

Then we do not know what a "cell" really means, or why the kidney, for instance, is subdivided into such units. Possibly the cell wall is the border line of the common energy levels.

Biochemistry is, at present, in a peculiar state. By means of our active substances we can produce the most astounding biological reactions, but we fail wher-

ever a real explanation of molecular mechanisms is wanted. It looks as if some basic fact about life were still missing, without which any real understanding is impossible. It may be that the knowledge of common energy levels will start a new period in biochemistry, taking this science into the realm of quantum-mechanics.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

FELLOWSHIPS OF THE LALOR FOUNDATION

THE Board of Trustees of the Lator Foundation announced on May 19 the following fellowship awards in chemical and biochemical research for the academic year 1941-42:

\$2,000 to Frederick W. Barnes, Jr., to work at Columbia University under Dr. Hans T. Clarke on the investigation of intermediary metabolism with the aid of isotopes.

\$2,500 to A. Calvin Bratton, to continue work at the Johns Hopkins University Medical School under Dr. E. K. Marshall on chemical aspects of chemotherapy of compounds of the sulfanilamide type. (This award is for \$1,250 per year for a period of 2 years, namely, for 1941-42 and 1942-43.)

\$2,000 to Robert B. Carlin, to work at the University of Illinois under Dr. Roger Adams on the determination of the structure of the alkaloid extracted from *Crotalaria spectabilis* and of analogous alkaloids from various *Senecio* species.

\$2,000 to William W. Rice, to work at Harvard University under Dr. A. B. Lamb on a theoretical and experimental investigation on the adsorption of gases on various materials.

These appointees were selected from a group of approximately thirty qualified applicants.

Including the present appointments there have been thirty fellowship awards granted since the organization of the foundation in 1935 amounting to an aggregate of \$63,500.

Appointments to two awards allotted, respectively, to the administration of Dr. F. G. Keyes, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Dr. Charles A. Kraus, of Brown University, were deferred until conclusion of the special work they are carrying on for the United States Government and until such time as their regular research can again be taken up.

The trustees of the Lator Foundation, which is maintained through funds contributed by members of the Lator family, are Dr. Anna Lator Burdick, of Washington, D. C., Elwyn Evans, John P. Nields, Charles Lee Reese, Jr., Dr. A. R. Shands and C. Lator Burdick, of Wilmington, and Dallas S. Townsend, of New York City.

THE ENGINEERS COUNCIL FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

THE eighth annual report of the Engineers Council for Professional Development has appeared. Listed in this report are the one hundred and twenty-five institutions in the United States (and Alaska) that have been accredited by the council.

John P. H. Perry, of New York City, chairman of the Council, records the affiliation of the Engineering Institute of Canada, in October, 1940. He reports also the petition from a group of technical institutes that some such plan of accrediting be evolved for the technical institutes of the country, thus giving more effective recognition to their sphere in technical education.

The Committee on Student Selection and Guidance, of which Dean Emeritus R. L. Sackett, of Pennsylvania State College, is chairman, reports further progress in the study of aptitude tests and, especially, advance in the promotion of proper selection of engineering as a career by high-school boys. It contains excerpts from summaries of activities submitted by local groups of engineers, in New York, Omaha, Detroit, Iowa and Canada, whose aim was not to recruit to engineering, but to give boys of high-school age an opportunity to learn the qualities and aptitudes essential to success. Thus, those with decided engineering talent will continue in this field while those without sufficient aptitude will not undertake a career in engineering should they be more likely to succeed elsewhere.

Dean A. A. Potter, of Purdue University, for the Committee on Engineering Schools, discusses the problems of accrediting and gives statistics on the subject since the initiation of the accrediting program. Included with this report is the latest list of accredited engineering curricula.

The Committee on Professional Training, Dean O. W. Eshbach, of Northwestern University, chairman, reports further efforts to discover what is being done by and for junior engineers in their immediate post-graduation period, and includes as an appendix a questionnaire used to gather information on this subject. This will be used as the basis of a program to be developed for use among the various organizations.

The Committee on Professional Recognition, Professor Emeritus Charles F. Scott of Yale University, *chairman*, discusses the matter of engineering as a profession, and an appreciation of it as such. He strongly urges the various constituent organizations of the council to encourage emphasis on ethics, the teaching of ethics, and the professional spirit among engineering students, in order that they may acquire a full conception of the profession as early as possible.

