

over which Dean Emeritus Langley Porter presided. Speakers on this occasion were Drs. William Dock and Frederick Reichert, of the School of Medicine of Stanford University, and Drs. William J. Kerr, Chauncey D. Leake, John B. Saunders, Salvatore P.

Lucia and Pan S. Codellas, of the School of Medicine of the University of California. The bust has been placed in the Crummer Room, which houses a valuable collection of books and other material on the history of medicine.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

AT the eighty-eighth annual meeting of the American Society of Civil Engineers, which was held in New York on January 15, 16 and 17, the John Fritz Medal was presented to Ralph Budd, president of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad, in recognition of his contributions in applied science. Mr. Budd, a member of the Advisory Commission of the Council of National Defense in charge of transportation, has been a railroad administrator for many years. The presentation was made by William Henry Harrison, past-president of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers and chairman of the John Fritz Medal Board. Honorary membership in the society was conferred on five engineers, including Dr. Charles P. Berkey, Newberry professor of geology emeritus of Columbia University. Dr. Berkey is the first geologist to be so honored. The award was made for his work in co-operation with engineers on the foundations of the George Washington Bridge, on the Midtown Tunnel and on the aqueducts of the water supply system of New York City.

THE Roebling medal of the Mineralogical Society of America, which was awarded to Dr. L. J. Spencer, of the British Museum of Natural History, London, as Dr. Spencer was unable to be present, was received by the British consul at the Austin meeting of the society. The presentation was made by Professor A. N. Winchell, of the University of Wisconsin.

THE 1940 Lawrence Sperry award of the Institute of Aeronautical Science, made annually for "a notable contribution by a young man to aeronautics," will be presented on January 28 to Dr. Bailey Oswald, chief of the aerodynamics group of the Douglas Aircraft Company, in recognition of "his analytical studies in aerodynamics which have facilitated the accurate design and economical operation of airplanes." Dr. Louis H. Bauer, editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Aviation Medicine*, has been chosen as the first recipient of the John Jeffries Award for a contribution in the field of medicine to aviation. The awards will be presented at a dinner to be given in New York on January 28.

A COMMEMORATIVE booklet has been issued in honor of Dr. Edward A. Birge, president-emeritus of the University of Wisconsin, previously professor of zoology and dean of the College of Letters and Sci-

ence. This includes the addresses given at the dinner held on his ninetieth birthday last September in connection with the symposium on hydrobiology. The symposium, which was recently published by the University Press, is in recognition of his "contributions to the science of limnology" and has as a frontispiece an autographed portrait of Dr. Birge.

PROFESSOR HARRISON M. RANDALL, chairman of the department of physics of the University of Michigan, on reaching the age of seventy years, has retired after serving the university for forty years. In honor of his significant contributions to the science and the teaching of physics at the university, the regents have directed that East Physics Hall be known as the Harrison M. Randall Laboratory of Physics. Dr. Randall has been appointed Henry Russel lecturer at the university for 1940-41. This award goes to the faculty member judged to have attained the highest scholastic distinction during the year.

ACCORDING to a wireless dispatch to *The New York Times*, Dr. Paul Langevin, formerly professor of experimental physics at the Collège de France, who had been detained in the Cherché Midi prison in Paris, has received an honor parole. His release was ordered for reasons of health. Professor Langevin was deprived of his professorship because of his political activities.

THE degree of doctor of science *honoris causa* has been conferred by the University of Manchester on Hans Renold in recognition of his services to engineering, including the invention of the precision chain.

THE council of the Royal Horticultural Society, London, has awarded the Victoria medal of honor for 1940 to Major F. C. Stern. The Veitch Memorial gold medal has been awarded, on his retirement, to T. Hay, superintendent of the royal parks, and the Loder rhododendron cup to Dr. J. Hutchinson, of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

Nature states that the administrators of the Beilby Memorial Fund have announced an award of a hundred guineas to Dr. Frederick Measham Lea, principal scientific officer of the Building Research Station of the British Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, in recognition of his researches on the constitution of silicate systems and the chemistry of cement in its physico-chemical aspects.

DR. CARROLL C. PRATT, head of the department of psychology at Rutgers University, has been appointed visiting lecturer for the second term of the present academic year at Princeton University.

