports that, after fifty years devoted to teaching and research, Professor Charles Fabry, distinguished for his work in optics, is retiring from the chair he has held in the Sorbonne, Paris. It was planned to celebrate his scientific jubilee by a meeting to be held at the Sorbonne some time between November 23 and December 5. The committee in charge of the arrangements has approved the design of a Fabry Jubilee Medal. It is also hoped to be able to publish in volume form some of Professor Fabry's works, selected from his classical memoirs and from his unprinted researches.

DR. HENRY A. PILSBRY, curator of the department

of mollusks at The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, celebrated, on December 1, his fiftieth anniversary as a member of the staff. During this period he has made twenty-three field trips and expeditions to various parts of the United States, Mexico, Hawaii, Australia, Central America, the Caribbean and the islands of the Southern Pacific in 1929. In addition to his editorship of the *Nautilus* and the "Manual of Conchology," Dr. Pilsbry has written some 800 scientific papers. He is now at work on a manual of the land mollusks of the United States.

A DINNER in honor of Dr. Marie Reimer, professor of chemistry; Dr. Harry L. Hollingworth, professor of psychology, and Dr. Edmund W. Sinnott, professor of botany, of Barnard College, Columbia University, was given recently by the Barnard College Club. Dean Virginia C. Gildersleeve presided, and addresses were made by the guests of honor.

A TESTIMONIAL dinner was tendered on November 21 by the trustees of Brooklyn College of Pharmacy to Dr. Hugo H. Schaefer, the newly elected dean of the college.

GEORGE M. L. SOMMERMAN, formerly an engineering student at the Johns Hopkins University, has been awarded the Alfred Noble prize of \$500 for a paper entitled "Properties of Saturants for Paper-insulated

Cables." The award, which was established in 1929, is made annually for a paper accepted by the publication committee of five engineering groups. The author must be under thirty years of age. The money for the award comes from a fund contributed by engineers in honor of the late Alfred Noble, past president of the American Society of Civil Engineers and of the Western Society of Engineers.

ROBERT E. SNODGRASS, senior entomologist of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, U. S. Department of Agriculture, has been elected an honorary fellow of the Royal Entomological Society of London. Honorary membership in this society is limited to twelve. Other Americans who have been elected honorary fellows are Dr. L. O. Howard, formerly chief of the Bureau of Entomology, and the late Professor W. M. Wheeler, of Harvard University.

THE "Adlerschild" of the German Empire has been awarded to Dr. Bernhard Nocht, professor of tropical hygiene at the University of Hamburg.

OFFICERS to be installed at the Minneapolis meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association are: *President*, J. Leon Lascoff, New York, N. Y.; *First Vice-president*, A. O. Mickelsen, Portland, Ore.; *Second Vice-president*, Geo. A. Moulton, Peterborough, N. H.; *Members of the Council*, Roy B. Cook, Charleston, W. Va., Glenn L. Jenkins, Minneapolis, Minn., and R. L. Swain, Baltimore, Md.

At a meeting of the New York Academy of Medicine on December 3 Dr. Benjamin P. Watson was elected vice-president of the academy to succeed Dr. Herbert B. Wilcox, who was elected a trustee. Dr. Frederic E. Sondern, formerly president of the Medical Society of the State of New York, was reelected a trustee.

OFFICERS of the Cambridge Philosophical Society for 1937-38 are: *President*, Sir F. Gowland Hopkins; *Vice-presidents*, Dr. C. G. Darwin, F. P. White, Professor J. Gray; *Treasurer*, Dr. J. D. Cockcroft; *Secretaries*, A. H. Wilson, Dr. O. M. B. Bulman, J. A. Ratcliffe; *New Members of the Council*, Dr. N. Feather, Dr. C. F. A. Pantin, E. N. Willmer.

DR. WALTER H. DURFEE, professor of mathematics and head of the department of mathematics at Hobart College, has been appointed dean of the college, the appointment to take effect on September 1, 1938. He will succeed Dr. Milton Haight Turk, a member of the faculty since 1890 and dean since 1925. Dr. Durfee is the son of Dean Emeritus William Pitt Durfee, professor of mathematics, the first dean of Hobart College.

DR. N. J. BERRILL and Dr. V. C. Wynne-Edwards have been placed in charge of the department of zoology at McGill University pending the appointment of a successor to fill the vacancy created by the death

of Dr. H. B. Fantham, Stratheona professor of zoology and head of the department. Dr. Annie Porter Fantham, wife of the late Dr. Fantham, is continuing in the department as a research fellow.

PROFESSOR A. J. ALLMAND has been appointed, from August 1, 1938, to the Daniell chair of chemistry at King's College, University of London.

THE title of emeritus professor has been conferred by the University of London on Professor Thomas Yeates, on his retirement from the S. A. Courtauld chair of anatomy at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School.

DR. LIVINGSTON FARRAND, president emeritus of Cornell University, has been elected a member of the board of governors of the Society of the New York Hospital. Dr. Farrand will be one of the twenty-four governors constituting the board, and the three hundred and seventy-sixth member to be elected since the society received the charter from George III in 1771.

C. H. PIERCE, senior engineer of the Geological Survey, has been temporarily detailed to the National Resources Committee to assist the special subcommittee of the Science Committee in the investigation that is being conducted of the relations of government to research. The work of this special subcommittee is being carried on under the direction of Dr. B. M. Woods, of the University of California. Walter B. Langbein, assistant engineer of the Geological Survey, is also assisting in this work on a part-time basis.

