

natural products as carried on in several European laboratories.

DR. OSCAR ZARISKI, professor of mathematics, the Johns Hopkins University, to conduct researches in the theory of algebraic varieties from the standpoint of modern algebra.

THE ABRAHAM FLEXNER LECTURES AT THE MEDICAL SCHOOL AT VANDER- BILT UNIVERSITY

DR. ALBERT SZENT-GYÖRGYI, director of the Institute for Medical Chemistry and professor of medical chemistry at the Royal Hungarian Franz Joseph University at Szeged, Hungary, and winner of the 1937 Nobel prize in physiology and medicine, is the Abraham Flexner Lecturer at the Vanderbilt Medical School this year, having arrived at the school on March 4 for a two-month period.

Dr. Szent-Györgyi has visited the United States twice before, first about 1930 as guest of the Mayo Clinic, and in 1935 he returned as a visiting lecturer at the Harvard Medical School.

He has been an active contributor to scientific literature for about twenty years. In his earlier studies he was interested in physico-chemical problems in biology, such as the phenomena of agglutination, cataphoresis and the effect of electrolytes on albumin, and such biochemical problems as the estimation of free fatty acids in blood.

In 1932 he was able to identify vitamin C, the anti-scorbutic acid responsible for the elimination and pre-

vention of the condition known as "scurvy," by the use of hexuronic acid (ascorbic acid) derived from adrenal cortex and from cabbage. In 1933 he prepared large quantities of ascorbic acid from paprika, and obtained a crystalline monoacetone derivative. He has also been interested in the wide-spread sub-clinical vitamin C deficiency in man.

Dr. Szent-Györgyi delivered the following lectures during March: "General Principles of Biological Oxidation," "Respiration of Muscle," "Fermentation and Some Problems of Intermediary Metabolism," "Vegetable Respiration" and "On Vitamins, Health and Disease." During April he will remain at the Medical School as visiting professor of biochemistry.

The Abraham Flexner lectureship was established in 1927 by the brother of Abraham Flexner, Bernard Flexner, who wrote to the chancellor of Vanderbilt University in establishing the endowment: "It is in my mind to set aside certain securities for the medical department of Vanderbilt University. I would like these securities to be held in trust as the 'Abraham Flexner Lectureship,' the accumulated income to be used at intervals of two years or more as an honorarium to be given to some American or foreigner, highly distinguished in the field of the medical sciences; the lecturer to be in residence for the purpose of contact with faculty and students during a period of approximately two months, and to give a series of lectures, the number and character of which shall be determined by the lecturer himself and the university."

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE annual meeting of the National Academy of Sciences will be held in Washington on April 24, 25 and 26. As has already been announced, the first lecture in America under the Pilgrim Trust will be given by Sir William Bragg on the evening of Monday, April 24. The sessions for the reading of scientific papers will be held on Monday morning and afternoon, on Tuesday morning and perhaps on Tuesday afternoon. The annual dinner, at which medals and awards are presented, will be on Tuesday evening. Arrangements have been made to visit the Supreme Court of the United States late on Monday afternoon.

THE American Philosophical Society will hold a general meeting in the hall of the society in Independence Square, Philadelphia, on April 20, 21 and 22. Sessions for the presentation of papers will be held on Thursday, April 20, on Friday afternoon and on Saturday morning. There will be an executive session on Friday morning and an open forum for members only on Saturday afternoon. The R. A. F. Penrose, Jr., memorial lecture will be given on Friday evening by Eduard Benes, formerly presi-

dent of Czecho-Slovakia. The lecture will be followed by a reception. The annual dinner will be on Saturday evening.

THE honorary degree of doctor of humane letters was conferred by Bridgewater College, his alma mater, upon Dr. William T. Sanger, president of the Medical College of Virginia, Richmond, on April 3 when he made the Founders Day address. The honorary doctorate of laws will be conferred upon him at the commencement exercises of the University of Richmond.

ON the occasion of the retirement of Herbert B. Brooks from the National Bureau of Standards on February 1, his colleagues assembled a collection of his published papers and prepared a biographical note "as a mark of their appreciation of him as a skillful engineer, an inspiring friend, and a wise counselor."

A TESTIMONIAL dinner in honor of Dr. Robert L. Swain, secretary-treasurer of the Maryland Board of Pharmacy, was given on March 29 in Baltimore. Dr. Swain recently resigned the position of deputy food