JOHN A. HANNAH, since 1935 secretary of Michigan State College at East Lansing, formerly connected with the college as extension specialist in poultry, later becoming federal coordinator for Poultry Codes, has been elected president of the college. He will succeed Dr. Robert S. Shaw, his father-in-law, who will retire on July 1.

At the Christmas meeting of the American Mathematical Society at Baton Rouge, Professor J. R. Kline, chairman of the department of mathematics at the University of Pennsylvania, was elected secretary of the society to succeed Dean R. G. D. Richardson, of Brown University, who, as already announced in *SCIENCE*, has retired from the secretaryship after twenty years of service.

J. A. SHELLENBERGER has resigned from his position as head of the Products Control Department of the Mennel Milling Company at Toledo, Ohio, to become head of the Biochemical Laboratory of the Röhm and Haas Company at Bristol, Pa.

DR. ALEXANDER WETMORE, assistant secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, has returned to Washington from Costa Rica where he passed two months collecting specimens and studying the varied bird life. Dr. Wetmore spent much of the time as a guest of the Costa Rican Government in the isolated Guanacaste province in the northwest of the republic, a cattle country little explored by naturalists, and with primitive modes of transportation. He worked along the valley of the Tempisque River, and also on the slopes of the extinct volcano, Rincón de la Vieja, a country of rolling pastures and live oak groves. Higher on the mountain he entered an entirely uninhabited region of dense rain forest, where bird life was relatively unknown.

DR. E. O. WILSON, professor of chemistry in the College of Natural Sciences of Yenching University, has leave of absence for the current academic year. He is spending the first part of the year at Claremont, Calif. Dr. Charles C. Y. Cheng is taking charge of his work at Yenching University.

At the annual meeting on January 13 of the board of trustees of the American Museum of Natural History, members of the board were elected as follows: Michael Lerner, field associate in ichthyology; Cornelius V. Whitney; Harold B. Clark; Daniel E. Pomeroy; H. Rivington Pyne and S. Sloan Colt. Dr. F. Trubee Davison was reelected president of the board; A. Perry Osborn, first vice-president; Cleveland E.

Dodge, second vice-president; E. Roland Harriman, treasurer, and Clarence L. Hay, secretary. The resignation of George T. Bowdoin as a member of the board was accepted.

WE learn from Russell M. Wilder, chairman of the Committee on Food and Nutrition of the National Research Council, that Dr. L. A. Maynard, professor of animal nutrition and director of the U. S. Plant, Soil and Nutrition Laboratory at Cornell University, is a member of the Committee on Food and Nutrition and on its Executive Board.

BENJAMIN T. BROOKS, petroleum consultant of New York City, has been retained by the Government of Venezuela as a special adviser on petroleum matters. Dr. Brooks expects to spend the greater part of the winter in Venezuela.

DR. JOHN E. GORDON, professor of preventive medicine and epidemiology at the Harvard Medical School, is *en route* to England to complete arrangements with British health authorities for the twenty-two-building-prefabricated portable hospital which Harvard University and the American Red Cross are sending to England next month for a study of communicable diseases in war-time conditions. The hospital will be set up in Southwest England. Dr. Gordon is accompanied by Dr. Paul B. Beeson, resident physician of the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Boston, and assistant in medicine at the Harvard Medical School, who has been appointed chief surgeon; Dr. Gerald F. Houser, assistant director of the Massachusetts General Hospital, has been appointed superintendent. Other appointments include Dr. Dean S. Fleming, epidemiologist, Minnesota State Fellow of Public Health at Harvard; Dr. William L. Hawley, physician, medical house officer at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital; Dr. Thomas F. McNair Scott, research professor of pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania; Dr. Alex J. Steigman, house officer of Children's Hospital, Philadelphia; Eleanor Hathaway, technician at the House of the Good Samaritan; Elizabeth B. Jackson, technician at Huntington Memorial Hospital, Boston; Mrs. Edelmira Hendee, technician in the department of bacteriology, Harvard Medical School; Chester A. Whitney, x-ray and photographic technician at the Harvard School of Public Health, and Mary Alice Jaqua, secretary of the Grant Study at Harvard. A contingent of fifty Red Cross nurses is being selected.

