3. Bats, a complete account of the evolution and natural history of the group, published by the Harvard University Press.

Nearly a hundred persons were present. The meeting was presided over by George Russell Agassiz, senior member of the faculty of the museum. President Emeritus A. Lawrence Lowell was present at Mr. Agassiz's side.

Addresses of congratulations were made by the director of the museum, Thomas Barbour, on behalf of the staff; by Sherwood L. Washburn on behalf of Dr. Allen's graduate students; by Professor F. L. Hisaw, speaking for the Division of Biology, and then Harold J. Coolidge, Jr., read a number of letters of congratulation and appreciation which had been received from Dr. Allen's colleagues far and wide.

Dr. Allen was presented with a hammered silver bowl, a replica of one in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, made by Paul Revere. It was suitably inscribed with a statement of the reasons for the presentation. After this Dr. Allen made a brief reply expressing his appreciation.

A humorous broadcast "direct from Africa," which had been prepared with incidental music by a group of Dr. Allen's undergraduate students, was then turned on, and at its conclusion the company adjourned to Mr. Agassiz's room for refreshments.

PRESENTATION OF THE WILLARD GIBBS MEDAL

THE Willard Gibbs Medal of the Chicago Section of the American Chemical Society was presented to Dr. Donald Dexter Van Slyke, chief chemist of the Hospital of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, at a meeting in the Stevens Hotel, Chicago, on May 19.

Dr. Charles A. Kraus, of Brown University, president of the American Chemical Society, made the presentation to Dr. Van Slyke, who was cited for his work on the chemistry of proteins, enzyme action, blood chemistry and the metabolic conditions of diabetes and nephritis. The citation reads:

> The acceleration of interest and of active work in modern quantitative clinical chemistry during the past quarter century is in no small degree attributable to Dr. Van Slyke. The need of the clinic for micro-methods for the analysis of small and readily obtainable samples of blood found in him, always adept at the development of analytic methods, the person ready to make the greatest contributions of his generation to this field.
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> Dr. Van Slyke is honored for his contributions to chemistry, physiology and medicine. The genius of the medalist lies in his ability to see through a subject, clarify its problems, devise methods for their solution and carry the whole enterprise through to a successful conclusion. His contributions have the virtue of directness, simplicity and elegance combined with a minimum of speculation.
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> This genius, now recognized by the award of the Willard Gibbs Medal, has previously brought him the honorary degree of Sc.D. from Yale in 1925, and from Michigan, his alma mater, in 1935. In 1938 the University of Oslo conferred upon him the honorary degree of M.D. He was awarded the Mickel fellowship, Toronto, in 1936, and the Philip A. Conne gold medal of the Chemists' Club, New York, in 1937.

Dr. Glenn E. Cullen, of the Children's Hospital Research Foundation, Cincinnati, collaborator with Dr. Van Slyke in researches, spoke on "The Medalist"; Professor Charles D. Hurd, of Northwestern University, chairman of the section, discussed "The Significance of the Willard Gibbs Medal," and Dr. Kraus described "The Life and Works of Willard Gibbs." Dr. Van Slyke, in his address of acceptance, traced the development of controlled oxygen therapy. Howard Vincent O'Brien, of *The Chicago Daily News*, gave the epilogue. Dr. Van Slyke delivered a scientific address on "Renal Mechanisms Controlling Blood Composition" on the following day before members of the section at Northwestern University.

Dr. Van Slyke's fields of work have embraced the chemistry and physiology of the proteins and amino acids, quantitative formulation of the theory of buffer action, demonstration of enzyme action by formation of temporary enzyme-substrate compounds, various phases of physical chemistry of the blood, micro-methods for the gases and other constituents of the blood, a system of microanalyses by manometric technique and various diagnostic tests, particularly those for the detection of acidosis in diabetes and of renal failure in Bright's disease.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. GEORGE DAVID BIRKHOFF, Perkins professor of mathematics at Harvard University, retiring president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, will retire on September 1 as dean of the faculty of arts and sciences, having filled the allotted three years in the deanship. He will be succeeded by Dr. William Scott Ferguson, McLean professor of ancient and modern history. Dr. Birkhoff has been appointed Harvard exchange professor to France for the second half of the academic year 1939–40.

DR. JAMES B. HERRICK, emeritus professor of medicine at Rush Medical College, Chicago, was awarded at St. Louis the distinguished service medal of the American Medical Association in recognition of his discoveries in connection with heart disease.