

President, Dr. S. C. Prescott, dean of science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; *Vice-president*, Dr. Roy C. Newton, chief chemist of the Swift Company, Chicago; *Secretary-treasurer*, Dr. G. J. Hucker, New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva.

The membership of the institute includes chemists, bacteriologists, process engineers and others similarly trained or experienced in the manufacture, preservation and handling of food. Graduation from a college or a university with majors in at least two such sciences as chemistry, physics, biology, micro-biology and engineering in relation to food handling and processing is regarded as a desirable prerequisite for membership, but those having experience of at least three years in some type of technological work will be accepted, also distinguished students of food technology, whether or not they have had technical training, are eligible. Those who are active in special limited aspects of food technology and those scientifically trained for a career in the food industry are eligible for affiliate membership.

RECENT DEATHS

DR. FERDINAND ELLERMAN, who since 1905 had been associated with the Mount Wilson Observatory of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, from 1913 until his retirement in 1937 as astronomer, died in his seventy-first year on March 20.

DR. WILLIAM GIBSON SPILLER, emeritus professor of neurology at the School of Medicine of the University

of Pennsylvania, died on March 19 in his seventy-seventh year.

DR. THOMAS DRYSDALE BUCHANAN, professor of anesthesia and director of the department of the New York Post-Graduate Medical School, Columbia University, died on March 21 at the age of sixty-four years.

SIR PATRICK PLAYFAIR LAIDLAW, deputy director of the British National Institute for Medical Research and head of its department of experimental pathology, died on March 20 at the age of fifty-eight years.

EDOUARD BRANLY, professor of physics in the Institut Catholique, Paris, died on March 24 at the age of ninety-five years. He was the discoverer of the principle of the coherer, one of the first successful devices used as a detector of wireless signals.

THE death at the age of seventy-six years is reported in *Nature* of J. H. Michell, professor of mathematics from 1923 to 1928 at the University of Melbourne, since 1938 honorary research professor of mathematics; and of E. Soler, emeritus professor of theoretical geodesy at the University of Padua, a vice-president of the International Association of Geodesy.

DR. MICHAŁ SIEDLECKI, professor of zoology, has died in the Sachsenhausen concentration camp. He was one of the hundred and sixty-four professors of Cracow University who were arrested and sent there at the beginning of November, 1939.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE seventy-seventh annual meeting of the National Academy of Sciences will be held on April 22, 23 and 24, in Washington, under the presidency of Dr. Frank B. Jewett. The committee on arrangements is composed of Drs. Vannevar Bush, F. G. Cottrell, Frank B. Jewett, G. L. Streeter, Charles Thom, T. Wayland Vaughan and F. E. Wright, *chairman*.

THE annual general meeting of the American Philosophical Society will be held on April 18, 19 and 20, beginning at 10 A.M., on Thursday under the presidency of Roland S. Morris.

THE Catherine Wolfe Bruce Gold Medal of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific was presented to Dr. Frederick H. Seares, assistant director of Mount Wilson Observatory, at a meeting of the society on March 18. Dr. C. Donald Shane, professor of astrophysics in the University of California and president of the society, made the presentation.

THE prize of \$1,000 in biological chemistry of the Eli Lilly and Company for 1940 has been awarded by the American Chemical Society to Dr. Eric Glendinning Ball, an associate of the Johns Hopkins

School of Medicine, for chemical studies of certain biological substances, including the hormone adrenalin and vitamins B₂ and C. Dean Samuel Colville Lind, of the University of Minnesota, president of the society, will present the prize to Dr. Ball, a former Guggenheim fellow, at the opening session of the ninety-ninth meeting of the society in Cincinnati on April 8. Dr. Ball will present the paper for which the award was made, entitled "The Nature of the Enzyme, Xanthine Oxidase," as part of a Symposium on Vitamins and Nutrition to be held on April 10.

AT the recent Founders Day Convocation celebrating the sixtieth anniversary of the founding of the Case School of Applied Science at Cleveland, the doctorate of science was conferred on Dr. Philip M. Morse, professor of physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Wilbert J. Austin, president of the engineering and construction company bearing his name, was awarded the doctorate of engineering. Both Dr. Morse and Mr. Austin are graduates of the Case School.

A DINNER was given on March 2 in honor of Dr. A.

