SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

STUDY OF THE GULF STREAM

THE Bermuda Biological Station and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution have undertaken a cooperative investigation of the long period fluctuations in strength of the Gulf Stream. The ultimate purpose of these studies is to learn whether or not the circulation of the ocean varies sufficiently from year to year to be an important factor either in the climate of northern Europe or in the success of the fishing on both sides of the North Atlantic.

Dr. J. G. F. Wheeler, director of the Bermuda Biological Station, who has just returned from England, stated that the eighty-foot motor yacht *The Culver* has been purchased with a grant of $25,000 from the Development Commission of Great Britain and probably would reach Bermuda in January or February to supplement the work of the Woods Hole vessel, *The Atlantis*.

Dr. Thompson, hydrologist of the John Murray expedition to the Indian Ocean, and Dr. H. V. Moore, of the Marine Biological Station at Plymouth, England, are joining the staff of the Bermuda laboratory to assist Dr. Wheeler during the period of the new project.

The Atlantis began making routine observations last June to follow the changes in volume of the Gulf Stream. When *The Culver* reaches Bermuda she will gradually take over some of this work. Data covering a period of at least five years will be needed before it can be known whether or not the variations are of sufficient magnitude to be helpful in long-range weather forecasting or in predicting the success of the European fisheries.

The British Development Commission is providing $17,500 annually for five years to permit the Bermuda Biological Station to carry out her share of the program. The various fisheries officials on both sides of the North Atlantic have agreed to help in correlating the variations in the catch with the temperature changes over the fishing banks that may result from the fluctuations of the major ocean currents.

It may be of interest to add that this new grant to the Bermuda laboratory was obtained by a special committee of the Royal Society which had been formed to help to develop Bermuda as an oceanographic base. At the same time that the observations for the physical program are being secured, a general biological survey of the Sargasso Sea will be carried out under Dr. Wheeler's direction.

COLUMBUS ISELIN

THE HARVARD UNIVERSITY COLLECTION OF GLASS FLOWERS

THE Harvard collection of glass flowers, one of the best known and most interesting exhibits in the university, according to the *Harvard Alumni Bulletin*, will probably receive no more additions, as Rudolph Blaschka, in whose studio at Hosterwitz, Germany, all the glass flowers have been made during the past fifty years, has been compelled to give up work because of age and impaired vision. He is eighty years old. The models now in the Harvard Museum represent about 720 species of flowering plants and more than 3,000 sections and magnified details.

It was in 1887 that Rudolph Blaschka and his father, Leopold, who died in 1895, sent the first small shipment of the glass flowers to Harvard. Since then the entire output of the studio has come to the university. The Blaschkas have done all the work alone, without the aid of an assistant or apprentice, and with Rudolph Blaschka's retirement there will be no one to continue the production. The last shipment, which consisted of fifteen fruit models, came in September, 1936.

Professor Oakes Ames, director of the Botanical Museum, says in his annual report: "A prolonged illness, and impaired vision brought about by the exacting nature of his art, have compelled Mr. Blaschka to cease work indefinitely. Indeed it is doubtful that he will add materially to the collection to which he has devoted the greater part of a long life. It is gratifying to report that Mr. Blaschka may look forward to a comfortable retirement through the generous terms of Miss Mary Lee Ware's bequest to the Botanic Museum."

Miss Ware, who died last January, made a bequest of $300,000 to support Rudolph Blaschka and his wife, to preserve the collection and to pay the Botanical Museum staff. Miss Ware and her mother, Mrs. Charles Eliot Ware, financed the collection from the beginning in memory of Dr. Charles Eliot Ware, of the class of 1834.

Professor Ames says in his report that more than 200,000 persons, doubtless attracted chiefly by the glass flowers, visit the Botanical Museum every year.

THE PITTSBURGH AWARD

THE Pittsburgh Award for 1937 was conferred upon Dr. Francis C. Frary, director of research of the Aluminum Research Laboratories of the Aluminum Company of America, by the Pittsburgh Section of the American Chemical Society. This honor was last conferred upon Andrew W. Mellon and Richard B. Mellon in recognition of their services to chemistry as evidenced in the founding of the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research. The formal presentation will be made at a meeting of the section on February 24.

Dr. Frary, through his achievements in the metallurgy of aluminum, has helped to bring to Pittsburgh an international reputation for research in metals. He

has been directing research in aluminum ever since he was appointed to his present post in 1918.