MEMBERS of a commission requested by the War Department to study health conditions, epidemic control, transportation and evacuation of children in Great Britain, sailed for London on January 18. They will seek information for use in preparing a civilian home defense mobilization plan for the United States. They expect to stay in London for a month and are to

visit France, Germany and other countries. The commission includes Dr. Thomas Parran, director of the Public Health Service; Major Eugene W. Ridings, of the general staff of the War Department, and F. C. Horner, transportation consultant to the Defense Commission. The commission will be accompanied by a staff of technicians.

DR. CARL C. SPEIDEL, professor of anatomy at the University of Virginia, delivered the fourth Harvey Society lecture of the current series at the New York Academy of Medicine on January 16. He spoke on the "Adjustment of Nerve Endings."

THE Charles Sumner Bacon Lectures for 1940-1941 will be given on February 12 and 13 at the College of Medicine of the University of Illinois at Chicago by Dr. Henrik Dam, of the Biochemical Institute of the University of Copenhagen. The subject of the lectures are "Vitamin K, Its General Significance in Biochemistry" and "Vitamin K, Its Rôle in Human Pathology and Its Application in Therapeutics."

THE two hundred and fortieth regular meeting of the American Physical Society is to be held in Cambridge on Friday and Saturday, February 21 and 22. There will be sessions at Harvard University and at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The Optical Society of America will hold meetings conjointly.

THE Federation of Societies of Experimental Biology, composed of the American Physiological Society, the American Society of Biological Chemists, the American Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, the American Society for Experimental Pathology and the American Institute of Nutrition will meet in Chicago from April 15 to 19. The Stevens Hotel has been chosen as headquarters and all scientific sessions and demonstrations will be held there.

THE Midwestern Psychological Association will meet at Ohio University, Athens, on April 11 and 12 under the presidency of Dr. E. A. Culler, professor of psychology at the University of Illinois. About eight or ten sections and a similar number of symposia on special topics will be scheduled. Full details as to program, housing and transportation arrangements will be available about March 1 from the office of the secretary-treasurer, Dr. Robert H. Seashore, Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.

THE New Jersey Gastro-Enterological Society will hold a symposium on "Lesions of the Stomach, Duodenum and Jejunum" at the Academy of Medicine, Newark, N. J., on February 3. Participants will be Drs. William T. Lemmon, Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia; Burrill B. Crohn, Mount Sinai Hospital, New York City; Karl Kornblum, Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia; Isidor S. Ravdin, University of Pennsylvania; John H. Garlock, Mount Sinai Hospital, New York City; Charles L. Brown, professor of medicine, Temple University. Dr. Hyman I. Goldstein, Camden, N. J., president, will preside at this meeting.

THE annual Social Science Field Laboratory, under the auspices of the Graduate School of New York University, will be held in Northern California during the summer of 1941. Eight fellowships will be granted to graduate students and accredited seniors from any branch of the social sciences and from any university. The laboratory provides an opportunity of receiving practical experience and training in social research and to participate in a long term research project. The results, which may be used as theses or dissertations, will be published in a series. Communications should be addressed to Dr. B. W. Aginsky, director, Social Science Field Laboratory, New York University, New York City.

DISCUSSION

AN INVENTORY OF NATURAL VEGETATION TYPES AND THE NEED FOR THEIR PRESERVATION

THERE will be general agreement among biologists that there is a very real need for samples of completely undisturbed vegetation and accompanying biota, as suggested by R. L. Piemeisel,¹ who has pointed out the numerous influences which may interfere with such areas even under the best conditions of protection. The illustrations, drawn from grassland ecology, of disturbance by natural agencies, largely beyond the control of man, find many parallels in forest

types, the most striking of which was the New England hurricane of September, 1938.

A number of examples of natural forest types in essentially virgin condition had been set aside as natural areas to be maintained perpetually as reserves of undisturbed natural vegetation for study and comparison with adjacent sites more or less greatly altered. These had been acquired over a period of years by state and federal governments, universities and individuals. The timber on these areas, with few exceptions, was completely destroyed by the hurricane because of the especial vulnerability of over-mature trees to windfall; in fact, this might have been antici-

¹ R. L. Piemeisel, *SCIENCE*, 92: 2383, 195-197, 1940.