

Dr. Forrest E. Kendall has been studying the immunological behavior of the proteins of human sera with particular reference to a number of chronic diseases. Dr. Henry W. Dawson and Dr. Ralph Boots, together with Dr. Kendall, have been studying rheumatoid arthritis. A reprint of Dr. Kendall's work appeared in the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*.

Dr. Arthur J. Patek, Jr., has initiated studies on the rôle of nutrition in chronic disease of adults. Cirrhosis of the liver has been selected for special investigation. Estimation has been made of the nutritional state of patients and of their response to high vitamin diets.

In addition, Dr. Patek has carried on studies on the factors causing abnormal coagulation of the blood in hemophilia. Dr. Patek's first report of the work has appeared in the *Proceedings* of the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine.

Dr. Kenneth B. Turner and Dr. Alfred Steiner are studying the cholesterol metabolism in an effort to determine its rôle in arteriosclerosis. They have had the opportunity of determining the normal variation in the level of the blood cholesterol over a long period. They have further studied the effect on cholesterol level of such factors as cholesterol ingestion and the administration of potassium iodide and thyroid extract. The relation of hemolytic streptococcus infection to the production of atherosclerosis is being investigated. The action of choline on the formation of lipid deposition in the arteries is under study.

Dr. Dickinson W. Richards, Dr. Andre Cournand and Dr. James Scott Mansfield are occupied with physiological studies in respiration. An investigation is being made of circulatory and respiratory functions in pulmonary emphysema with particular reference to the functional residual air. Dr. Mansfield is conducting an investigation of the hypertension produced by renal ischemia. Dr. Mansfield and Dr. David Weeks are studying the possible effect on the hypertension of increasing collateral circulation to the kidneys.

Dr. Giles W. Thomas is conducting psycho-somatic studies in rheumatic arthritis.

Dr. David Seegal is working on bacteriological and immunological factors in acute and chronic glomerulonephritis.

#### THE SIGMA XI LECTURE SERIES AT YALE UNIVERSITY

THE second series of the Yale Sigma Xi Lectures, which was devoted to "The Chemistry of Substances Important in Living Organisms," was opened on January 19 with a lecture by Professor C. N. H. Long, head of the department of physiological chemistry, who spoke on "The Hormones and Their Relation to the Processes of Metabolism." Since considerable progress has been made in recent years in the identification of the chemical nature of the hormones he also gave a brief review of this work along with an indication of their structural relationships to other substances.

The second lecture will be given in February by Professor R. J. Anderson, who will discuss "Chemical Studies on the Tubercle Bacillus and other Acid-fast Bacilli." For the past ten years Professor Anderson has been directing a cooperative research project in the Sterling Chemistry Laboratory which has as its purpose the isolation of the chemical substances of these bacilli.

The April lecture, to be given by Professor Northrop, will be devoted to the "Chemical Nature and Mode of Formation of Pepsin, Trypsin and Bacteriophage." This lecture is of special interest to the investigators at Yale, since one of the pioneer workers on bacteriophage, Félix d'Herelle, carried on his research in the laboratories of Yale University.

The concluding lecture will be given by Professor Cowgill, who will speak on "Vitamins and Other Important Nutritive Factors." He will give a discussion of the substances which have been shown to be necessary for proper nutrition of the living organism, their chemical nature and their functions in the body as essentials to health.

The subject of the first series of lectures was "Modern Physics: Nuclear and Interatomic Reactions." The lecturers and their subjects were as follows: Professor A. F. Kovarik, "Survey of the Field, Methods of Attack and Nuclear Transformations"; Professor E. Pollard, "The Nuclear Energy Levels and Nuclear Dimensions"; Professor W. W. Watson, "The Spectroscopic Study of the Atomic Nuclei"; Professor H. Margenau, "The Forces within Atomic Nuclei"; Professor L. W. McKeehan, "Magnetization in Crystals: Ferromagnetic," and Professor C. T. Lane, "Magnetization in Crystals: Paramagnetic." The Sigma Xi lectures are open to the public and are given on Wednesday evenings.

#### OFFICERS OF THE WASHINGTON ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

At the fortieth annual meeting of the Washington Academy of Sciences on January 20, 1938, the results of the election of officers for 1938 were announced as follows: *President*, Paul E. Howe, Bureau of Animal Industry; *Non-resident Vice-presidents*, James Franck, the Johns Hopkins University, and W. T. Thom, Princeton University; *Corresponding Secretary*, Nathan R. Smith, Bureau of Plant Industry; *Recording Secretary*, Oscar S. Adams, Coast and Geodetic Survey; *Treasurer*, H. G. Avers, Coast and Geodetic Survey; and *Members of the Board of Managers* for three years, F. G. Cottrell, Research Associates, Inc., and Neil M. Judd, National Museum. *Resident Vice-presidents*, nominated by the affiliated societies, were elected as follows:

Philosophical Society—N. H. Heck  
 Anthropological Society—Henry B. Collins  
 Biological Society—H. C. Fuller  
 Chemical Society—F. C. Kracek  
 Entomological Society—C. F. W. Muesebeck  
 National Geographic Society—A. Wetmore  
 Medical Society—Fred O. Coe  
 Historical Society—Allen C. Clark  
 Botanical Society—W. A. Dayton  
 Archeological Society—Aleš Hrdlička  
 Foresters—G. F. Gravatt  
 Washington Engineers—Paul C. Whitney  
 Electrical Engineers—H. L. Curtis  
 Helminthological Society—E. W. Price  
 Bacteriological Society—L. A. Rogers  
 Military Engineers—C. H. Birdseye  
 Radio Engineers—H. G. Dorsey

#### AWARDS OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

DR. HENRY EARLE RIGGS, honorary professor of civil engineering at the University of Michigan, took office as president of the eighty-fifth annual meeting held in New York from January 19 to 22 of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Winners of medals and prizes for contributions to engineering science, awarded annually by the society, are:

J. C. Stevens, consulting hydraulic engineer, Portland, Ore.—The Norman Medal for a paper on "The Silt Problem," adjudged the outstanding contribution of the year to engineering science.

Inge M. Lyse, research professor of engineering materials, in charge of the Fritz Laboratory, Lehigh University, and Bruce G. Johnston, instructor, civil engineering, Columbia University, jointly—The J. James R. Croes Medal, for their paper on "Structural Beams in Torsion," considered next in order of merit to that contributed by Mr. Stevens.

Eugene A. Hardin, assistant civil engineer, Department of Public Works, Detroit—The Thomas Fitch Rowland Prize, for a paper on "The Springwells Filtration Plant, Detroit," considered the best paper describing in detail "accomplished works of construction, their cost and errors in design and execution."

Boris A. Bakhmeteff, professor of civil engineering, and Arthur E. Matzke, both of the department of civil engineering, Columbia University, jointly—The James Laurie Prize, for a paper on "The Hydraulic Pump in Terms of Dynamic Similarity," considered next in order of merit to that submitted by Mr. Hardin.

E. C. Harwood, Captain, Corps of Engineers, U.S.A. (retired), Cambridge, Mass., director of the American Institute for Economic Research—The Arthur M. Wellington Prize, for a paper entitled "Proposed Improvement of the Cape Cod Canal," for the best paper on transportation "on land, on the water, or in the air."

Victor L. Streeter, assistant engineer, U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, Denver—The Collingwood Prize for Juniors,

for a paper on "Frictional Resistance in Artificially Roughened Pipes," presented each year to a junior in the society for a paper describing work with which the writer has been connected directly.

W. W. Horner, professor of municipal and sanitary engineering, Washington University, St. Louis, and F. L. Flynt, principal engineering aide, Hydraulic Section, U. S. Engineer Office, Rock Island, Ill., jointly—The Rudolph Hering Medal, for a paper describing the "Relation between Rainfall and Run-off from Small Urban Areas."

Honorary membership in the society was conferred on Dr. George S. Davison, of New York, Otis E. Hovey, of New York, the late Hunter McDonald, of Nashville, and J. R. Worcester, of Boston.

#### AWARDS OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE, NEW YORK CITY

THE annual meeting and dinner of the American Institute, New York City, was held at the Hotel Ambassador on February 3. On this occasion the gold medal of the institute, awarded for "distinguished contributions to the advancement of science which have a broad incidence on human welfare," was presented to Dr. William Crocker, director of the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research at Yonkers, N. Y., in recognition of his "contributions to the knowledge of life processes in plants and for his unique leadership in the organization of plant research." Dr. Edmond W. Sinnott, professor of botany at Barnard College, Columbia University, made the presentation.

Fellowships of the institute were presented to Dr. Raymond L. Ditmars, curator of reptiles and mammals at the New York Zoological Park, and to Waldemar Kaempffert, science editor of *The New York Times* and president of the National Association of Science Writers. The fellowship was awarded to Dr. Ditmars "for his thirty-seven years of distinguished service in the care, understanding and interpretation of the reptile world and for his inspiring of youthful spirits with the zeal of the naturalist," and to Mr. Kaempffert in recognition of "his scholarly interpretation of scientific advances, for his editorial wisdom, for his adroit cultivation of the public mind toward a rational outlook and for his leadership in enforcing their social responsibilities upon scientists." George P. Brett, Jr., president of the Macmillan Company, made the presentation to Dr. Ditmars, and Dr. John H. Finley, editor of *The New York Times*, made the presentation to Mr. Kaempffert.

The Gold Medal of the American Institute may be awarded either to organizations or to individuals. In previous years it has been given to the Research Laboratories of the General Electric Company; to Dr. Oscar Riddle, of the Carnegie Institution; to the Bell Telephone Laboratories; to Dr. John C. Merriam, president of the Carnegie Institution; to Dr. Carl D.