

based on the long and varied experience of the various emergency organizations which preceded it.

The official statement points out that the council is doing a work that can not be done by either employment agencies or want advertisements. It is an advisory organization. Younger chemists are given an opportunity to learn about chemical industries. Chemists with experience are told more about industries outside their own immediate field. A number of university and industrial executives are giving liberally of their time to supplement the work of the secretary in advising registrants. All services are free.

#### THE HERZSTEIN LECTURES

THE Morris Herzstein Course of Medical Lectures for 1940 will be given by Dr. David Bruce Dill, of Harvard University, on April 8, 10 and 12.

The titles of the lectures will be:

- April 8—"High Temperatures." Racial and individual adaptability to hot climates; various types of breakdown in temperature regulation; clinical applications of hyperthermia.
- April 10—"Low Temperatures." Metabolic and dietary adjustments in cold climates; dependence of resistance on the internal environment; clinical applications of hypothermia.
- April 12—"High Altitudes." Respiratory adaptations to oxygen lack.

These lectures will be given in the Auditorium of the University of California Extension Division at 540 Powell Street, San Francisco.

The Morris Herzstein Lectures were established in 1929 by the late Dr. Morris Herzstein, of San Francisco, to be given under the direction of the Medical Schools of Stanford University and the University of California. They are given on alternate years by scientific men of outstanding achievement and are open to the public as well as to the medical profession.

Previous courses of Herzstein Lectures have been given as follows:

1929. "Influence of the Sympathetic Nervous System on the Activity of Skeletal Muscles, of Sensory Receptors, and of the Central Nervous System," Dr. L. A. Orbeli, professor of physiology, Medical Institute of Leningrad.
1930. "Medieval and Modern Medicine," Dr. Charles Singer, lecturer in the history of medicine, University of London.
1932. "Carbohydrate Metabolism," Dr. Philip Anderson Shaffer, professor of biological chemistry, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis.

1934. "The Internal Secretions of the Anterior Lobe of the Pituitary Body," Dr. Herbert McLean Evans, professor of anatomy, Morris Herzstein professor of biology, director of the Institute of Experimental Biology, University of California at Berkeley.

1936. "Precept and Practice of Preventive Medicine," Dr. John Gerald FitzGerald, professor of hygiene and preventive medicine, director of Connaught Laboratories, School of Hygiene, University of Toronto.

1938. "The Problem of High Blood Pressure," Dr. George W. Pickering, lecturer in cardiovascular pathology, University College Hospital, London.

#### SUMMER MEETINGS OF ECOLOGISTS

THE 1940 summer meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science will be held at the University of Washington, Seattle, from June 17 to 22, inclusive. The Ecological Society of America will participate as an affiliated society.

These two organizations will present jointly the third of a series of summer meeting symposia. The Ecological Society is planning a few field excursions of interest to animal and plant ecologists. In addition it will hold two sessions for the presentation of papers, for animal ecology and plant ecology, with papers in bio-ecology assigned to either.

Members wishing to present papers should send in the title, the time for presentation (not over 20 minutes) and facilities desired (lantern, chart hangers, etc.) at as early a date as possible so that a satisfactory grouping of related papers can be effected. A member who can not be present at Seattle may arrange to have a paper read. Non-members may present papers when introduced by a member.

All material requested on papers may be mailed either to the secretary of the society, Dr. W. J. Hamilton, Jr., Cornell University, or to any of the three members of the executive committee of the Western Section of the Ecological Society of America, so that the material will be in the hands of the chairman of this committee by May 1. This is necessary in order to secure publication in the program of the Seattle meeting. Members of the executive committee are:

Dr. Frederick A. Davidson, Bureau of Fisheries, 2725 Montlake Boulevard, Seattle, Wash.

Professor Joseph Kittridge, Jr., University of California at Berkeley.

Dr. H. de Forest, *chairman*, University of Southern California, Los Angeles.

