

University of Adelaide, lectureships in chemistry and mathematics. \$5,600.

National Committee for Mental Hygiene. \$8,000.

National Tuberculosis Association, to facilitate international standardization of tuberculin. \$3,000.

Experimental program in human biology, in North Carolina. \$10,000.

It is stated that during the fiscal year the corporation made grants for research, study or travel to 129 individuals resident in the United States or in one of the British Dominions or Colonies, as compared with 138 grants offered during the previous year. While the total devoted to these purposes was substantially less than in 1938-39 (\$238,000 as against \$286,000), it represents a slightly higher proportion of the sum available for appropriation this year. In addition,

324 allocations, chiefly for resident study, were made by eighteen universities and operating agencies from funds provided by the corporation. In most instances, these latter grants were charged to appropriations made and paid to the appointing institution or agency in prior years.

The decline both in the number of grants and in the aggregate sum is explained in the report partly by a decline in income which of necessity was reflected in all corporation operations, partly by the concern of many scholars with matters relating to national defense, and partly by restrictions on travel imposed by the war. The latter factor necessitated almost complete suspension of the program of exchange of visits between the British Dominions and Colonies and the United States.

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE American Association for the Advancement of Science and some forty affiliated and associated societies held their annual meeting in Philadelphia from December 27 to January 2. The address of the retiring president, Dr. Walter B. Cannon, is printed in the present issue of SCIENCE. This will be followed by other addresses of special interest. A general report of the meeting, edited by Dr. F. R. Moulton, permanent secretary of the association, will be printed in the first issue of February.

THE DeKalb Agricultural Association, Inc., Illinois, gave on November 29 a banquet at the Palmer House, Chicago, in honor of Dr. George Harrison Shull, at which he was awarded a diamond-studded gold medal in recognition of "his outstanding contribution to agriculture, the origination of hybrid corn." Speakers at the banquet included Dr. C. M. Woodworth, of the University of Illinois; Dr. A. M. Brunson, of Purdue University; Marco Morrow, of Topeka, Kansas, and the Honorable Lloyd C. Stark, Governor of Missouri. At the close of the banquet Dr. Shull gave an illustrated address covering not only his work with hybrid corn, but also his current investigations of the genetics of *Capsella* and *Oenothera*.

DR. R. G. D. RICHARDSON, professor of mathematics and dean of the Graduate School at Brown University, has retired as secretary of the American Mathematical Society after serving for twenty years. At the Baton Rouge meeting, in recognition of his great services, the society presented him with a commemorative gift and a resolution of thanks. It was decided that the next volume of the yearly *Bulletin* of the society should be dedicated to him.

THE Alexander Portnoff bust of John Dewey, professor of philosophy emeritus at Columbia University,

has been presented to the University of Chicago. It will be placed in the Graduate Education Building in commemoration of his years of service to the university.

THE alumni association of the School of Medicine of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, recently presented to the university a portrait of Dr. Isaac H. Manning, Kenan professor emeritus of physiology and a former dean of the school. Dr. William Raney Stanford, Durham, a former student under Dr. Manning, made the presentation and President Frank P. Graham accepted for the university.

DR. BÉLA SCHICK, pediatrician-in-chief at the Mount Sinai Hospital, New York City, will be presented with a gold medal in recognition of "distinguished and outstanding contributions in the field of allergy" at the Third Annual Forum reviewing progress in the chemical study of allergy, which will be held at Indianapolis on January 11 and 12.

DR. J. CHESTER BRADLEY, professor of entomology at Cornell University, has been elected a corresponding member of the Sociedad Científica Argentina.

THE A. Cressy Morrison prize of \$500 of the New York Academy of Sciences has been divided between Dr. Hans A. Bethe, professor of physics at Cornell University, and Dr. Robert E. Marshak, instructor in physics at the University of Rochester, for a joint paper entitled "The Sources of Stellar Energy."

DIRECTORS of the American Chemical Society elected for a term of three years are: Dr. Willard H. Dow, president of the Dow Chemical Company, Midland, Mich., to succeed himself; Dr. Robert E. Wilson, president of the Pan-American Petroleum and Transport Company, New York City, to succeed Erle M. Billings,

of the Eastman Kodak Company, and Professor Roger Adams, head of the department of chemistry of the University of Illinois and past president of the society, to succeed Professor H. H. Willard, of the University of Michigan.

