

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Franklin Medals awarded annually by the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, "to those workers in physical science or technology, without regard to country, whose efforts have done most to advance a knowledge of physical science or its applications," have been awarded to Dr. William Frederick Durand, professor emeritus of mechanical engineering at Stanford University, and to Dr. Charles A. Kraus, professor of chemistry and director of research in chemistry at Brown University. The medal is being awarded to Dr. Durand "in recognition of his notable achievement as pioneer in laboratory research and the theory of aeronautics, and of his diversified and distinguished contributions to the science of hydrodynamics and aerodynamics, particularly to the advancement of the theory and development of aircraft propellers," and to Dr. Kraus "in recognition of his numerous and fundamental research in chemistry and electrochemistry, particularly, his valuable contributions to the knowledge of reactions in liquid ammonia, of the chemical behavior of metals, and of the properties of electrolytic solutions." The medals will be presented at the annual Medal Day exercises of the institute, which will be held on May 20.

THE 1937 Warren Triennial Prize of the Massachusetts General Hospital, amounting to five hundred dollars, which was founded in 1867 by the late Dr. J. Mason Warren in memory of his father, has been awarded to Dr. Henry K. Beecher, anesthetist at the Massachusetts General Hospital, for a manuscript entitled "The Physiology of Anesthesia."

THE Addingham gold medal for humanitarian services has been awarded to Dr. Béla Schick, attending physician at Mount Sinai Hospital, New York City, known for his work on immunity to diphtheria and for the discovery of the Schick test. The award is given annually by trustees of a fund provided by the late William Hoffman Wood of England. It is made to the individual who has made "the most valuable discovery for relieving pain and suffering in humanity." Presentation will be made *in absentia* by the Lord Mayor of Leeds, since Dr. Schick is unable to go abroad for the ceremonies.

THE medal of the Ulster Irish Society was presented to Dr. Robert A. Millikan, chairman of the executive council of the California Institute of Technology, at the annual dinner of the society, which was held on April 22. Dr. Henry Noble MacCracken, president of Vassar College, made the presentation.

THE James Watt International Medal of the British Institution of Mechanical Engineers has been awarded to Henry Ford. The medal is awarded every second

year to commemorate the birth of James Watt, inventor of the steam engine, in 1736.

THE Halley lecture of the University of Oxford will be given on June 16 by Professor A. O. Leuschner, director of the Students' Observatory of the University of California. He will speak on "The Hecuba Group of Minor Planets." Among Americans who have been Halley lecturers in previous years are: Drs. William Wallace Campbell, Harlow Shapley, Henry Norris Russell and Edwin Powell Hubble.

THE doctorate of science will be conferred in July by the University of Bristol on Dr. Charles Galton Darwin, since 1936 master of Christ's College, Cambridge. He was previously, from 1923 to 1936, professor of natural philosophy at the University of Edinburgh.

DR. W. L. BRAGG, Cavendish professor of experimental physics at the University of Cambridge, formerly director of the National Physical Laboratory, has been elected to a professorial fellowship at Trinity College.

DR. T. WINGATE TODD, professor of anatomy of the School of Medicine of Western Reserve University, has been elected president of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists.

AT the annual meeting of the American Society for Experimental Pathology, the following officers were elected: *President*, Dr. Morton McCutcheon; *Vice-president*, Dr. Ernest W. Goodpasture; *Secretary-Treasurer*, Dr. Paul R. Cannon; *Councilors*, Dr. Shields Warren and Dr. Jesse L. Bollman. The next meeting of the society will be held in Toronto in conjunction with the meetings of the Federation of the American Societies for Experimental Biology.

DR. ROBERT HUTCHISON has been elected president of the Royal College of Physicians, London, in succession to Viscount Dawson of Penn.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL J. H. M. GREENLY, a member of the Advisory Council to the Committee of the Privy Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and chairman of the British Non-Ferrous Metals Research Association, has been appointed president of the British Institute of Fuel, in succession to Sir Philip Dawson.

AFTER spending the winter in Havana, Cuba, Dr. Charles Wardell Stiles, formerly zoologist in the U. S. Public Health Service, has returned to Florida, but because of continued failing health has found it necessary to resign from the winter faculty of Rollins College.

DR. RALPH LINTON, of the University of Wisconsin, has been appointed professor of anthropology at Columbia University, and Dr. George Herzog has been appointed assistant professor. Dr. Linton has been visiting professor at Columbia during the present year.