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. KARL T. COMPTON was the guest of honor on March 5 at an alumni dinner in the Hotel Waldorf-Astoria, New York City, on the occasion of the tenth

anniversary of his presidency of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The speakers were: Dr. Frank B. Jewett, president of the Bell Telephone

Laboratories and of the Alumni Association; Dr. Vannevar Bush, president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, formerly dean of engineering at the Massachusetts Institute; A. T. Glassett, president of the Technology Club of New York, and Eric Hodgins, publisher of *Fortune*. A congratulatory message was received from Governor Saltonstall, of Massachusetts. On behalf of the New York Alumni and the Technology Club, Robert E. Wilson, president of the Pan-American Petroleum Company, presented a silver tray to Mrs. Compton.

THE Philadelphia Award, consisting of \$10,000, a medal and a scroll, was presented on March 7 to Dr. Thomas S. Gates, president of the University of Pennsylvania. The award was established in 1921 by the late Edward W. Bok to be presented annually for "an act or service calculated to advance the best and largest interests of the community."

THE daily press reports that, with the acquiescence of the trustees, Dr. Niels Bohr, professor of physics at the University of Copenhagen, has offered the gold medal awarded to him by the Franklin Institute of Philadelphia to be disposed of for the benefit of the Finnish Relief Fund. In a cable to the vice-president of the fund Dr. Bohr said: "In Denmark the name of Franklin is a symbol of liberty."

DR. CARL J. CORI, professor of zoology at the University of Prague, observed his seventy-fifth birthday on February 24.

DR. HENRY E. SIGERIST, professor of the history of medicine and director of the Institute of the History of Medicine at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, who was South African visiting lecturer in 1939, has returned to the United States. During his visit he received an honorary degree from the University of Witwatersrand.

SIR HUMPHRY ROLLESTON, chairman of the executive committee of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund since 1924, has been admitted to honorary fellowship in the Royal College of Surgeons, London.

DR. ETIENNE BURNET, director of the Pasteur Institute of Tunis, has been made a Commander of the French Legion of Honor.

*The British Medical Journal* states that Professors Emil Abderhalden, of Halle; August Bier and Sauerbruch, of Berlin; Albert Döderlein, of Munich; Franz Volhard, of Frankfurt; Hans von Haber, of Cologne; Erwin Payr, of Leipzig, and Ludwig Aschoff, of Freiburg, have been made honorary members of the Vienna Medical Society.

DR. HORATIO B. WILLIAMS, Dalton professor of physiology at Columbia University, a member of the

faculty since 1911, has been elected president of the Columbia Chapter of the Society of Sigma Xi, to succeed Professor Arthur W. Thomas, of the department of chemistry. Professor Selig Hecht, of the department of biophysics, has been elected vice-president.

OFFICERS of the Royal Astronomical Society, London, for 1940-41 are: *President*, Professor H. C. Plummer (reelected); *Vice-presidents*, Professor David Brunt, Professor Alfred Fowler, Dr. H. Spencer Jones (reelected) and Sir James Jeans; *Treasurer*, J. H. Reynolds (reelected); *Secretaries*, Dr. R. d'E. Atkinson and D. H. Sadler (reelected); *Foreign Secretary*, Sir Arthur Eddington (reelected).

THE U. S. National Committee of the International Electrotechnical Commission has elected E. C. Crittenden, chief of the Electrical Division of the National Bureau of Standards, as president to succeed Dr. C. H. Sharp, who has been named honorary president to succeed the late Dr. A. E. Kennelly. L. F. Adams, assistant to the vice-president of the General Electric Company, has been named vice-president, and H. S. Osborne, of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, vice-president and treasurer.

THE Senate confirmed on March 9 the reappointment of Dr. Thomas Parran, of New York, as head of the U. S. Public Health Service for four more years.

DR. LOUISE STANLEY, chief of the Bureau of Home Economics, has been appointed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture as its representative on the council of the American Standards Association to succeed Dr. T. H. MacDonald. Dr. MacDonald is head of the Bureau of Public Roads, which has been transferred from the Department of Agriculture to the Federal Works Agency, a member body of the American Standards Association. Dr. MacDonald is now representing the agency on the council. Dr. D. J. Price, of the Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering, will continue as representative of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

DR. WLADYSŁAW GORCZYŃSKI, from 1919 to 1926 chief of the Polish Weather Bureau, who has been engaged recently in research at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography of the University of California at La Jolla, has been made research associate at the institution.