COUNCILORS-AT-LARGE of the American Chemical Society elected for a term of three years are: Dr. William Mansfield Clark, De Lamar professor of physiological chemistry at the Johns Hopkins University; Dr. Joel Henry Hildebrand, professor of chemistry at the University of California; Dr. G. E. F. Lundell, chief chemist of the National Bureau of Standards, and Dr. Charles A. Thomas, director of research at the Thomas and Hochwalt Laboratories of the Monsanto Chemical Company, Dayton, Ohio.

OFFICERS of the New Jersey Gastroenterological Society, an affiliated chapter of the National Gastroenterological Association, have been elected as follows: *President*, Dr. Hyman I. Goldstein, Camden; *Vice-president*, Dr. Harrison R. Wesson, Montclair; *Secretary-Treasurer*, Dr. Sydney Rosenthal, Newark; *Delegate*, Dr. Sigurd W. Johnsen, Passaic. A public meeting will be held on Monday evening, February 3, at the Newark Academy of Medicine, when a symposium will be presented on "Ulcers of the Stomach and Duodenum."

THE election of Sir Henry Dale, director of the British National Institute for Medical Research, as president of the Royal Society, London, has already been announced in SCIENCE. T. R. Merton, formerly professor of spectroscopy at the University of Oxford, has been elected treasurer; Professor A. V. Hill, Foulerton research professor of the Royal Society, and Professor A. C. G. Egerton, professor of chemical technology at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, have been elected secretaries; Sir Henry Tizard, rector of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, has been elected foreign secretary. Other members of the council elected are Professor P. M. S. Blackett, Professor F. T. Brooks, Dr. C. G. Darwin, Dr. A. N. Drury, Dr. H. J. Gough, Professor J. B. S. Haldane, Professor I. M. Heilbron, Professor O. T. Jones, Professor R. T. Leiper, Sir Thomas Middleton, Professor L. J. Mordell, Dr. C. F. A. Pantin, Professor H. S. Raper, Professor E. K. Rideal, Dr. F. J. W. Roughton and Professor A. M. Tyndall.

DR. BENNETT F. AVERY, of the department of anatomy at the American University, Beirut, Syria, has been elected dean of the Medical School of Boston University to succeed the late Dean Alexander S. Begg.

PROFESSOR CHESTER S. HUTCHISON, of the department of agricultural education, has been appointed junior dean of the College of Agriculture of the Ohio State University. Mr. Hutchison succeeds Dr. Ly-

man E. Jackson, who has taken up his work as president of the South Dakota State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts.

DR. FRANCIS O. SCHMITT, head of the department of zoology at Washington University, St. Louis, has been appointed professor in charge of biological engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

DR. CHARLES H. PECKHAM, obstetrician-in-chief of the Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital, has been appointed associate professor of obstetrics at the Medical School of the Johns Hopkins University.

DR. WILFRED HUDSON OSGOOD, for more than thirty-one years a member of the staff of the Field Museum of Natural History and chief curator of the department of zoology since 1921, retired from active service on December 31. Dr. Osgood remains, however, as chief curator emeritus. He will be succeeded as chief curator of the department of zoology by Karl P. Schmidt, whose appointment became effective on January 1.

LEONARD SMITH has been appointed a research associate of the Textile Foundation at the National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C.

DR. JOHN A. TOOMEY, professor of clinical pediatrics and contagious diseases in the School of Medicine of Western University, has received a grant of \$1,000 for the continuation of his work on poliomyelitis supplementary to the \$2,760 already made to him this year by the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, the organization which gathers its funds at the birthday party of President Roosevelt.

THE American Medical Association has made a grant to Dr. Siegbert Bornstein, of the department of bacteriology and serology of the Beth Israel Hospital, New York City, in aid of his work on the serology and epidemiology of American Salmonella.

AT the request of the Navy Department, Dr. Raymond L. Ditmars, curator of reptiles and of the department of insects of the New York Zoological Park, has prepared a report on the venomous snakes found in Central and South American areas where air bases may be established, and on the types of anti-venin serum that should be available at the bases.

DR. EDWARD A. DOISY, professor of biological chemistry and director of the department of chemistry at the School of Medicine of St. Louis University, delivered the third annual Lower Lecture of the Academy of Medicine of Cleveland on November 15. He spoke on "Vitamin K and Other Antihemorrhagic Compounds."