K. Balls, principal chemist of the Food Research Division of the Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, by the Puerto Rico Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta. Dr. Balls, who has been loaned to the Puerto Rico Experiment Station, has been working on vanilla enzymes during the present curing season. He spoke at the dinner on the general subject of enzymes.

DR. JEKUTHIEL GINSBURG, head of the department of mathematics of Yeshiva College, New York City, was the guest of honor on March 17 at a dinner held at the college in observance of his fiftieth birthday. Speakers at the dinner included Dr. Bernard Revel, president of the college; Dr. Cassius Jackson Keyser, professor emeritus of mathematics at Columbia University, and Dr. W. Pepperell Montague, professor of philosophy at Columbia.

DR. HOWARD S. FAWCETT, professor of plant pathology at the Citrus Experiment Station, Riverside, Calif., gave the annual Faculty Research Lecture of the University of California at Los Angeles on March 27. His lecture was entitled "Adventures in the Plant Disease World."

DR. PHILIP E. SMITH, professor of anatomy at Columbia University, was elected at the Louisville meeting president of the American Association of Anatomists.

THE following officers have been elected by the New York Branch of the Society of American Bacteriologists for the year 1940: *President*, Miss Mary McGrath, New York City Health Department; *Vice-president*, Dr. M. L. Isaacs, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University; *Secretary-treasurer*, Professor Edward J. Keegan, St. John's University.

DR. H. L. BLUMQUIST, of the department of botany of Duke University, and Wilbert Frye, of Pleasant Dale, W. Va., have been elected president and vice-president, respectively, of the Southern Appalachian Botanical Club for the coming year. Other officers, who serve four-year terms, are Dr. Rogers McVaugh, the National Arboretum, Washington, D. C., *secretary*, and Dr. Nelle Ammons, of the department of botany, West Virginia University, *treasurer*. The club publishes *Castanea*, a monthly semi-popular periodical, edited by Dr. Earl L. Core, of West Virginia University.

Nature states that Asa Binns, until recently chief engineer of the Port of London Authority, has been elected president of the British Institution of Mechanical Engineers.

H. W. STRALEY, III, Baylor University, Waco, Texas, has been appointed secretary of the Geophysical Education Committee of the Educational Division

of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers.

DR. LOUIS MARTIN, director of the Pasteur Institute, Paris, has been elected president of the Paris Academy of Medicine to succeed General Sieur.

PROFESSOR J. HARLAND BILLINGS, of the Drexel Institute of Technology, Philadelphia, will represent the American Association for the Advancement of Science at the meeting of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, to be held in Philadelphia on April 12 and 13.

AT Columbia University Professor Leslie C. Dunn has been made head of the department of zoology, succeeding Professor Franz Schrader; Dr. William H. Woglom, associate professor of cancer research, has been named acting head of the Institute of Cancer Research in the place of Dr. Francis Carter Wood, now professor emeritus. Professor Albert T. Poffenberger has been reappointed head of the department of psychology. Professor Henry E. Garrett will be acting department executive, while Professor Poffenberger is on leave of absence.

DR. PETER I. WOLD, professor of physics and head of the department at Union College, has been made chairman of the division of science in succession to Dr. Edward Ellery.

DR. HAROLD M. FAIGENBAUM has been promoted to a full professorship in industrial chemistry at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

DR. KARL M. DALLENBACH, professor of psychology at Cornell University, will teach elementary psychology and conduct a seminar on attention, at the summer session of the University of California at Los Angeles. He has been invited to give an address on experimental psychology at the dedication of the new laboratory of psychology on June 19.

ELEVEN fellowships have been awarded by the American Association of University Women, four of which are in the sciences. Dr. Herta Leng, until the occupation of Austria by the Germans lecturer on physics at the Teachers College of the University of Vienna, who is working in the physical research laboratories of Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind., with the use of a cyclotron is studying the permeability of plant and animal cells; Dr. Elizabeth Lloyd White, of Norfolk, Va., an advanced student in embryology in the University of Pennsylvania, will continue research in zoological embryology; Dr. Donna Price, instructor in chemistry at Rockford, Ill., will work in the field of theoretical physical chemistry; Miss Margaret K. Deringer, research assistant in the department of embryology of the Carnegie Institution, will conduct experiments on hormone activity.

DR. VIRGIL P. W. SYDENSTRICKER, professor of medicine, University of Georgia School of Medicine, Augusta, has been awarded a grant of \$6,000 by the Markle Foundation to continue his studies of pellagra.

