Gifts for scientific research, according to the official announcement, included the following:

The Rockefeller Foundation allotted $8,500 to the colleges in Ithaca for research in longevity, Far Eastern studies and reflex behavior research. The Medical College in New York received grants from this foundation amounting to $33,404 for the Rockefeller Chemistry Fund, tuberculosis studies, the operation of the Health Center Division of the Public Health Department, the maintenance of the anatomy farm devoted to animal research and for studies in chemistry.

From the Josiah Macy, Jr., Foundation, grants were received amounting to $13,875 for studies of pneumonia, family health fund, research of neuroses in farm animals, endocrine glands, neurology, senility and for the social survey fund.

Among gifts for the colleges in Ithaca during the half year were $133,949 from the estate of John McMullen. This will be added to the fund established by the university in 1923 for engineering scholarships. It now amounts to $1,945,426 and several hundred students are receiving its benefits.

The National Geographic Society allotted $1,000 for studies of the aurora. Research Associate Albert R. Brand gave $1,100 for research in bird song recording, and the American Philosophical Society made a grant of $600 for research in isotopes. Mrs. Adelaide C. Snyder, of Minneapolis, gave $1,000 for research in the chemistry of nutrition.

The Medical College received grants from the Milbank Memorial Fund amounting to $2,500 for a study of nutrition of adolescents; the Russell Sage Institute of Pathology gave $10,500 for research with the calorimeter and radiometer; the National Infantile Paralysis Fund gave $2,500 for infantile paralysis research; the John and Mary R. Markle Foundation gave $3,000 for pemphigus research; $7,500 was received from William E. Benjamin for research in the department of physiology; the estate of Dr. John Rogers provided $2,573 for a fund for experimental biochemistry; the National Research Council allotted $2,559 for a fund for morphology and metabolism; from the Friedsam Foundation $1,500 was received for a fund for neurology; John Staige Davis, Jr., gave $14,500 for pharmacological research, and William R. Warner gave a fellowship fund of $2,000.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE first award of the Leon Bernard Prize, established by the Health Committee of the League of Nations and consisting of a bronze medal and the sum of 1,000 Swiss francs, was made to Dr. Wilbur A. Sawyer, director of the International Health Division of the Rockefeller Foundation, at a dinner of the League of Nations Association in New York on January 29, as a tribute to his achievements in the field of yellow fever and to his success in extending medico-social protection to the populations of many countries. The presentation was made by former Surgeon General Hugh S. Cumming. Through the death of Professor Bernard in 1934 the Health Committee of the League of Nations lost one of its most prominent members. Being desirous of perpetuating his memory, the committee decided to create a foundation to be known as the Leon Bernard Foundation, the object of which would be the award of an international prize to reward practical achievements in the field of social medicine.

ROYAL W. SORENSEN, professor of electrical engineering and head of the department of electrical engineering at the California Institute of Technology, has been nominated for president of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers. Professor Sorensen has been a consulting engineer for the U. S. Electrical Manufacturing Company in connection with induction motor design. In association with Dr. R. A. Millikan, he developed and patented a vacuum type of circuit breaker. Since 1931 he has served as a member of the Board of Consulting Engineers for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, which is building the Colorado River Aqueduct to Southern California.

AT the annual meeting of the Harvey Society, held on January 26, the following officers were elected for the year 1940–1941: *President,* Dr. Herbert S. Gasser, director of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research; *Vice-president,* Dr. Homer W. Smith, professor of physiology at the New York University College of Medicine; *Treasurer,* Dr. Kenneth Goodner (re-elected); *Secretary,* Dr. Thomas Francis, Jr. (re-elected); Dr. Nathan Chandler Foot, Dr. Vincent du Vigneaud and Dr. Michael Heidelberger were elected members of the council.

DR. LIBERTY HYDE BAILEY, professor of agriculture emeritus at Cornell University and director of the Bailey Hortorium, was elected president of the American Society of Plant Taxonomists at the recent Columbus meeting.

DR. MAZYCK P. RAVENEL, professor of bacteriology and preventive medicine at the University of Missouri from 1914 until 1936, when he became professor emeritus, has been presented by his former students with his portrait painted by Albert Adams Sloan. The painting has been hung in the library of the School of Medicine. The formal presentation will take place later.

DR. I. M. KOLTHOFF, professor and chief of the Division of Analytical Chemistry of the School of Chemistry of the University of Minnesota, has been elected a member of the Royal Flemish Academy of Science, Literature and Fine Arts.

DR. RUDOLPH M. ANDERSON, chief of the division of biology of the National Museum of Canada at Ottawa, has been elected a corresponding member of the Zoological Society of London.

AT the annual dinner of the Brown University Club of New York City on February 6 one of the three bronze plaques awarded to distinguished alumni was presented to Dr. M. L. Crossley, director of research for the Calco Chemical Division of the American Cyanamid Company.

THE Jefferson interacademy award of a hundred dollars has been given to Dr. F. H. McCutcheon, of the North Carolina State College, Raleigh, in recognition of his paper on "Respiration in the Grasshopper." "Noteworthy papers" are selected by each of the various academies of the southeastern states and submitted to a national committee for the final award.

THE 1939 King award for the most meritorious paper presented at a meeting of the Kentucky Academy of Science has been given to Dr. W. R. Allen, professor of zoology of the University of Kentucky. Dr. Allen's paper was entitled "Science and Human Mores." This annual award of $50 was established for a period of five years by Mr. and Mrs. Fain White King, of Wickliffe, Ky. It is to be presented each year to "the author of the most outstanding paper of the meeting."

DR. JAY B. NASH, chairman of the department of physical education and health of the New York University School of Education, was presented on January 27 at a luncheon of the New York City Health and Physical Education Teachers Association with the Luther Halsey Gulick Award for "distinguished service in physical education and allied fields."

THE Harrison Lectureship Medal of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain was awarded to A. D. Powell on January 9, when he delivered the Harrison Memorial lecture of the society entitled "Drug Standards: their Development and Application." The medal is awarded biennially to commemorate Colonel E. F. Harrison, the distinguished pharmaceutical chemist.

EARL RUSSELL has been appointed William James lecturer on philosophy at Harvard University for the first half of the next academic year, 1940–41. He will give twelve public lectures on "Language and Fact" and will hold a seminar in the department of philosophy. Lord Russell is lecturing this year at the University of California at Los Angeles.

DR. STANHOPE BAYNE-JONES has declined reappointment to the office of dean of the Yale School of Medicine at the end of the five-year term for which he was elected which expires on July 1. He expects to devote more time to his work as director of the board of scientific advisers of the Jane Coffin Childs Memorial Fund for cancer research at the university. Dr. Bayne-Jones had been for nine years professor of bacteriology at the School of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Rochester before he succeeded Dr. Milton C. Winternitz as dean of the Yale School of Medicine in 1935.

AUGUSTINE W. BLAIR, professor of agricultural chemistry and soil chemist of the department of soils of the New Jersey State College of Agriculture and Experiment Station of Rutgers University, retired on January 2 after serving for twenty-eight years. He is succeeded by Dr. Firman E. Bear, science editor of the *Country Home Magazine*.

DR. HAMILTON H. ANDERSON, assistant clinical professor of pharmacology at the Medical School of the University of California, has resigned to accept a professorship in pharmacology at the Peiping Union Medical College, China.

DR. DON W. GUDAKUNST, who has been associated with the U. S. Public Health Service, has been appointed medical director of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, with headquarters at the offices of the foundation at 120 Broadway, New York City.

A REPORT in *Nature* states that Dr. C. H. Desch, who retired on reaching the age limit from the post of superintendent of the department of metallurgy and metallurgical chemistry of the National Physical Laboratory, England, on December 31, will be succeeded by Dr. C. Sykes, of the Metropolitan-Vickers Research Laboratories. Dr. Sykes will take up his work at Teddington on March 1.

DR. JACOB PAPISH, professor of chemistry at Cornell University, has leave of absence for the second term.

DR. WILLIAM M. MANN, director of the National Zoological Park at Washington, D. C., sailed from New York on February 14. He is leader of an expedition to Liberia sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution. He plans to collect animals and birds for the park.

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association states that the following medical men are visiting the United States: Dr. Hugo Chiodi with a scholarship of the Rockefellor Foundation to carry on studies in the Fatigue Laboratory of Harvard. Dr. Flaminio Vidal with a scholarship of the Rockefeller Foundation to work on the subject of neurology under Dr. S. W. Ranson in Chicago. Dr. Eduardo de Robertis with a scholarship of the Fundación Devoto of the Academia Nacional de Medicina of Buenos Aires to study histology at the University of Chicago. Drs. Joaquin Llacer and J. Sozzi with the scholarship of the Asociación Argentina para el Progreso de las Ciencias

to study microchemistry in New York University. Dr. Armando Parodi with a scholarship of the Rockefeller Foundation to study viruses at the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research. Dr. C. Galli Mainini will study nutritional diseases with Dr. E. P. Joslin, of the Harvard Medical School.

DR. HARRISON E. HOWE, editor of *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry,* will deliver a John Howard Appleton Lecture at Brown University on the evening of February 23. His subject will be "Chemistry in the Nation's Business." The lecture is open to the public.

DR. HAROLD C. UREY, professor of chemistry at Columbia University, lectured at the Iowa State College on January 29 and 30. He spoke on "Methods of Separating Isotopes" and on the "Use of Isotopes as Tags in Chemical Reactions."

THE Kappa Chapter of the Society of Sigma Xi, Columbia University, has arranged the following lectures during the spring: February 20, "The Vertebrate Eye and Its Photoreceptors," by Dr. Samuel R. Detwiler, professor of anatomy, Columbia University; March 19, "Genetics and Geometry," by Dr. Edmund W. Sinnott, professor of botany, Barnard College, Columbia University, and May 7, "The Art and Science of the Mayans," by Dr. Herbert J. Spinden, curator of American Indian art and primitive cultures at the Museum of the Brooklyn Institute.

DR. ALAN R. MORITZ, professor of legal medicine at the Harvard Medical School, will deliver the sixteenth Ludvig Hektoen Lecture of the Frank Billings Foundation of the Institute of Medicine of Chicago on the evening of February 23. He will speak on "Medical Science and the Administration of Justice." On the same day there will be a medicolegal conference under the auspices of the committee of the institute on local medicolegal problems, Dr. Oscar T. Schultz, chairman. The morning session, with Dr. Schultz presiding, will be held in the amphitheater of Cook County Morgue and will be given by the scientific staff of the Cook County coroner's office. The afternoon session, with Dean Albert J. Harno, of the College of Law of the University of Illinois, presiding, will be held at the University of Illinois College of Medicine. Addresses will be made by Captain John I. Howe, of the Chicago Police Department; Dr. I. Davidsohn, pathologist of the Mount Sinai Hospital; Fred E. Inbau, director of the Chicago Police Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory, and Benjamin C. Bachrach, public defender of Cook County, and a tour will be made of the Chicago police laboratories.

A CONFERENCE on "Physical-chemical and Organic-chemical Evidence Regarding Crystalline Protein Molecules" was held at the American Museum on February 2 and 3 under the auspices of the Section of Chemistry and Physics of the New York Academy of Sciences. There were one hundred and sixty in attendance. The papers presented, which were in each case followed by full discussion by invited speakers were: "Evidence Regarding the Composition of Protein Molecules," H. B. Vickery, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station; "Regarding the Size and Shape of Protein Molecules. Ultracentrifugation, Diffusion, Viscosity, Dielectric Dispersion and Double Refraction of Flow," J. L. Oncley, Harvard Medical School, and "Regarding the Structure of Protein Molecules," B. Warren and I. Fankuchen, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

THE Southeastern Section of the American Physical Society will hold its sixth annual meeting on March 22 and 23, at the Citadel, in Charleston, S. C. A portion of the program will be devoted to the subject "Applied Physics in the South." Dr. Paul D. Foote, executive vice-president of the Gulf Research and Development Company, has been invited to speak on "Gasoline, from the Point of View of the Physicist."

ACCORDING to the terms of the will of the late Edward Harkness, as reported in the daily press, after specific bequests have been made, one half of the remainder of the estate on the death of Mrs. Mary Stillman Harkness will go to the Commonwealth Fund, the corporation established by Mr. Harkness and his mother for medical research and for charitable purposes, the funds to be used at the discretion of the board of directors; one fourth to the Presbyterian Hospital, of which one unit, the Harkness Pavilion, is named in his honor; the remaining quarter of the estate is left to the following institutions in proportions to be designated by Mrs. Harkness in her will, or to be divided in equal shares, should she fail to do so: The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Yale University, Harvard University, New York Public Library, St. Paul's School, Concord, N. H., Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute, Hampton, Va., New York Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, Charity Organization Society of the City of New York, and Atlanta University. During his life-time Mr. Harkness gave away a sum estimated to be $100,000,000.

CHARLES AUGUSTUS STRONG, philosopher and psychologist, formerly professor in Columbia University, who had lived in Fiesole, Italy, for the past thirty years, established by his will a trust fund of the approximate value of $133,000, the income of which is to be used for fellowships in science and philosophy. The trustees of the fund are Earl Russell, George Edward Moore and Julian Huxley.

A NEW seismograph station began operation at the Utah State Agricultural College, Logan, on January 26. The equipment of the station consists of a 12-inch acceleragraph of the Montana type which has been installed by the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, and a two-component Wood-Anderson seismograph with a six-second period. Funds for the purchase of the Wood-Anderson instruments were bequeathed to the college by the late Thomas P. Oldham and the station will be known as the Oldham Seismograph Station in his honor. The instruments are installed in the basement of the south wing of the Administration Building. The pier rests on well-cemented gravels deposited as a delta by the Logan River in Pleistocene Lake Bonneville. The approximate geographic location of the station is longitude 111° 49′ west and latitude 41° 45′ north. The station will be conducted by the staff and students of the department of geology.

THE Alaskan Branch of the U. S. Geological Survey has recently started the office compilation of multiple-lens airplane photographs covering an area of about 5,000 square miles in the broad valley of the Tanana River in the interior of Alaska. The area, which was photographed by the Geological Survey in 1938, lies between Fairbanks on the west and the international boundary on the east. The pictures were taken from an elevation of about 15,000 feet, so that one inch on the photographs is equal to about 2,500 feet on the ground. From the photographs there will be constructed a planimetric map that will be published on a scale of 4 miles to the inch. The work, which is under the direction of Gerald FitzGerald, will probably take until the end of the current government fiscal year.

A PRELIMINARY statement recently prepared by the Alaskan Branch of the Geological Survey reports the estimated value of minerals produced in 1939 from Alaska mines as $24,888,000. This brings the total mineral production of the Territory to over $800,000,000. Of the production in 1939, gold accounted for $22,900,000. The value of the platinum metals recovered from its mines in that year is estimated at $936,000, which places Alaska among the half-dozen largest platinum-producing countries of the world.

LIMITED facilities and a limited budget have again restricted the number of students who could be received at the College of Natural Sciences at Yenching University for the present academic year. More than half of the thousand applicants for entrance to the university applied to enter the College of Natural Sciences. The enrolment figures in natural sciences for the fall semester of 1939 show graduate students, 27; seniors, 23; juniors, 54; sophomores, 144, and freshmen, 107. The undergraduate enrolment in the college (excluding freshmen) classified according to departments is as follows: biology, 7; chemistry, 46; home economics, 20; mathematics, 13; physics, 39; pre-medicine, 53; pre-engineering, 12; pre-nursing, 5, and unclassified, 26. The registration for the entire university is 982.

DISCUSSION

THE SMALLER ANIMALS OF THE GREAT PLAINS

THE rodents of the grassland, particularly ground squirrels, prairie dogs, kangaroo rats and jack-rabbits, have long constituted a problem in grazing areas as competitors with live stock. Their increases on the plains are well described by Merriam in the Year Book of the United States Department of Agriculture for 1901. He states that on many parts of the plains prairie dogs were more abundant in 1900 than formerly and their colonies had overspread extensive areas previously unoccupied. This is due to the aid of the settlers, (1) by decreasing the animal's natural enemies, and (2) by increasing the food supply. The settler wages warfare against the coyotes, kit foxes, badgers, ferrets, weasels, hawks, owls, snakes and other predatory animals which had previously held the prairie dogs in check. "The prairie dogs have multiplied until they have become a pernicious enemy to agriculture.

"For example, one South Dakota settler states that about fifteen years ago his children noticed two or three burrows about a mile from his house, and now they have spread over and occupied a full quarter section (160 acres), having surrounded his house and taken possession of all the land near it." Merriam cites many examples of losses, among others, that of a cattle ranch which had its carrying capacity cut from 1,000 cattle to 500 by an increase of prairie dogs, which extended to cover 300 square miles, causing a decrease in population and the abandonment of a post office.

The natural enemies of the plains rodents have been decimated through prejudices and the use of poisons. Also, flesh-eating animals usually have good coats and are trapped for fur. This applies to the black-footed ferret, the present status of which appears to be very much in doubt. Merriam states that this animal alone was capable of holding plains rodents in check. The only report of specimens in recent years comes to the writer from Hamilton County, Kansas, which is near the Colorado line. Merriam also described the method of attack of the kit fox. Of this animal, Seton says, "Harmless as a rabbit, he is harmless to man and man's interests . . . readily takes the poison bait used now-