

gins, secretary-treasurer of the Pacific Section. The maximum time allowed for presentation of a contributed paper will be fifteen minutes, and authors are requested to make serious efforts to hold their papers to such lengths that they can be presented in ten minutes or less.

All titles and abstracts of papers must be in the hands of the secretary not later than May 1. Those arriving after that date can not be included in the printed program.

An excursion to the Friday Harbor Marine Station of the University of Washington is being planned by the Botanical Society and by the American Society of Plant Physiologists on the final day of the meetings. Possibly a second excursion, to the Olympic Peninsula, will be arranged for those whose interests are concerned with flowering plants rather than with marine organisms. A fuller announcement concerning the excursions will be made later.

IRA L. WIGGINS,

*Secretary-Treasurer, Pacific Section of
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STANFORD UNIVERSITY, CALIF.

THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY AND DR. SPRINGER

MORE than 3,500 chemists will convene in Cincinnati for the ninety-ninth meeting of the American Chemical Society, which will meet from April 8 to 12 under the auspices of the Cincinnati section. Sessions will be held by seventeen of the divisions. Dr. Alfred Springer, dean of Cincinnati chemists, who on February 12 will celebrate his eighty-sixth birthday, has been appointed honorary chairman of the meeting. Proctor Thomson, head of the Standards Department of the Chemical Division of the Procter and Gamble Company, will be general chairman.

Dr. Springer is known for his work on fermentation and for his inventions of the torsion balance, widely

used in pharmacy, and for aluminum sounding boards for musical instruments. For fifty-seven years, until his retirement in 1930, he was the owner of the chemical firm of Alexander Fries and Brothers, founded in Cincinnati by his uncle. He promoted American forestry and stream purification movements, and was one of the founders of the American Forestry Congress in 1882. Dr. Springer was born in Cincinnati. He received the Ph.D. degree from the University of Heidelberg in Germany at the age of eighteen, studying under Bunsen and Kirchhoff. In 1931 the university conferred upon him, as the oldest surviving graduate holding the Ph.D., the honorary degree of doctor of natural science.

In 1879 a group of chemists at Dr. Springer's home organized the first local chemical society, which in 1892 became the Cincinnati Section of the American Chemical Society, of which he was chairman in 1892 and 1906. He is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, of which he was general secretary in 1884 and vice-president in 1892, and a corresponding member of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. For the invention of the torsion balance, he received the John Scott Legacy premium and medal of the Franklin Institute in 1891.

The ten symposia planned for the meeting include discussions of the utilization of agricultural wastes, the combustion of solid fuels, the chemistry of insulation, cellulose plastics, sulfanilamide and related derivatives, sterols and lipoids, the application of mathematics to chemistry, fundamental chemical thermodynamics of hydrocarbons and their derivatives, phase transitions and the future of chemistry as a specialized science in the high-school curriculum. Industrial research will be emphasized in the discussions.

Convention headquarters will be at the Netherland Plaza Hotel, where registration will begin on Sunday, April 7. Sessions of the divisions will be held at the Netherland Plaza, Gibson and Sinton Hotels.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. FREDERICK H. SEARES, astronomer and assistant director of the Mount Wilson Observatory of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, was awarded the Catherine Wolfe Bruce Gold Medal "for distinguished services to astronomy" at the annual meeting of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, which was held on January 27 in San Francisco.

DR. FRANK CONRAD, of Pittsburgh, assistant chief engineer of the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company, was presented with the 1940 Gold Medal of the American Institute of the City of New York for pioneer work in radio broadcasting at the annual dinner of the institute on the evening of Janu-

ary 28. The annual fellowship was presented to William L. Laurence, science news reporter of *The New York Times*. Dr. Conrad was presented for the medal by Dr. David Sarnoff, president of the Radio Corporation of America, and Mr. Laurence was presented for the fellowship by Dr. Oscar Riddle, of the Station for Experimental Evolution at Cold Spring Harbor. Robert T. Pollock, president of the institute, presided and presented the medals. The addresses made on this occasion by Dr. Sarnoff and Dr. Conrad appear in the present issue of SCIENCE.

THE ALFRED NOBLE PRIZE, consisting of the sum of \$500 and a certificate, given annually to a young engi-

neer not over thirty years of age "for a technical paper of particular merit," was presented on January 23 at the annual winter convention of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers to Claude E. Shannon, assistant in mathematics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, for his paper entitled "A Symbolic Analysis of Relay and Switching Circuits." Mr. Shannon will reach the age of twenty-four years in April, being the youngest of those who have so far won the prize.

THE 1939 Lawrence Sperry Award of the Institute of the Aeronautical Sciences has been given to Charles M. Kearns, Jr., research engineer for the Hamilton Standard Propellers division of the United Aircraft Corporation at East Hartford, in recognition of his work in the "successful application of methods of measuring propeller vibration stresses in flight." Mr. Kearns received the certificate of award and the \$250 cash prize on January 26 at the honors night and annual dinner of the institute.

A RECEPTION at the Neurological Institute, a unit of the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, was given on January 17 in honor of Dr. Tracy J. Putnam, who was recently appointed professor of neurology and neurosurgery at the College of Physicians and Surgeons and director of neurological and neurosurgical services at the institute. Before going to Columbia Dr. Putnam was professor of neurology at the Harvard Medical School and neurologist in chief of the Boston City Hospital.

OFFICERS of the Association of Land Grant Colleges and Universities elected at the Washington meeting are: Dr. F. D. Farrell, president of the Kansas State College and director of the Experiment Station, promoted from the vice-presidency to the presidency, Dr. W. C. Coffey, dean of the department of agriculture of the University of Minnesota, becoming vice-president and Dr. Thomas P. Cooper, dean of the College of Agriculture of the University of Kentucky and director of the Experiment Station, continuing as secretary-treasurer. Dr. Thomas B. Symons, extension director of the University of Maryland, succeeds Dr. R. G. Bressler, president of Rhode Island State College, on the executive committee.

PRESIDENT CHARLES SEYMOUR, of Yale University, was elected at a meeting held on January 18 to membership on the board of trustees of the American Geographical Society of New York. Officers of the society reelected were: *President*, Roland L. Redmond; *Vice-president and chairman of the council*, W. Redmond Cross; *Recording secretary*, Hamilton Fish Kean, and *Treasurer*, Henry Parish.

DR. CHARLES PALACHE, professor of mineralogy and curator of the Mineralogical Museum of Harvard Uni-

versity, with which he has been connected since 1896, will retire next September with the title professor of mineralogy emeritus. His colleagues and former students held a reception in his honor on February 5 at the Harvard Faculty Club. A portrait of Dr. Palache, by Irwin Hoffman, of New York, was presented to the university; it will hang in the Mineralogical Museum.

PROFESSOR GEORGE WASHINGTON PIERCE has retired with the title emeritus after serving for forty years on the faculty of Harvard University. Dr. Pierce became Rumford professor of physics in 1921 and Gordon McKay professor of communication engineering in 1935. He has been director of the Cruft Laboratory since 1914.

DR. CHARLES CASSEDY BASS, since 1912 professor of experimental medicine and for the past eighteen years dean of the School of Medicine of Tulane University, retired on February 4. He is succeeded by Dr. Maxwell Edward Lapham.

DR. JAMES G. NEEDHAM, until his retirement with the title emeritus in 1936 professor of entomology and limnologist at Cornell University, has been appointed for the second semester visiting professor of biology in the University of Puerto Rico. His address until May 28 will be the Department of Biology of the university at Rio Piedras, P. R.

DR. DANIEL C. ELKIN, professor of surgery at the School of Medicine of Emory University, Atlanta, has been named Joseph B. Whitehead professor of surgery, a position recently established under a grant of \$250,000 from the Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation of Atlanta. Under the terms of the grant, the income will be expended to support both teaching and research activities in connection with the new professorship.

DR. KIMBALL YOUNG, professor of sociology and psychology at the University of Wisconsin, has been appointed professor of sociology at Queens College, Flushing, N. Y.

DR. ROLAND D. PARKS, associate professor of mining engineering at the Michigan College of Mining and Technology, has been appointed assistant professor of geology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He will give special courses in mine evaluation, mineral economics and elements of mining.

DR. JAMES F. COUCH, who has been for more than twenty-two years a member of the staff of the Bureau of Animal Industry, Washington, D. C., has joined the new regional laboratory in Philadelphia.

DR. J. J. WILLAMAN, formerly connected with the Röhms and Haas Company, Philadelphia, has been appointed chief of the biochemical division of the Eastern Regional Laboratory of the U. S. Department of Agriculture of Wyndmoore, Pa.

DR. GEORGE R. HARRISON, professor of physics and director of the research laboratory at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has become editor of the *Journal of the Optical Society of America*. He succeeds the late Professor F. K. Richtmyer, of Cornell University. Dr. Arthur C. Hardy, professor of physics at the institute, has been appointed secretary of the Optical Society to take the place of Dr. L. B. Tuckerman, assistant chief of the Division of Mechanics and Sound of the National Bureau of Standards, who resigned in December.

DR. C. L. ALSBERG, director of the Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics of the University of California, has accepted an invitation to act as a member of the guiding committee of the section on economics and sociology of the eighth American Scientific Congress to be held in Washington, D. C., from May 10 to 18. The committee was appointed to formulate the program for this section and to manage its sessions during the congress.

DEAN WALTER C. COFFEY, of the department of agriculture of the University of Minnesota, has been elected chairman of the Board of Directors of the Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank for the Ninth Federal Reserve District, which covers the States of Minnesota, North and South Dakota and parts of Wisconsin and Montana. He has been a member of the board for several years.

DR. FORREST F. HILL, professor of agricultural economics at Cornell University, who has had leave of absence to serve in Washington as governor of the Farm Credit Administration, presented his resignation on December 20 as a protest against an executive order which placed the Farm Credit Administration under the jurisdiction of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. He is returning to the university for the second term.

DEAN HAROLD S. DIEHL, of the Medical School of the University of Minnesota, has been appointed a member of the National Advisory Health Council of the United States Public Health Service. The primary function of this council is to advise with the Surgeon-General concerning the scientific and research work of the Public Health Service.

SEVERAL officers of the Carnegie Institution of Washington left on January 9 for a three weeks' trip to Guatemala to examine its research program there in volcanology and archeology. Included in the party were Dr. Vannevar Bush, president of the institution; Dr. Frank B. Jewett, Henry R. Shepley and Frederic C. Walcott, trustees; Dr. A. V. Kidder, chairman of the division of historical research, and Dr. L. H. Adams and Dr. F. E. Wright, of the Geophysical Laboratory.

DR. FRANS VERDOORN, formerly of Leyden, Holland, editor and general manager of *Chronica Botanica* and other international publications, has arrived in the United States, where he plans to continue his work. His library and collections have been transferred to this country. The International Address-book of Plant Taxonomists has been completed and will be published shortly. Correspondence for the present should be addressed care of the Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, Mass.

DR. ENRICO FERMI, professor of physics at Columbia University, will be Hitchcock professor at the University of California at Berkeley during the spring semester. The general subject of his lectures will be "High Energies and Small Distances in Modern Physics." The titles of the separate lectures are: "Historical Review," "Elementary Particles," "Nuclear Disintegrations and Nuclear Chemistry," "Fast and Slow Neutrons," "Fission of Uranium" and "The Sources of Stellar Energy."

DR. REGINALD ALDWORTH DALY, Sturgis-Hooper professor of geology at Harvard University, spoke at the Louisiana State University on February 7. The title of the lecture was "New Light on the Earth's Interior," material for which is based on geophysical data gathered in Finland.

DR. ERNEST W. GOODPASTURE, professor of pathology at the School of Medicine of Vanderbilt University, delivered the Eastman Memorial lecture at the School of Medicine of the University of Rochester, N. Y., on December 12. His address was entitled "A Consideration of Pathogenesis in Virus and Bacterial Infections."

DR. GEORGE H. PARKER, of Harvard University, will give the William Keith Brooks lecture at Greensboro College on April 25. He will speak on "Modern Conceptions of the Action of the Nervous System."

DR. HOMER W. SMITH, professor of physiology at the New York University College of Medicine, will deliver the fifth Harvey Society Lecture of the current series at the New York Academy of Medicine on February 15. The title of his address will be "The Physiology of the Renal Circulation."

PROFESSOR JEAN DUFRENOY, of the University of Bordeaux, at present exchange-professor of plant physiology at Louisiana State University, lectured before the Sigma Xi Club of St. Louis University on January 16. The title of his lecture was "The Nature of the Vacuum and its Role in Biological Processes."

DR. ROBERT ROBINSON, Waynflete professor of chemistry at the University of Oxford, has accepted an invitation of the University of Pennsylvania to deliver an address during the celebration of the bicen-

ennial of the university, which will be held from September 15 to September 21.

Nature states that a University of Poland Abroad was instituted at a meeting held in the Polish Library, Paris, on December 1.

It has been decided that in view of the present world situation it is advisable to postpone to an indefinite date the fifth International Congress of Pediatrics, which was to have been held in Boston on September 3, 4 and 5.

THE American Institute of Nutrition will meet in New Orleans on March 13. The morning and afternoon sessions will be devoted to the presentation of papers on current nutrition research. The evening will be given over to a symposium on "Nutrition for the Higher Health," with Dr. Henry C. Sherman, Mitchill professor of chemistry at Columbia University, presiding. The separate papers to be presented are: "The Problems of Promoting Better Human Nutrition," Dr. E. V. McCollum; "The Assessment of the Nutrition of Populations," Dr. J. B. Youmans; "Dietary Levels in the United States," Hazel K. Stiebeling; "Pellagra and Associated Deficiency Diseases as a Medical and Public Health Problem," Dr. T. D. Spies.

APPLICATIONS to the National Research Council Committee for Research in Problems of Sex, for financial aid during the fiscal year beginning July 1, in support of the study of fundamental problems of sex and reproduction, should be received before April 1. They may be addressed to the chairman, Dr. Robert M. Yerkes, Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, Conn. Although investigations on hormones continue to command the interest and support of the committee, preference, in accordance with current policy, will ordinarily be given to proposals for the investigation of neurological, psychobiological and behavior problems.

OAKES AMES, research professor of botany at Harvard University and director of the botanical museum, has presented to the university his orchid herbarium of 57,000 specimens. Besides the herbarium he has given to the university his library of more than 1,800

volumes and pamphlets about orchids and has provided the sum of \$68,000 to establish an endowed curatorship for the collection, which is to be known as the Orchid Herbarium of Oakes Ames.

DR. EDWARD BAUSCH, of the Bausch and Lomb Optical Company, Rochester, N. Y., has given his house and grounds to the Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences, to become the nucleus of a division to be devoted to industrial science. Furthermore, he has pledged himself to build the first unit of the museum. The assessed valuation of the residence and grounds is \$150,000. In making the gift Dr. Bausch in a letter to Dr. John R. Williams, the president of the museum, wrote: "It is only natural that I should have wished that we had a museum in my native city to round out the splendid cultural and educational facilities which it possesses, and I am happy to say that Mrs. Bausch shares this desire with me."

A WPA grant to Rutgers University has made it possible to begin the remodelling of an old house near the campus for the use of the department of psychology. Partitioning the house into twenty-one rooms will furnish space for laboratory, shop, clinic, offices, classrooms and seminar room, and a limited number of rooms for graduate students. Dr. Carroll C. Pratt is head of the department.

THE Hayden Planetarium of the American Museum of Natural History has acquired through the generosity of Lincoln Ellsworth a recently discovered specimen of an important meteorite fall. It is a complete specimen, weighing 522 pounds, and is part of the Bethany-Gibeon fall in Southwest Africa. It is the only one of the Gibeon group that has been brought whole to this country. The new meteorite, to be known as the Kirris-Ost siderite, will be added to the collection of meteorites.

A 225-POUND Brazilian topaz crystal, said to be one of the finest in the world, has been obtained by the Mineralogical Museum of Harvard University and has been placed on exhibit. The topaz is eighteen inches in diameter. It is white in color, with inclusions of dark manganese minerals distributed in parallel streaks.

DISCUSSION

AN ENDEMIC PALM ON COCOS ISLAND NEAR PANAMA MISTAKEN FOR THE COCONUT PALM

Two Cocos Islands sometimes are confused, one an inhabited coral group, known also as the Keeling Islands, located in the Indian Ocean south of Sumatra, the other an uninhabited mountainous island in the Pacific Ocean about 250 miles southwest of Panama,

midway between the Galapagos Islands and Costa Rica. This small precipitous forest-covered island, rising to nearly 3,000 feet, chiefly known as a resort of buccaneers and treasure-seekers, was visited by Lionel Wafer in 1685 and described as abounding in coconut palms, not only near the landing place, later called Wafer Bay, but also "on the skirts of the hilly ground