

dress before a joint session of the Divisions of Organic and Physical and Inorganic Chemistry, on Thursday, September 14, at 2 P.M. Professor Frederick G. Keyes, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will give an experimental lecture on "Properties of Matter at Very Low Temperatures" on Thursday afternoon during "open house" by the institute to members of the society.

Technical sessions will be held by the Divisions of Cellulose, Agricultural and Food, Colloid, Biological, Fertilizer, Gas and Fuel, Industrial and Engineering, Inorganic, Rubber, and Water Sewage, and Sanitation Chemistry, and of Microchemistry, Chemical Education, History of Chemistry and Sugar Chemistry and Technology.

Professor Ernest H. Huntress, of the Massachusetts

Institute of Technology, who is chairman of the Northeastern Section of the society, is vice-chairman of the general convention committee. Professor Arthur R. Davis, of the institute, is secretary, and Frederick S. Bacon, of Boston, is treasurer. Chairmen of subcommittees are announced as follows: R. R. Stevens, accommodations; Kenneth E. Bell, entertainment; Grinnell Jones, ladies' entertainment; A. A. Vernon, student chemists; W. F. Twombly, publicity; J. M. Bierer, finance; E. O. Holmes, equipment for technical sessions; A. A. Ashdown, publications; H. J. Skinner, group meetings; L. F. Hamilton, registration; W. L. Jennings, reception; Mrs. F. C. Sargent, women chemists; L. A. Pratt, C. V. Briggs and J. J. Healy, Jr., trips; H. O. Kulberg, signs; H. L. Sherman, parking arrangements.

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. LAWRENCE J. HENDERSON, Lawrence professor of chemistry at Harvard University, has accepted an invitation by the Royal Society to deliver the next Pilgrim Trust Lecture in London.

A CERTIFICATE of honorary membership in the American Society of the History of Medicine was presented at the recent annual dinner of the society to Dr. Rudolph Matas, professor emeritus of general and clinical surgery at Tulane University, in recognition of his work in having "preserved and passed on to generations of students the best traditions of medical humanism."

A DINNER in honor of Dr. Victor J. Chambers, of the University of Rochester, who is retiring from teaching, but will continue as dean of the Graduate School, was given on June 15 by his students and friends, two hundred of whom were present. A fund of \$2,000, to be known as the Chambers Memorial Fund, was presented to the university to be used for loans to students of chemistry. Professor Chambers was presented with a suitably engraved gold watch.

COLLEAGUES of Dr. Isaac H. Manning, of the University of North Carolina, who is retiring with the title of Kenan professor emeritus of physiology, recently gave a dinner in his honor at which he was presented with a silver pitcher. A second testimonial dinner was given by alumni of the school. Dr. Manning has been for thirty-eight years a member of the faculty of the university, for twenty-eight years as dean of the School of Medicine.

At a meeting of the Mexican Society of Natural History held in Mexico City on June 16, Dr. Robert Hegner, professor of protozoology in the Johns Hopkins University, was made an honorary member, and Dr. Redginal Hewitt, instructor in protozoology in

the Johns Hopkins University, a corresponding member. On this occasion, Dr. Hegner delivered an address on "The Natural History of Parasitic Protozoa."

DR. ALEXANDER WETMORE, assistant secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, has been made an honorary member of the "Magyar Kiralyi Madartani Intezet."

At the recent commencement exercises at Franklin and Marshall College the degree of doctor of science was conferred on Dr. Mitchel Carroll, professor of biology and head of the department, and on Dr. H. Justin Roddy, professor of geology and executive curator of the museum.

THE doctorate of science has been conferred by the University of London on Professor Niels Bohr, of Copenhagen, and on Sir Robert Robinson, Waynflete professor of chemistry at the University of Oxford.

At a congregation of the University of Birmingham on July 1 the doctorate of science was conferred on Dr. Edward Battersby Bailey, director of the Geological Survey of Great Britain and of the Museum of Practical Geology, London; on Dr. Niels Bohr, professor of physics at the University of Copenhagen, and on Sir William Bragg, director of the Royal Institution and president of the Royal Society.

THE honorary degree of doctor of music recently conferred by the Chicago Musical College on Dr. Carl E. Seashore, of the State University of Iowa, was reported incorrectly in *SCIENCE* as having been conferred by the University of Chicago.

THE French League against Cancer has awarded the Amerongen prize of 160,000 francs to Professor A. H. Roffo, director of the Institute of Experimental Medicine for the Study and Treatment of Cancer at the University of Buenos Aires.

THE Royal College of Surgeons, England, has awarded the John Tomes prize for the years 1936-38 to Dr. Arthur Bullerd, for his researches into the bacteriology of the mouth. Professor Ernst W. Hey Groves has been appointed Moynihan lecturer for the current year.

At the Milwaukee meeting of the American Neisserian Medical Society, which met in conjunction with the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Francis Amory research award for 1940 was given to Dr. P. S. Pelouze, assistant professor of urology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine.

THE American Radium Society awarded at the recent St. Louis meeting its Janeway Medal for 1939 to Dr. Gioacchino Failla, physicist to the Memorial Hospital for the Treatment of Cancer and Allied Diseases, New York City.

WITH the close of the academic year, Dr. Laetitia M. Snow, Susan M. Hallowell professor of botany at Wellesley College, retired from active service with the title emeritus. At the annual meeting of the Alumnae Association of the college she was elected to honorary membership. She will make her home in Pacific Grove, Calif., where she will continue her research at the Hopkins Marine Station of Stanford University.

PROFESSOR REGINALD PATRICK Linstead, of the University of Sheffield, England, has been appointed professor of chemistry at Harvard University and a member of the University Committee on Pharmacotherapy. Professor Linstead has been at Sheffield for the past year, and for more than ten years previously was at the Imperial College of Science, London.

DR. THOMAS B. TURNER, of the International Health Division of the Rockefeller Foundation, has been appointed professor of bacteriology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health.

DR. C. E. NEEDHAM, associate professor of geology and mineralogy of the New Mexico School of Mines, has been elected president of the school. Other appointments are: Dr. M. L. Thompson, to be assistant professor of geology and paleontology, and Dr. N. P. Peterson, to be assistant professor of mining and metallurgy. Dr. Needham is also director of the New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources, and Drs. Thompson and Peterson are geologists on the staff of the bureau.

GORDON M. CAIRNS, of Ithaca, N. Y., has been made head of the department of animal industry in the College of Agriculture of the University of Maine. He succeeds Professor L. S. Corbett, who has been head of the department for the past twenty-six years. Professor Corbett retains his work as dean of men.

DR. DAVID F. SMITH, professor of chemistry at the University of Buffalo, has been placed at the head of the work on agricultural motor fuels at the Northern Regional Research Laboratory. He will undertake research intended to develop methods of producing gaseous, liquid and solid motor fuels from agricultural materials.

DR. ALBERT B. SCOTT, formerly of the Research Department of Parke, Davis and Company and for the past two years associated with The General Chemical Company, in New York City, has become connected with The Norwich Pharmacal Company. He is in charge of organic research in the new laboratories of the company at Norwich, N. Y.

DR. ELBERT C. COLE, professor of biology at Williams College, has been elected an alumni trustee of Middlebury College for a term of five years beginning on July 1.

THE Committee on Scientific Research of the American Medical Association has made grants to Dr. Felix Saunders, of the University of Chicago, for the continuation of studies on growth factors for bacteria; to Drs. Hugh J. Morgan and George P. Vryonis, of the School of Medicine of Vanderbilt University, for the study of bacterial infections in the chick embryo; to Dr. William C. Langston and Dr. Paul L. Day, of the School of Medicine of the University of Arkansas, to be used in their experiments on nutritional cytopenia in the monkey, and to Dr. Marion Fay, professor of physiological chemistry at the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania, for a continuation of experiments on the physiological effects of strontium.

DURING the summer Dr. John T. Stark, chairman of the department of geology of Northwestern University, is studying the volcanoes of the South Seas, with headquarters in Tahiti; Dr. John R. Ball, professor of geology, is making a study of the geology of the Tennessee Valley, which soon will be flooded by the Tennessee Valley Authority. Dr. William E. Powers, assistant professor of geology, is spending some time in Hawaii studying evidences of glaciation in the Hawaiian mountains. Dr. Arthur L. Howland has been commissioned by the U. S. Geological Survey to search for strategic mineral deposits in the Northern Rockies. A similar expedition will occupy Dr. C. H. Behre, Jr., after the summer term closes. Dr. Edward C. Dapples will be in central Illinois searching for oil deposits.

DRS. PAUL H. HARMON, director of the Division of Handicapped Crippled Children of Illinois; Thomas D. Masters, internist in diseases of metabolism in the Springfield clinic, and F. J. Phillips, assistant in chest surgery of the University of Chicago Clinics,

gave a series of lectures and held clinics in their respective specialties before the Tampico Medical Syndicate of Tampico, Mexico, from June 14 to 18.

THE thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, which was to have been held this year in Rio de Janeiro, has been postponed. It will be held at Paris in July or August, 1940. The address of the general secretary is 55 Rue de Buffon, Paris (V°).

THE twelfth International Congress of Psychology will be held in Edinburgh from July 22 to 27, 1940. When the Committee of Organization is fully constituted formal invitations will be issued. Subjects for symposia, general discussion and lectures are under consideration by a preliminary arrangements committee. A volume of proceedings, containing abstracts of papers read, will be published, the cost of which is included in the congress fee for active members, which has been fixed at thirty shillings; the fee for associates is fifteen shillings. Arrangements are being made by which a large proportion of the members can be accommodated in university hostels.

THE sixteenth National Colloid Symposium met at Stanford University from July 6 to 8. The registration was one hundred and sixty, five foreign countries being represented. The papers will be published in the autumn in *The Journal of Physical Chemistry*.

THE Committee on Research Grants of the Illinois State Academy of Science announces that requests for small grants to aid research will be received up to February 1, 1940. Requests should be accompanied by detailed statements of preceding background, general purpose and estimated expenses, and supported by three letters of recommendation sent directly by the writers. Individual grants can probably not exceed \$75 per project. It is the custom to make grants only to those connected with smaller institutions within the state. Correspondence should be directed to C. H. Behre, Jr., department of geology and geography, Northwestern University, Evanston, chairman of the committee.

THE University of Minnesota Expedition to Richmond Gulf (Province of Quebec, Canada) left Senne-

terre, P. Q., on June 25 on the first leg of its flight to Richmond Gulf on the east coast of Hudson Bay. The objectives of the expedition are primarily botanical. The great variety of habitats, both from the physiographical point of view and the variety of soils associated with differing geological formations, make the region a promising one for a study of local factors affecting the distribution of plants in a region apparently glaciated recently. Associated problems, such as geochronology and tree ring chronology, will also be studied. The region being in a zone transitional to the barren grounds makes tree-line studies also possible. The personnel consists of Ernst C. Abbe, assistant professor in the department of botany of the University of Minnesota, organizer of the expedition; Mrs. Lucy B. Abbe and John Marr, assistant in the department of botany. The expedition is supported by grants in aid of research from the Graduate School of the University of Minnesota, the Bache Fund of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Philosophical Society (Penrose Fund), the Smithsonian Institution and the Minnesota Academy of Sciences.

*Museum News* reports that the administration of the Blaskley Botanic Garden has been separated from the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History and that the garden is now being conducted independently under the name of Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. Title to the property, however, remains in the name of the museum. The endowment provided by Mrs. William H. Bliss in memory of her father, Henry Blaskley, and heretofore adequate for the garden's maintenance, is no longer sufficient because of the decline in income from investments. In order to carry it on a group of those interested has formed the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, Incorporated, and is appealing for contributions. Officers of the new corporation are William Lassiter, *president*; Mrs. Anne Stow-Fithian, *vice-president*; Frederick B. Kellam, *secretary*; and Frank J. McCoy, *treasurer*. Elmer J. Bissell, formerly director of the garden, is honorary president. Maunsell Van Rensselaer continues as director of the garden.

## DISCUSSION

### CENTERS OF POPULATION OF LEARNED GROUPS

A FEW years ago one of the learned societies announced that in response to requests for an annual meeting held in the Far West, the next meeting would be in Richmond, Va. To the members residing many miles west of the Mississippi River, this statement seemed ludicrous. However, some one raised the question: With respect to the membership of the organization, could it be possible that Richmond is *far west*?

The study reported is an attempt to determine the center of population for the membership of certain of the learned societies in the United States. The method used is essentially that of the Bureau of the Census in determining the center of population of the United States, as described on page 20, Volume II, 15th Census of the United States:

The center of population may be said to represent the center of gravity of the population. If the surface of the