DR. LOUIS LEON THURSTONE, since 1924 professor of psychology at the University of Chicago, has been designated Charles F. Grey Distinguished Service Professor. He succeeds Dr. Charles H. Judd, who has held the chair since 1929 and who will retire as head of the department of education in July.

DR. RUSSELL L. CARPENTER, assistant professor of anatomy at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University, has been appointed professor of zoology at Tufts College, to take the place of Dr. Herbert V. Neal, whose retirement in June was announced recently.

DR. WILTON M. KROGMAN, of Western Reserve University, has been appointed associate professor of physical anthropology and anatomy at the University of Chicago.

M. ROBERT COURRIER has been appointed professor of experimental morphology and endocrinology at the Collège de France.

RALPH E. WILSON, formerly secretary of the department of meridian astronomy of the Carnegie Institution of Washington at Dudley Observatory, Albany, has been appointed a member of the staff of the Mount Wilson Observatory. His work at Pasadena will begin in May.

DR. E. W. GUDGER, bibliographer and associate curator of ichthyology in the American Museum of Natural History, has been retired with the rank and title of honorary associate in ichthyology. He will remain at the museum to complete the Dean Memorial Volume and will continue his research and writing there.

THE Board of Trustees of the American Medical Association has appointed Dr. E. V. Cowdry, professor of cytology, Washington University, St. Louis, representative of the association for the Commission on Standardization of Biological Stains.

DR. ELMER O. KRAEMER has resigned as a member of the experimental staff of the du Pont Company at Wilmington Del., a position which he has held since 1927. He has received from the Lalor Foundation an award of \$2,500 to facilitate the continuance of his studies of the size and shape of giant molecules. His investigations will be carried out at the University of Uppsala in the laboratory of Professor The Svedberg. He also plans to visit the principal research centers for physical and colloid chemistry in Europe.

LLEWELYN WILLIAMS, curator of economic botany at the Field Museum, Chicago, has been granted leave of absence for two years to engage in special work for the Ministry of Agriculture of Venezuela. Mr. Williams will assist Dr. Henry F. Pittier, the Swiss botanist, who was at one time connected with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, in a botanical survey and study of the various resources of Venezuela. He will make his headquarters at Caracas.

THE fourth of the Elihu Root lectures on the influence of science and research on current thought, a series organized by the Carnegie Institution of Washington in honor of Mr. Root, long the chairman of its board of trustees, was given on April 19 by Dr. F. H. Seares, assistant director of Mount Wilson Observatory. His subject was "The Concept of Uniformity."

PROFESSOR FRANZ WEIDENREICH, of Peiping, China, will give an address before the New York Academy of Sciences at eight o'clock on the evening of May 6. His subject will be "The Phylogenetic Relationships of Sinanthropus with Special Reference to the Dentition." The discussion will be led by Drs. William K. Gregory, Milo Hellman, J. H. McGregor, George Pinkley and Harry L. Shapiro.

DR. FREDERICK SLOCUM, professor of astronomy and director of the Van Vleck Observatory, Wesleyan University, will give the graduate convocation address at Brown University on the occasion of the semi-centennial anniversary of the establishment of graduate work on June 18. He will speak on "Intellectual Curiosity."

DR. VILHJALMUR STEFANSSON, the Arctic explorer, gave a lecture at Duke University on April 13 on "Diet in Primitive People." On April 14 Dr. Harold W. Brown, professor of preventive medicine and public health at the University of North Carolina, lectured on "Hookworm."

THE Smith Chapter of the Society of the Sigma Xi held its annual meeting and dinner on April 14 at Chapin House. One active member and ten associates were initiated. Following the dinner Dr. George D. Birkhoff, Perkins research professor of mathematics and dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at Harvard University, gave a lecture on "Mathematics and Philosophical Thought." The officers for the year 1938-1939 elected at this time are as follows: *President*, Dr. Myra M. Sampson, professor of zoology; *President-elect*, Mr. Robert F. Collins, associate professor of geology; *Secretary*, Dr. Lois T. Slocum, assistant professor of astronomy, and *Treasurer*, Dr. Deane Montgomery, assistant professor of mathematics.

