The registration fee will be $5.00, which will not include the cost of a banquet ticket or a copy of the *Proceedings* of the congress.

A World's Fair will be held in New York City during the summer of 1939. Consequently, those who wish to attend the Congress for Microbiology should make plans promptly. The American Express Company, the official travel agency for the congress, will be glad to assist in such plans.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

AT the annual meeting of the trustees of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, Dr. John C. Merriam, for the past sixteen years president of the institution, presented his resignation, to take effect at the end of next year. The trustees voted to make Dr. Merriam president emeritus "with a grant sufficient to insure the effective continuation of his research work under the auspices of the institution." The board elected two trustees: Elihu Root, Jr., of New York, to succeed his father, and Henry R. Shepley, of Boston, architect. Trustees who attended the meeting were: Dr. Thomas Barbour, Cambridge, Mass.; James F. Bell, Minneapolis; Robert Woods Bliss, Washington, D. C.; Frederic A. Delano, Washington; W. Cameron Forbes, Boston; Walter S. Gifford, New York; Frank B. Jewett, Charles A. Lindbergh, Boswell Miller, Henry S. Morgan and Stewart Paton, of New York; John J. Pershing, Washington; William Benson Storey, Chicago; Richard P. Strong, Boston; Charles P. Taft, Cincinnati; Frederic C. Walcott, Hartford, Conn., and Dr. Lewis H. Weed, Baltimore.

THE following grants-in-aid have been made by the National Advisory Cancer Council: to Dr. Louis F. Fieser, of Harvard University, $20,550 toward work for a three-year period on the synthesis of carcinogenic compounds; Edward W. Wallace, University of Cincinnati, $4,350, for work over a period of two years on the relation of the anterior pituitary to carcinogenesis; E. O. Lawrence, University of California, $30,000, toward the establishment of a cyclotron laboratory for biological and clinical work with special reference to the treatment of cancer.

MEDALS of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers have been awarded as follows: The medal of the society for 1937 to Edward P. Bullard, president of the Bullard Company, Bridgeport, Conn., for "preeminent leadership in the development of station-type machine tools"; the Holley Medal to Dr. Frederick Gardner Cottrell, of the Research Corporation, Washington, D. C., for his "preeminent service in the invention of electric precipitation, the advancement of the science of gas liquefaction and for his gifts for engineering research"; the Worcester Reed Warner Medal to Clarence F. Hirshfeld, chief of research of the Detroit Edison Company, for "research and contributions to the theory and practice of heat power engineering"; the Melville Medal to Alfred J. Buchi, of Winterthur, Switzerland, for his paper, "Supercharging of Internal Combustion Engines with Blowers Driven by Exhaust-Gas Turbines," and the Charles T. Main Award to Allan P. Stern, of the Colonial Iron Works, Cleveland, for his paper on "The Influence of the Introduction of Labor-Saving Machinery upon Employment in the United States." Lorenzo Allievi, of Rome, who is now eighty-one years old, was elected an honorary member in recognition of his work in hydraulics.

THE Leidy Medal, presented every third year by the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, was awarded on December 7 at a meeting of the council of the academy to Dr. Edwin Linton, research fellow in zoology at the University of Pennsylvania, in recognition of his work on the worm parasites of American marine fishes. The award, a bronze medal and an honorarium, was founded in 1923 in memory of the late Dr. Joseph Leidy, president of the academy from 1882 until his death in 1891. Previous winners of the medal include Professor H. S. Jennings, director of the Biological Laboratories of the Johns Hopkins University; Dr. Henry A. Pilsbry, curator of mollusks at the academy; the late Dr. William Morton Wheeler, and Gerrit Smith Miller, Jr., curator of mammals in the U. S. National Museum at Washington. The committee making the award included Dr. William K. Gregory, of the American Museum of Natural History, *chairman;* Dr. George H. Parker, emeritus professor of zoology, Harvard University; Dr. Alexander G. Ruthven, president of the University of Michigan; Dr. Francis W. Pennell, curator of botany at the academy, and Dr. Philip P. Calvert, professor of zoology at the University of Pennsylvania and research associate of the academy.

THE Gold Scheele Medal of the Swedish Chemical Society, awarded for "outstanding biochemical research," was presented at a meeting held in Stockholm on November 5 to Dr. James B. Sumner, professor of biochemistry at Cornell University, in recognition of his research on enzymes.

ROBERT LINTON, consulting engineer of Los Angeles, Calif., received the degree of doctor of science from Washington and Jefferson College at ceremonies con-

nected with the celebration of Founders' Day. The degree was conferred in recognition of his work in connection with the introduction of methods of technical control in the glass industry; in mining engineering for his work with cyaniding and in the standardization of operations in copper mines, and for his engineering contributions to the clay products industry.

DR. HARVEY NATHANIEL DAVIS, president of Stevens Institute of Technology at Hoboken, N. J., was inducted into the presidency of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers at the fifty-eighth annual meeting on December 6. He succeeded James H. Herron, president of the James H. Herron Company of Cleveland. Vice-presidents elected to serve on the council were: Bennett M. Brigman, dean of the Speed Scientific School of the University of Louisville; Frank O. Hoagland, of Pratt and Whitney; Harte Cooke, of the American Locomotive Company; Warren Horton McBryde, consulting engineer of San Francisco, and L. W. Wallace, director of research for the Crane Company of Chicago.

THE American Society of Agronomy and the Soil Science Society of America held their annual meeting in Chicago from November 30 to December 3. Officers of the American Society of Agronomy elected for next year are: *President,* Emil Truog, University of Wisconsin; *Vice-president,* Ralph J. Garber, Bureau of Plant Industry; *Chairman of the Soils Section,* A. M. O'Neal, Bureau of Plant Industry; *Chairman of the Crops Section,* Ide P. Trotter, Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College; *Editor,* J. D. Luckett, New York Agricultural Experiment Station; *Secretary-Treasurer,* F. B. Smith, University of Florida. Emil Truog, University of Wisconsin, and H. K. Hayes, University of Minnesota, were selected to represent the society on the Council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1938. P. V. Cardon was selected as executive representative and R. M. Salter as alternate on the National Research Council in the Division of Biology and Agriculture for the three-year period from July 1, 1938, to June 30, 1941. Officers of the Soil Science Society of America elected for next year are: *President,* A. M. O'Neal, Bureau of Plant Industry; *Secretary,* W. A. Albrecht, University of Missouri, and *Treasurer,* F. B. Smith, University of Florida.

DR. R. E. PRIESTLEY, vice-chancellor of the University of Melbourne, has been elected vice-chancellor of the University of Birmingham. Dr. Priestley was a member both of the Shackleton Expedition to the Antarctic from 1907 to 1909 and the Scott Expedition from 1910 to 1913.

DR. JOHN EDWARD HOFFMEISTER, professor of geology at the University of Rochester, has leave of absence for the second semester of 1937–1938 to accept an appointment as visiting professor of geology at the University of Hawaii.

GILBERT W. BOYD has been appointed assistant professor of metallurgy at the Michigan College of Mining and Technology. He takes the place of Harold Walker, who has become assistant professor of metallurgy at the State College of Washington.

DR. RUDOLF KINGSLAKE, associate professor of geometrical optics at the University of Rochester, has resigned to become a member of the staff of the Eastman Kodak Company.

DR. EUGENE H. POOL, senior attending surgeon of the New York Hospital and professor of clinical surgery at the Cornell University Medical College, has been elected an alumni trustee of Columbia University. Dr. Pool will fill the vacancy caused by the death on August 18 of Dr. Everett W. Gould.

CLIVE FORSTER COOPER, director of the University Museum of Zoology, University of Cambridge, and fellow of Trinity Hall, has been appointed director of the British Museum (Natural History) on the retirement on February 2 of Dr. C. Tate Regan, who has been director since 1927. Mr. Cooper is known for his work upon the vertebrates, both recent and fossil.

THE delegation of scientific men arranged by the British Association at the request of the Indian Science Congress sailed on November 26 to attend the celebration of its twenty-fifth anniversary at Calcutta. The meeting will be held from January 3 to 9. The late Lord Rutherford was to have presided; his place has been taken by Sir James Jeans. The presidential address prepared by Lord Rutherford will be communicated to the congress by Sir James.

E. F. BURCHARD and C. W. Cooke are engaged in a field conference with members of the Public Health Service in regard to an investigation of the possible influence of geologic conditions on the prevalence of tuberculosis. They are giving special attention to Coffee County, Alabama, and Giles County, Tennessee, which are similar in area and amount of population but differ markedly in the prevalence and type of tuberculosis.

DR. FRANCIS F. SCHWENTKER, director of medical research for the Baltimore City Health Department, expects to leave for Rumania early in 1938 to conduct research on scarlet fever under the auspices of the Rockefeller Foundation.

AMONG those recently named members of the drainage basin committee for Minnesota, which will aid in preparing a comprehensive national plan for prevention and control of floods and the development of a water and soil conservation program, are the following

members of the faculty of the University of Minnesota: Dr. Richard E. Scammon, of the Medical School, *chairman;* Professor Frederic Bass, head of the department of civil engineering; Dr. George M. Schwartz, associate professor of geology; Dr. Lorenz G. Straub, professor of hydraulics and administrative assistant for the College of Engineering and Architecture, and Professor Raphael Zon, director of the Lake States Experiment Station.

DR. ROBERT A. MILLIKAN, of the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, gave on December 7 an address at a general convocation at the University of Cincinnati. He spoke on "Science and Individual Opportunity in the Future." Following the convocation Dr. Millikan was guest of honor at a luncheon given by the university section of Sigma Xi.

DR. DAYTON C. MILLER, professor of physics at the Case School of Applied Science, will present a series of three popular science lectures for young people on December 27, 28 and 29 at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia. These lectures were inaugurated in 1926 under the James M. Dodge Lecture Foundation, and are designed to show by means of experiments the connection between the labors of the scientific men and the effect these labors have on the every-day life of the world. The series is entitled "Sparks, Franklin's Lightning and Jove's Thunderbolts."

ALFRED C. LANE, Pearson professor of geology and mineralogy, emeritus, at Tufts College, gave a lecture at the University Club in Boston on November 23. His subject was: "Does Mother Earth Show Her Age?"

DR. R. R. WILLIAMS, chemical director of the Bell Telephone Laboratories, New York City, gave on December 16 an address on "The Quest for Vitamin B" at a meeting of the Washington Academy of Sciences.

AUSTIN H. CLARK, of the U. S. National Museum, will be the principal speaker on December 7 at ceremonies connected with the celebration of the hundredth anniversary of the Medical College of Virginia at Richmond. The celebration is the last major event on the program of the Richmond Bicentennial.

DURING the coming meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science at Indianapolis, the American Society of Naturalists, in addition to arranging the Biologists' smoker on Tuesday evening, is presenting a symposium on Thursday afternoon on "The Nature of Protoplasm," with Drs. W. M. Stanley, S. C. Brooks and Robert Chambers as speakers. At the dinner on Thursday evening Dr. David H. Tennent will give the presidential address on "Some Problems in the Study of Photosensitization."

THE second annual symposium of the Division of Physical and Inorganic Chemistry of the American Chemical Society will be held in Cleveland at the Hotel Statler on December 27, 28 and 29.

DISCUSSION

MAN AND PLANTS IN ALASKA

THAT human agencies directly or indirectly have, wherever man lived, influenced more or less the plant life of the region, is in general well known, but the subject appears never as yet to have been dealt with universally or exhaustively. A highly interesting manifestation in this line occurs in Alaska.

For twelve years now there have been going on, under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institution and the National Museum, anthropological and archeological explorations of Alaska and the Aleutian Islands. Initiated by the writer in 1926 these expeditions have now covered the principal Alaskan rivers, most of the coasts, Kodiak Island and the main parts of the Aleutian chain.

One of the main results of these explorations has been the location of literally hundreds of more or less ancient sites of what once were native villages. And these sites were found to present interesting botanical conditions. They as a rule are located along the rivers and the coasts in the most favorable spots for man's occupation. They cover from approximately one half to over ten acres of ground. They are kitchen middens and village sites combined, their accumulations reach in depth from a few feet in some to over sixteen feet in others, and while some are fairly late others show human occupation of many centuries. The uppermost of their deposits reach from historic to prehistoric (pre-Russian) time. The accumulations consist of ashes, shells, sea-urchin spines, rotted wood and sod, bones of fish, birds and various mammals, including the whale, some blown dust or silt, and of all the organic refuse and cultural objects of such communities. In their constituents, depth and other conditions they are largely to almost wholly different from the soil of their surrounding territory.

Due to these factors, these sites present wide and in cases seemingly almost absolute botanical differences from the rest of their region. With some experience it is possible to detect such an old village site from as far as it can be seen with some clearness. Its vegetation is darker and much richer in development. It not seldom reaches to over four, five and in places even over six feet in height. When seen at close range, moreover, it is seen to consist, and that materially to