The Engineering Council for Professional Development, which was founded in 1932, is an organization representing the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education, the National Council of State Boards of Engineering Examiners and the Engineering Institute of Canada. Its purpose is to enhance the professional status of the engineer.

PROMOTIONS AND NEW APPOINTMENTS AT THE ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

THE Board of Scientific Directors of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research announces the following appointments and promotions on the Scientific Staff to take effect on or after July 1.

Promotions: Associate Member to Member, Dr. René J. Dubos, Dr. Rafael Lorente de Nó.

Assistant to Associate, Dr. Lindsay M. Black, Dr. Jorge Casals-Ariet, Dr. Max A. Lauffer, Jr., Dr. David P. C. Lloyd.

Fellow to Assistant, Dr. James A. Baker, Dr. Paul B. Hamilton, Dr. Margaret R. McDonald.

New Appointments, Member, Dr. Frank L. Horsfall, Jr. Assistants, Dr. Frederik B. Bang, Dr. Vincent P. Dole, Jr., Dr. George H. Hogeboom, Dr. Robert E. Shank.

Fellows, Dr. Robert A. Phillips, Dr. Sidney Rothbard.

Dr. Robert F. Watson has been appointed resident physician at the hospital.

HONORARY DEGREES CONFERRED BY PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

AMONG the honorary degrees conferred at the one hundred and ninety-fourth commencement of Princeton University were the degree of doctor of engineering on Dr. Harvey Clayton Rentschler; the degree of doctor of science on Professor Leonard Eugene Dickson, and the degree of doctor of laws on Professor Wesley Clair Mitchell.

In presenting the recipients, Professor Eisenhart gave the following citations:

Harvey Clayton Rentschler, director of the research laboratory of the Westinghouse lamp division; a Bachelor of Arts of Princeton and of the class of '03 and a Doctor of Philosophy in Physics of the Johns Hopkins Uni-

versity; after teaching at Princeton and the University of Missouri, he joined the staff of the laboratory of which he is now director, and for a quarter of a century has applied his talents to the investigation of photoelectric cells and of x-ray and electron tubes, which he has developed for commercial use. A brilliant and persistent seeker after nature's secrets, with a generosity toward his collaborators which wins their confidence and their cooperation, he has utilized for the welfare of others the knowledge which he has discovered.

Leonard Eugene Dickson, professor of mathematics emeritus of the University of Chicago; a graduate of the University of Texas and one of the first doctors of philosophy of the Department of Mathematics of the University of Chicago which set the high standard for the subsequent development of mathematical research in this country; a member of the National Academy of Sciences and corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences of the Institute of France; author of hundreds of papers in algebra, writer of many books for college students and research workers, chief of which is his three-volume "History of the Theory of Numbers." The leading American algebraist, whose researches have added much to the knowledge of his field, the inspirer and counselor of a host of young mathematicians, a historian of science whose writings are notable for their clarity and exact expression, for conciseness without loss of completeness.

Wesley Clair Mitchell, professor of economics in Columbia University and director of the National Bureau of Economic Research; a native of Illinois and graduate of the University of Chicago during its early years; deeply interested and competent in the formulation of policies of research leading to a more orderly functioning of the national economy, he has been chief of the Price Section of the War Industries Board, chairman of the President's Research Committee on Social Trends, member of the National Planning Board of the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works and of the National Resources Board; past-president of the American Statistical and Economic Associations and the Association for the Advancement of Science. Distinguished analyzer of the economic and social order with the phases of business cycles as guiding factor, a kindly and incisive critic, with singular objectivity in his approach to problems of group behavior, a widely sought public servant.

HONORARY DEGREES CONFERRED BY YALE UNIVERSITY

HONORARY degrees were conferred on June 18 at the commencement exercises of Yale University on Dr. Thomas Francis and on Dr. Henry Bryant Bigelow. The remarks were made by the public orator, Dr. Arnold Whitridge, professor of history, arts and letters and master of Calhoun College, and the citations by Dr. Charles Seymour, president of the university. Dr. Whitridge, a grandson of Matthew Arnold, succeeded this year Dr. William Lyon Phelps, who has been public orator at the university for more than twenty years.

The degrees were presented as follows: