

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

doctors who take part in medical consultations with doctors of the group.

3. The expulsion from Washington hospitals of the Group Health Association staff doctors.

In the opinion given by Mr. Arnold he says:

The department believes that the anti-trust laws make it illegal for medical societies or individual practitioners to obtain or retain for themselves a monopoly of the communities' medical services, so long as adequate standards are maintained in the treatment of patients among those doctors who are willing to serve cooperative or other groups.

No combination or conspiracy can be allowed to limit a doctor's freedom to arrange his practice as he chooses so long as, by therapeutic standards, his methods are approved and do not violate the law.

Organized medicine should not be allowed to extend its necessary and proper control over standards having to do with the science and art of medicine, to include control over methods of payment for services involving economic freedom and the welfare of consumers and the legal rights of individual doctors.

THE MARINE BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY AT WOODS HOLE

THIS year marks the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, Mass. In the summer of 1888 the first building was opened for the use of seven investigators (all save one were beginners), and eight students. Professor C. O. Whitman, of Chicago, was the director. The laboratory was scantily furnished with glassware and other necessities; living material was collected in a rowboat; the library consisted of a few volumes on a shelf, which also carried the supply of chemicals. During the half century which has followed, the institution has grown until the attendance is more than 500. To the original building, still used for investigation and research, have been added other wooden buildings, and a large brick laboratory containing a remarkably complete library, research rooms equipped with running fresh and salt water, well-stocked chemical and apparatus rooms, a very efficient x-ray installation and a large auditorium. The supply department now has power boats, a fish trap and other equipment needed for its very important task. In the past fifty years the institution has grown from a very modest beginning to a position of world-wide influence in biology.

At an informal meeting to celebrate the semicentennial of the laboratory, there will be presented a portrait of C. R. Crane, who in very large measure was

responsible for the growth of the institution. Mr. Crane was president of the Board of Trustees from 1902 until 1925; he gave a completely equipped laboratory building in 1914, and later, a large sum for an endowment fund. His numerous gifts over a period of more than a generation have been substantial and timely. The Marine Biological Laboratory has received large gifts also from John D. Rockefeller, Jr., the Rockefeller Foundation and the Carnegie Corporation.

From the first, the chief activities of the laboratory have been instruction and research. During the summer, courses are offered in invertebrate zoology; embryology, chiefly of the invertebrates; general physiology; protozoology, and marine algae. The attendance this summer is at a maximum, practically all the space devoted to instruction being occupied. A few changes have occurred in the staff of instructors. In the physiology course, Dr. Carl Schmidt has replaced Dr. Rudolf Höber; Drs. L. G. Barth and Charles Packard have resigned from the embryology staff, their work being taken by Dr. W. W. Ballard, of Dartmouth, and Professor D. M. Whitaker, of Stanford University. In the other courses the teaching staff is the same as last year.

Following a custom initiated by Professor Whitman, and never discontinued, members of the laboratory give weekly lectures in which they discuss their investigations. The first lecture of the current season was given by Professor M. H. Jacobs, the retiring director, who spoke on "Blood and Zoological Classification." Professor S. O. Mast, of the Johns Hopkins; Professor G. H. Parker, of Harvard; Dr. O. E. Schotté, of Amherst, and Dr. Eduard Uhlenhuth, of the University of Maryland, gave the other lectures in July.

Each week there is also a seminar devoted to the presentation of short papers by investigators at work in the laboratory. During July, the topics discussed were some phases of endocrine activity, protozoan studies, aspects of the physiology of muscle and the action of organizers in development. An important feature of these informal gatherings is the lively discussion which follows the presentation of the papers.

The aim of the institution was stated many years ago by Professor Whitman. "The Marine Biological Laboratory attaches itself to no single institution, but holds itself rigidly to the impartial function of serving all on the same terms. . . . The whole policy is national in spirit and scope. The laboratory exists in the interests of biology at large."

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. EARL BALDWIN MCKINLEY, professor of bacteriology, dean of the Medical School and director of medical research at the George Washington Univer-

sity, and Fred Campbell Meier, plant pathologist of the Department of Agriculture, were on the *Hawaii Clipper*, lost over the Pacific on July 28. They were