IN a recent note in SCIENCE, based on cable dispatches to the daily press from abroad, giving a list

of scientific men who were said to have committed suicide in Vienna, the name of Professor Waldemar Denk, head of the second Surgical Clinic of the University of Vienna, was included. Dr. Denk writes "I am very glad to assure you that I am in the best of health and working without any interruption in my hospital."

NOMINATIONS for the Theobald Smith award in the medical sciences should be sent by June 1 to the office of the Permanent Secretary of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Smithsonian Institution Building, Washington, D. C. The award was established by Eli Lilly and Company, "to recognize demonstrated research in the field of the medical sciences, taking into consideration independence of thought and originality." It consists of the sum of \$1,000 and a bronze medal and is made to an investigator who is under thirty-five years of age. Any fellow of the association, except members of the Award Committee, may submit to the Permanent Secretary's office in Washington, D. C., the name of a proposed recipient of the award with full data regarding his personality, training and research work.

THE Union of American Biological Societies has received a grant of \$10,000 from the Carnegie Corporation of New York through the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching toward support of the educational program of the union. The Committee on Biological Science Teaching of the union which is in charge of the project consists of Oscar Riddle, *chairman*, E. V. Cowdry, F. L. Fitzpatrick, H. Bentley Glass, Benjamin C. Gruenberg. Dr. D. F. Miller, associate professor of zoology of the Ohio State University, has been given leave of absence for several months and during this period his full-time services have been secured by the committee.

THE American Association of Anatomists celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of its founding at its annual meeting at the University of Pittsburgh, which was held from April 14 to 16 in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists. A special program was presented by past presidents of the society as follows:

Dr. Ross G. Harrison, Yale University, "Factors Concerned in the Development of the Ear"; Dr. Robert R. Bensley, University of Chicago, "Plasmosin: An Important Constituent of Protoplasm"; Dr. Clarence M. Jackson, University of Minnesota, "Nature of Abnormally Rapid Increase in Body Weight Following a Period of Growth Suppression"; Dr. Florence R. Sabin (with Dr. Austin L. Joyner), the Rockefeller Institute, "Tuberculous Allergy without Infection"; Dr. George L. Streeter, the Carnegie Institution, Baltimore, "Origin of the Gut Endoderm in Macaque Embryos"; Dr. Charles R. Stockard, Cornell University Medical College, "Structural Disharmony: The Genetic and Developmental Independence of the Upper and Lower Jaws."

UPON the invitation of the Italian Government, the United States, through the State Department, has appointed delegates to the tenth International Congress of Chemistry, to be held in Rome from May 14 to 21. C. C. Concannon, chief of the Chemical Division, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce, has been named chairman. The other delegates are: Edward Bartow, Norman Bekkedahl, M. T. Bogert, H. A. Gardner, Thomas Midgley, Jr., W. A. Noyes, Sr., C. L. Parsons, Alexander Silverman, W. W. Skinner, J. W. Turrentine and E. R. Weidlein. The National Research Council and the National Academy of Sciences, responding to the invitation of the organizing committee of the congress, as their representatives at the thirteenth meeting of the International Union of Chemistry (under the auspices of which the congress meets) have appointed the following councilors: Edward Bartow, vice-president of the International Union of Chemistry, head of the delegates, and M. T. Bogert, Alexander Silverman, James F. Norris, C. L. Parsons and Robert E. Swain. The delegates are: Ross A. Baker, Norman Bekkedahl, H. K. Benson, Gustav Egloff, Colin G. Fink, S. C. Lind, Thomas Midgley, Jr., Arthur Scott and E. R. Weidlein. Alternates are: Emma P. Carr, John V. N. Dorr, J. B. Ekeley, J. C. Hostetter, W. L. Jennings, R. E. Montonna, W. A. Noyes, Jr., Atherton Seidell and J. W. Turrentine.

DISCUSSION

FORCE IN MECHANICS

I WANT to add the following comments to J. W. Campbell's criticism (*SCIENCE*, November 12, 1937) of W. F. Osgood's "Mechanics":

In connection with the writing of Newton's second law of motion in the form $F = kma$, Professor Campbell says, "Whether or not it is the best way is a matter of taste." It seems to me that more is involved

here than a matter of taste—questions of consistency of notation, simplicity of mathematical expressions of physical laws and the significance of the symbol m are involved.

The arguments used for introducing an arbitrary constant into Newton's law are equally valid for writing $A = kwl$ for the area of a rectangle; because the width and the length may be measured in feet, for