

Captain Burzynski will be accompanied by Captain F. R. Hynek, also of the Polish Army, and Dr. Yodko Narkiewicz, Alpinist and explorer. In 1935 they established a record by remaining in the air fifty-seven hours and forty-five minutes, while flying from Warsaw into Russia. The flight will be made from a valley in the Tatry Mountains near Zakopane, in southwestern Poland near the Czechoslovakia border. Studies to be made will include cosmic radiation, pressure and temperature. Among the instruments to be used will be several loaned by the National Geographic Society which were used in the flight of *Explorer II* in 1935. Funds amounting to nearly \$200,000 were raised by popular subscription.

Since the flight of *Explorer II* three attempts have been made to penetrate the stratosphere. On March 9, 1936, two Russians, ascending from Moscow, reached an altitude of 10,000 meters (about 32,808 feet) in a balloon of only 77,700 cubic feet capacity. On May 25, 1937, at Brussels, Professor Auguste Piccard's balloon caught fire from a gas burner used to heat air for lifting the balloon, as the ground crew were attaching the basket for the ascent of Piccard and Max Cosyns. On July 18, 1937, Professor Jean Piccard took off at Rochester, Minnesota, in a gondola lifted by a group of small balloons and, six hours later, crashed into the treetops near Lansing, Iowa. He attained a height of 11,000 feet.

LECTURES GIVEN BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS OF CORNELL UNIVERSITY

DURING the academic year 1937-38 reports by non-resident speakers were presented at meetings of the faculty and graduate students in physics at Cornell University as follows:

November 1, "Molecular Beam Methods of Measuring Nuclear Moments," Professor I. I. Rabi, Columbia University.

November 22, "The Diffraction of Fast Electrons by Gas Molecules," Professor Linus Pauling, California Institute of Technology.

December 16 and 17, "The Dielectric Constant of Liquids and Solids and Ferromagnetic Anisotropy," Professor J. H. Van Vleck, Harvard University.

January 17, "Stresses and Constitutional Changes in Glass During Cooling," Dr. H. R. Lillie, Corning Glass Works.

February 14, "Some Vacuum Tube Research Problems," B. J. Thompson, R. C. A. Research Laboratory.

March 21, "Some Problems of Galactic Dynamics," Professor K. Lundmark, University of Lund.

March 24, "Transmutations of Heavy Nuclei," Professor V. Weisskopf, University of Rochester.

April 18, "Recent Work in the Cavendish Laboratory," Dr. M. Goldhaber, University of Cambridge.

May 9, "Some Physical Phenomena at the Temperature

of Liquid Helium," Professor E. F. Burton, University of Toronto.

May 23, "Crystal Fluorescence," Dr. Frederick Seitz, General Electric Research Laboratory.

ORGANIZATION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BIOLOGY TEACHERS

THE organization meeting of the National Association of Biology Teachers was held in New York City on July 1.

Fifteen delegates, representing approximately fifteen hundred pledged members in thirty-five states, adopted a constitution, elected officers and established a journal which will be known as *The American Biology Teacher*.

The purpose of the association as stated in the constitution is to organize biology teachers on a national basis by local units in order to spread vital and useful biological knowledge to the general public; to encourage scientific thinking and the scientific method, and through the journal to make available to biology teachers information concerning the selection, organization and presentation of biological materials.

The association is sponsored by the committee on biological science teaching of the Union of American Biological Societies, of which Dr. Oscar Riddle, of Cold Spring Harbor, N. Y., is chairman and Dr. D. F. Miller, of the Ohio State University, is field representative.

The officers of the association are as follows:

President, M. C. Lichtenwalter, Chicago, Ill.

President-elect, Malcolm D. Campbell, Boston, Mass.

First vice-president, George W. Jeffers, Farmville, Va.

Second vice-president, Lucy Orenstein, New York, N. Y.

Secretary-treasurer, P. K. Houdek, Robinson, Ill.

Acting editor-in-chief, I. A. Herskowitz, New York, N. Y.

Managing editor, J. S. Mitchell, Lexington, Ky.

Inquiries concerning membership and subscriptions to the journal should be sent to the secretary-treasurer, P. K. Houdek, Township High School, Robinson, Ill.

THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND THE GROUP HEALTH ASSOCIATION, INC.

ACCORDING to reports in the daily press, the Department of Justice on July 31 charged the American Medical Association and its affiliate, the District of Columbia Medical Society, with violation of the anti-trust laws in an attempt to prevent the functioning of the Group Health Association, Inc. Thurman W. Arnold, assistant attorney general, has announced that evidence obtained in an investigation would be presented to a grand jury. The charges against the association are:

1. Threatened expulsion from the District Medical Society of doctors who accept employment with the group.
2. Threatened expulsion from the Medical Society of