FAIRFIELD OSBORN, president of the New York Zoological Park, spoke recently over the short-wave radio

of the Columbia Broadcasting Company. His subject was "What America Owes to British Naturalists."

DR. ALEXANDER SILVERMAN, head of the department of chemistry of the University of Pittsburgh, lectured at the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, on December 18. The title of his lecture was "Glass: To-day and To-morrow."

THE Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science is making available to graduates in pharmacy a brief but thorough review of the latest developments in that profession and in chemistry, bacteriology, biology and other sciences related to public health. A three-day seminar will be held at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy on January 27, 28 and 29, at which time the mid-year recess of regular classes will allow the members of the faculty to devote their entire time to these lectures and laboratory demonstrations.

THE civil-service examinations for physicists announced on November 14, 1940, have not produced enough applicants. The announcements have been amended by the United States Civil Service Commission to extend the closing dates for receipt of applications for nearly a year until December 12, 1941. Only one application need now be filed at the Washington office by those wishing to apply for two or more positions. The positions to be filled include the following grades: Physicist (any specialized branch), \$3,800 a year; also principal, \$5,600; senior, \$4,600; associate, \$3,200, and assistant, \$2,600 a year. These salaries are subject to a  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. retirement deduction. The same conditions hold for the examinations which closed in September for the positions of metallurgist and metallurgical engineer, various grades, with salaries ranging from \$5,600 to \$3,200 a year. Difficulty also is being encountered in filling positions in the Bureau of Mines in connection with the National Defense Program for the development of strategic metals. Applications will be accepted until December 31, 1941. Applications for the various grades of explosives chemist with salaries ranging from \$2,600 to \$5,600 a year will be open until November 30, 1941. For none of these examinations is a written test required. Further information and the proper application forms may be obtained from the Secretary, Board of U. S. Civil Service Examiners, at any first-

or second-class post office, or from the U. S. Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C.

MR. AND MRS. ROBERT WOODS BLISS have given sixteen acres of their estate of Dumbarton Oaks with the Bliss mansion, the gallery, library buildings and the Bliss collection to Harvard University. They have also transferred to the Federal Government for a public park twenty-seven acres of the estate adjoining Montrose Park.

WE have received the following communication dated in August from Professor Ding U Doo, director of the library of the Sun Yat-Sen University: "This is to inform you that the National Sun Yat-Sen University Library after a long journey, through thick and thin, has finally removed from Canton to Chengkiang, Yunnan and back to Nan-Ssun, Kwangtung. As we departed from Canton at the eleventh hour, a large part of our books were left behind to an unknown destiny. We have suffered an incalculable loss, unprecedented in the history of libraries. However, we are by no means down-hearted. We are standing firm and working hard for our recovery, looking forward to the final victory of the war, which is bound to be ours. We sincerely anticipate your sympathy over our hard luck and shall appreciate your continuous help and generous gifts as you have shown us in the past. You will please correct our address in your mailing list and favor us with your publications, new and old, which will be much needed and most useful to our faculty and students."

WE are also informed by a correspondent that "The Shanghai Medical College is now in Chungking working in close cooperation with the Central Hospital and Central Field Health Station of Weishengshu. National Chungshan Medical College is moving to Nanshiung in Kwangtung, Tungchi to Yiping in Szechwan, and Chungcheng to Chen-ning, Kweichow, not far from Kweiyang, leaving only the Yunnan University Medical College in the vicinity of Kunming. On the other hand, Chungking is becoming a quite important medical center with the presence of the National Medical College of Shanghai, in addition to National Kiangsu Medical College, National College of Pharmacy, National Midwifery School and the Central School of Nursing previously established in this city."

## DISCUSSION

### A NEW RADIOACTIVE SERIES

DURING the investigation by mass-spectrographic methods of some in a geological sense old minerals of the tantalum-niobate group, which also contain some uranium, thorium, and rare-earth metals, a mass-line 237 has been found on several different plates. From

no other material has a mass-line 237 ever been obtained, although a great number of minerals have been investigated with the same apparatus and under similar conditions. This mass-line 237 does not belong to any so far known chemical element or isotope.

It is significant that the mass-line 237 does not occur