ARISTID V. GROSSE has resigned from his position as associate director of research for the Universal Oil Products Company. He is carrying on research at Columbia University.

DR. BYRON RIEGEL, instructor in chemistry at Northwestern University, has been given a grant of

\$5,000 by the Rockefeller Foundation to aid his research in the chemistry of sterols. The money will be used to purchase equipment and to pay a laboratory assistant.

DR. GEORGE W. HUNTER, III, assistant professor of biology at Wesleyan University, has leave of absence for the second semester. He plans to work at the Biological Laboratories of Harvard University, where he has been appointed research fellow.

DR. GEORGE R. COWGILL, associate professor of physiological chemistry at Yale University, delivered the February Smith-Reed-Russell lecture at the School of Medicine of George Washington University. He spoke on "Nutrition and Public Health."

DR. DONALD H. MENZEL, professor of astrophysics at Harvard University, lectured on March 6 at a joint meeting of the Franklin Institute and the Rittenhouse Astronomical Association. His subject was "What is New in the Sun?"

DR. GEORGE E. VINCENT, formerly president of the University of Minnesota and later president of the Rockefeller Foundation, has been appointed the first James Humphrey Hoyt memorial lecturer at Yale University. The lecture will be given on April 3.

DR. RENÉ J. DUBOS, associate member of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, will deliver the sixth Harvey Society Lecture of the current series at the New York Academy of Medicine on March 21. He will speak on the "Utilization of Selective Microbial Agents in the Study of Biological Problems."

PROFESSOR JEAN DUFRENOY, professor of plant physiology and pathology at the University of Bordeaux, lectured at the University of California on February 13 on "Oxidation-reduction Systems in Plant Cells," and on February 15 on "Phenolic Compounds in Relation to Plant Virus Diseases."

THE fifty-eighth course of Lane popular medical lectures will be given at the Stanford University School of Medicine on April 5 and 19 and May 3 and 17. The subjects and the lecturers are "Outstanding Achievements in Endocrinology," Dr. Hans Lissner; "Epilepsy and the Convulsive State," Dr. Frederick A. Fender; "Civilization's Challenge to Surgery," Dr. Nelson J. Howard; "Aviation Medicine," Dr. Eric Liljencrantz.

DR. CLARENCE A. MILLS, professor of experimental medicine at the University of Cincinnati, on February 20 and 21 gave addresses on climatic and weather effects before the Medical Association of the Isthmian Canal Zone and the Panama Canal Natural History Society. He was the guest of the Gorgas Memorial Laboratory, and while in Panama made plans for

future studies in tropical physiology to be carried out there with the cooperation of various medical and health groups on the Isthmus.

THE meeting of the International Congress of Mathematicians that it was planned to hold at Harvard University in September has been cancelled.

THE committee of the British Physiological Society which was planning the seventeenth International Congress of Physiology at Oxford in August, 1941, under the presidency of Sir Charles Sherrington, has decided that the congress must be postponed. Arrangements for the future will be made in consultation with the Permanent International Committee.

THE tenth Congress of the Federation of Societies of Medical Science in North Africa will be held at Casablanca and Rabat, under the presidency of Dr. Dubois Roquebort, on March 22 and 23, when the subject for discussion will be diseases of the blood in North Africa.

THE eleventh annual meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists will be held on May 2, 3 and 4 at the American Museum of Natural History.

THE sixteenth annual meeting of the American Heart Association will be held at the Hotel Roosevelt, New York City. The general cardiac program will be given on June 7, and the program of the Section for the Study of the Peripheral Circulation on June 8.

A COMPETITIVE civil service examination for the position of chief of the Bureau of Marine Fisheries of California's Division of Fish and Game, vacant through the recent retirement of N. B. Schofield, has been scheduled for April 13 by the California Personnel Board through its executive officer, Louis J. Kroeger. Residence requirements have been waived. The position pays at first a salary of \$320 per month, and the requirements include education equal to that represented by graduation from college with specialization in biology, zoology or marine fisheries and more than five years' experience in fisheries research and major research projects, or an equivalent combination of education and similar experience. The work includes directing a staff engaged in a program of research for conservation and management of marine fisheries of the State of California, and coordinating the general work of the bureau with other divisions of the Fish and Game Commission. The exact date of the examination can be obtained by writing to the State Personnel Board, 1025 P Street, Sacramento.