DR. ERIC PONDER, of the Marine Biological Laboratories at Cold Spring Harbor, L. I., was elected president of the American Medical Graduates' Club of the University of Edinburgh at the second annual reunion, held on November 28. A cablegram of greeting from Sir Thomas Holland, principal of the University of Edinburgh, was read at the meeting.

THE following scientific men were present on November 22 at a dinner given in London of the General Council of the British Trades Union Congress: Sir John Orr, Professor J. B. S. Haldane, Professor P. M. Blackett, Professor G. Barger, Professor Lancelot Hogben, Professor A. C. G. Egerton, Sir Frederick Hopkins, Dr. J. D. Bernal, Sir Richard Gregory, Professor P. G. H. Boswell, Sir Daniel Hall and Professor F. G. Donnan. The gathering had been arranged so that the General Council might consult with representative scientific men on the possibility of establishing a Scientific Advisory Council.

DR. CHARLES R. STOCKARD, professor of anatomy at Cornell University Medical College, on December 3 gave the first of two lectures in the newly established Joseph Collins research lectureship, endowed by Dr. Collins for promulgating knowledge in the field of

neurology and neuro-psychiatry. The lecture was the ninety-first anniversary discourse of the New York Academy of Medicine.

DR. CECIL K. DRINKER, professor of physiology in the School of Public Health of Harvard University, will deliver the third Harvey Society lecture of the current series at the New York Academy of Medicine on December 16. Dr. Drinker will speak on "The Functional Significance of the Lymphatic System."

DR. ISAIAH BOWMAN, president of the Johns Hopkins University, will deliver the inaugural address at the installation of Dr. Oliver C. Carmichael on February 3, 1938, as chancellor of Vanderbilt University.

PROFESSOR STEPHEN TIMOSHENKO, of Stanford University, will lecture at the Iowa State College on December 13 on "Recent Research Work in European Material Testing Laboratories," at a meeting of the local chapter of Sigma Xi. He will speak also under the auspices of the Graduate College on "Impact Effect on Bridges."

THE new laboratory near Lansing of the Michigan State Department of Health, which was built at a cost of \$250,000, was dedicated on November 12. Dr. Frederick G. Novy, dean emeritus of the medical school of the university, who assisted in establishing the first public health laboratory of the state in 1887, gave the address at a banquet given under the auspices of the Michigan branch of the Society of American Bacteriologists and directors of registered laboratories.

A CONFERENCE to collate the results of researches in the combustion and economy of anthracite together with experience in its production, preparation, distribution and utilization will be held on April 29 and 30 at Lehigh University. Reports on some of the non-fuel uses of anthracite will also be included in the program. The conference, which is expected to bring together authorities in the field, has been assured the support and cooperation of leaders in the anthracite industry. Professor Howard Eckfeldt, head of the department of mining, and Allen Johnson, research engineer, are in charge of arrangements for the conference.

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association reports that the California Medical Association has prepared a program of graduate education to be de-

livered throughout the state over a five-year period. The conferences will be clinical and not didactic. The University of California, Stanford University, the University of Southern California and the College of Medical Evangelists will cooperate with the state medical association by making available members of the faculties as instructors for these conferences. The California Tuberculosis Association, the California Heart Association and the Los Angeles County Clinical Statistical Association, on request, will recommend members of their organizations for teaching tuberculosis and heart disease. In addition to the specialties, the courses will cover abdominal disease, diseases of metabolism, genito-urinary and venereal infections, diseases of the central nervous system, laboratory equipment and technique, drugs, vaccines and serum.

UNDER the terms of the will of Mrs. John V. Hansen more than \$250,000 will ultimately become the property of Lehigh University. The will directs that on the death of Mr. Hansen the principal be turned over to Lehigh University as a scholarship fund in memory of her father, the late James Clark Haydon, coal mine owner of Hazleton, Pa.

THE new state cancer hospital authorized by the 1937 legislature of Missouri will be constructed in Columbia, conditional on the city donating a 40-acre site, which already has been tendered to the state without cost. Construction work will be started next spring, as soon as weather conditions permit. It is estimated that about 18 months will be required to complete the hospital. The legislature appropriated \$400,000 for construction of buildings, \$100,000 for equipment and \$100,000 for maintenance for one year.

GUY'S HOSPITAL, London, has received a gift of £43,000 from "Five Friends" for the provision of a psychiatric clinic. The clinic will deal with minor mental illnesses and with major mental illnesses which are not certifiable. The new building will be erected within the grounds of the hospital and will provide forty-two beds for patients of moderate means, in addition to the six beds which are already provided by the hospital for psychiatric cases. The clinic will be the first of the kind in Great Britain to be associated with a general teaching hospital and will provide opportunities for investigation which can not be obtained in any other way.

DISCUSSION

CRYSTALLIZED VITAMIN C AND HEXURONIC ACID

THE well-merited award to Albert von Szent-Györgyi of the 1937 Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine "for his discovery of the biological processes

of oxidation with special regard to vitamin C and the fumaric acid catalyses" is erroneously interpreted in many quarters solely as an award for the identification of vitamin C. Reports on crystalline vitamin C are sufficiently clear that no such interpretation should