DR. ARCHIBALD V. HILL, Foulerton professor and secretary of the Royal Society, London, who was recently elected member of Parliament to represent the University of Cambridge, arrived in New York on March 21. He plans to remain in the United States for about three months.

LEAVE of absence from the University of North Carolina has been granted from June to late September to Professor Harley H. Bartlett, chairman of the department of botany, to permit him to assist in a study at the Gorgas Memorial Hospital in Panama of the prevention of malaria.

PROFESSOR OSCAR D. VON ENGELN, professor of geology at Cornell University, is traveling through the southeastern states, where he is visiting and photographing sites of geomorphic interest.

DR. WOJCIECH SWIETOSLAWSKI has arrived from Poland as visiting professor in the University of Pittsburgh. He is chairman of the Committee on Physico-Chemical Standards of the International Union of Chemistry and one of its vice-presidents. Until the closing of the University of Warsaw, he had been professor of physical chemistry and director of the Physico-Chemical Institute. After an introductory lecture on March 25 he will give on Monday of each week, for seven weeks, illustrated lectures on ebulliometry. During the summer session he will give a series of twenty lectures on ebulliometry and calorimetry, beginning on July 2 and ending on July 23.

THE Gehrman Lectures for 1939-1940 will be delivered in the Medical and Dental College Laboratories Building of the College of Medicine in Chicago of the University of Illinois on April 17, 18 and 19, by Dr. C. A. Elvehjem, of the department of biochemistry of the College of Agriculture of the University of Wisconsin. The titles of the separate lectures are "Vitamins and Deficiency Diseases," "Methods of Determining Vitamin Deficiencies," "Vitamins and Normal Nutrition."

A DINNER will be given on April 10 at the Mayflower Hotel, Washington, in celebration of the sesquicentennial of the signing of the United States Patent Law. A Parade of Inventions, being arranged in the Department of Commerce Auditorium from 1:30 to 4:30 P.M. for guests of the sesquicentennial, will, through the medium of dynamic exhibits, tell the story of one hundred and fifty years of industrial progress achieved under the protection of the Patent Law. Under Secretary of Commerce Edward J.

Noble and Commissioner of Patents Conway P. Coe have accepted invitations to speak on the "Parade of Industries" program, a portion of which is to be broadcast over the Blue Network of the National Broadcasting Company from 10:00 to 10:30 P.M. on Wednesday, April 10. In addition many interesting features especially appropriate to the celebration of the signing by President George Washington of the Patent Law have been arranged.

THE spring meeting of the Electrochemical Society will meet at Wernersville, Pa., on April 24, 25, 26 and 27. There will be three scientific-technical sessions, one devoted to electric steel, another to progress in electrodeposition and a third to papers on miscellaneous electrochemical topics. The local committee, headed by Dr. A. Kenneth Graham, has arranged for visits to electric steel and other plants at Reading and vicinity and a visit will be made to the town of Hershey, for which many large public buildings have been provided by Milton S. Hershey.

THE sixteenth National Shade Tree Conference will be held in Detroit from August 27 to 30. Headquarters will be at the Book-Cadillac Hotel. In addition to the program of discussions on technical and scientific problems by scientific men, trade and educational exhibits, as well as field demonstrations, will be held.

PHI SIGMA Biological Society celebrated its silver anniversary on March 15. The society was established at the Ohio State University in 1915. There are now thirty active chapters and well over 10,000 members. Scholarship medals are awarded each year in biology wherever a chapter is located. The official quarterly publication, *The Biologist*, has now reached its twenty-first volume.

THE 297th meeting of the Washington Academy of Sciences on March 21 was devoted to the presentation by the academy of its first awards for scientific achievement. Certificates of award were presented as follows: *Biological Sciences*: Herbert Friedmann, U. S. National Museum, in recognition of his researches and publications in ornithology. *Engineering Sciences*: Paul A. Smith, U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, in recognition of his contributions to our knowledge of the ocean bottom along the eastern coast of the United States. *Physical Sciences*: Wilmot H. Bradley, U. S. Geological Survey, in recognition of his contributions on the oil shale of the Green River formation of Wyoming. Alexander Wetmore, assistant secretary of the Smithsonian Institution; Leo Otis Colbert, director of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, and Gerald F. Loughlin, chief geologist of the U. S. Geological Survey, respectively, introduced the recipients of the awards, who gave brief addresses concerning their work.