Born in Minneapolis, he studied at the University of Minnesota, where the degree of analytical chemist was conferred on him in 1905; a year later he received a master's degree. After studying at the University of Berlin, he joined the teaching staff of the University of Minnesota. His postgraduate work resulted in a doctor's degree, received in 1912.

In 1915 Dr. Frary joined the staff of the Oldbury Electrochemical Company, Niagara Falls, N. Y., as research chemist. There he acquired a special experience in the production of phosgene, which led during the war to his selection, with Professor D. J. Demorest, to build and operate a phosgene plant at Edgewood Arsenal. At the close of the war, Dr. Frary was a major in the Chemical Warfare Service.

In December, 1918, he took up his work as director of research of the Aluminum Company of America. Starting at New Kensington with a small group of men, he gradually built up the Aluminum Research Laboratories to their present position. In the past nineteen years, Dr. Frary made important contributions to the chemistry and metallurgy of aluminum. Among the many achievements which have been credited to him may be mentioned the production, for the first time, of very pure aluminum (99.98+ per cent.) by an electrochemical process, and the production of pure aluminum oxide by an electrothermal process.

THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF TROPICAL MEDICINE

THE fourth annual meeting of the American Academy of Tropical Medicine convened in New Orleans on December 3. At the dinner Dr. George C. Shattuck, department of tropical medicine, Harvard University, Boston, Mass., presided as toastmaster. The presidential address, entitled "The Importance of Environment in the Study of Tropical Diseases," was delivered by Dr. Wilbur A. Sawyer, director of the International Health Division of the Rockefeller Foundation, New York City. The first award of the Theobald Smith Medal of Washington University was made by Colonel Charles F. Craig, past president of the academy, to Dr. Marshall A. Barber, staff member of the International Health Division of the Rockefeller Foundation, for his many significant laboratory and field contributions to tropical medicine. In announcing the award of this medal in the issue of SCIENCE for December 3, an error was made through which the names of Colonel Craig and Dr. Barber were reversed.

Colonel R. A. Kelser, the U. S. Army Medical Research Board, Ancon, Canal Zone; Dr. J. C. Bequaert, department of tropical medicine, Harvard Medical School, and Dr. Norman R. Stoll, Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, Princton, were elected members, and Sir S. Rickard Christophers, London School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, London; Professor Jerome Rodhain, Institut de Médecine Tropicale Prince Léopold, Anvers, Belgium, and Dr. Henrique do Rocha Lima, Instituto Biologico, São Paulo, Brazil, were elected honorary members. Newly elected officers and councillors were as follows: *President,* Colonel Joseph F. Siler, Army Medical School, Washington, D. C.; *Vice-president,* Professor W. W. Cort, School of Hygiene, the Johns Hopkins University; *Secretary,* Professor Ernest Carroll Faust, department of tropical medicine, Tulane University of Louisiana; *Treasurer,* Dr. Thomas T. Mackie, Cornell Medical Center, New York City; *Councillors,* Professor Malcolm H. Soule, Hygienic Laboratory, University of Michigan (1 year); Professor Alfred C. Reed, Pacific Institute of Tropical Medicine, University of California (5 years); academy representative on the council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Dr. Malcolm H. Soule; academy representative on the council of the American Foundation for Tropical Medicine, Dean Earl B. McKinley, George Washington University.

ERNEST CARROLL FAUST,
Secretary

THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS FOR MICROBIOLOGY

THE third International Congress for Microbiology will be held at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York City, from September 2 to 9, 1939, under the auspices of the International Association of Microbiologists.

Dr. T. M. Rivers, of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, is president of the congress; Dr. M. H. Dawson, of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, is general secretary, and Dr. Kenneth Goodner, of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, is general treasurer.

The congress will be composed of the following nine sections:

General Biology: Variation and Taxonomy: convener, C.-E. A. Winslow.

General Biology: Microbiological Chemistry and Physiology: convener, Stuart Mudd.

Viruses and Viral Diseases: convener, W. A. Sawyer.

Rickettsiae and Rickettsial Diseases: convener, Hans Zinsser.

Protozoology and Parasitology: convener, H. W. Stunkard.

Fungi and Fungous Diseases: convener, B. O. Dodge.

Medical and Veterinary Bacteriology: convener, F. P. Gay.

Agricultural and Industrial Microbiology: convener, S. A. Waksman.

Immunology: convener, M. Heidelberger.