THE Carnegie Corporation of New York has made a grant of \$37,500 to the American Association of Museums. The grant is payable over three years for general expenses.

At a meeting on March 2 the National Advisory Cancer Council recommended that grants be made as follows: The University of Chicago, \$3,500 for the study of carcinogenic substances in human cancer and in the urine of cancer patients; The University of Michigan, \$450 for study of the biologic action of cyclotron products; Meharry Medical College, Nashville, \$1,100 toward maintenance of a follow-up system and records which may be available for statistical and other scientific studies, contingent on approval of the tumor clinic at the George W. Hubbard Hospital by the American College of Surgeons; The University of Cincinnati, \$4,020 for study of the relationship of gastric cancer to chronic gastritis; Roseoe B. Jackson Memorial Laboratory, a grant, the exact amount to be determined, in aid of research on the genetics of cancer; The New York Hospital, \$4,400 for continuation of studies on the early diagnosis of gastric cancer with special reference to the value of clinical methods.

A MAP which has been distributed to fellows of the American Geographical Society consists of a large sheet with eighteen colored maps giving much important information. In the preparation of the maps the research staff made use of more than a hundred and twenty-five different colored maps, many of them from rare central and eastern European publications, in the society's collection. A large map in the center of the sheet comprises all the more densely populated parts of Europe, showing towns, railroads, canals and international boundaries. Surrounding this are smaller maps illustrating types of land surface and land use, boundary changes since 1912, population, languages, international trade, mineral resources, navigable waterways, land and sea routes to the Far East, colonial posses-

sions and certain facts about the climate of Europe of interest in connection with the war (such as ice conditions in the Baltic and White Seas). Although intended for general reference purposes and for use in following military movements, these maps also make clear many facts essential to an understanding of the European situation in its political, economic and strategic aspects. The maps are accompanied by a pamphlet containing explanatory text, a list of sources used, an index of some 2,300 names appearing on the maps and a special map of Finland and the neighboring regions.

At the request of the directors of the American Chemical Society, according to *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry*, the chairman of the Patent Committee has reported that five of the seven patent law bills presented to Congress by the Monopoly Committee with the recommendation of Commissioner Cole have been passed by the House and Senate and signed by the President. These may be briefly summarized as follows: (1) Reduce from two years to one year the period within which an inventor may make public use of his invention before filing application for a patent. (2) Revise "interference practices" and reduce the number of hearings which may be held. Chairman O'Mahoney said applications for these hearings had been used for extending the life of patents. (3) Abolish so-called "renewal applications" for patents. (4) Extend the authority of the patent commissioner to enable him to require an applicant to respond to an official action within less than the current statutory period of six months. (5) Reduce the period within which to copy claims from an issued patent for the purpose of asserting priority.

## DISCUSSION

### CONIFER INFLORESCENCE AGAIN

SEVERAL essays of the past ten years, first appearing in *SCIENCE*<sup>1</sup> and then elsewhere at more length, assert the validity of the all-inflorescent view of the conifers. Meanwhile too, that long-delayed study of cone-development had been at last carried out by Hagerup, who, however, reaches a somewhat simplified floral view. He even suggests that through some course of reduction not a few of the angiosperms have been derived from older conifers not remote from *Juniperus*. Hence the century-long argument over the cone homology is yet on. No less, that more monomorphic view

of an old, old history for all the lines of seed plants extending back to the Pteridosperms must be more than merely contentious.

Far too much significance has been given to the mere form of fossil evidence, with too little note of the arithmetic of occurrence. Moreover, many suggestions must yet come from the study of aberrant cones. Long since convinced that truer finality in the study of cycadeoid floral structures much depended on keeping the features of the conifers well in the foreground, I planted a series of my own. It was thought that by watching their growth through the years variations might be noted—ideas gained even over and above the texts. Such has proven to be the fact. The aberrant cone growths seem far more frequent than recorded in-

<sup>1</sup> Cf. Bibliography in Cerro Cuadrado Petrified Forest, *Carnegie Institution Pub. 449*, Washington, 1935.