

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. JAMES BRYANT CONANT, president of Harvard University, has been appointed chairman of the National Defense Research Committee. He succeeds Dr. Vannevar Bush, who has become director of the newly established Office of Scientific Research and Development.

DR. THOMAS H. NORTON, research chemist of the American Cyanamid Company, celebrated his ninetyeth birthday on June 30.

At the seventieth commencement of the University of Nebraska the degree of doctor of laws was conferred on Dr. Arthur Sperry Pearse, professor of zoology at Duke University.

A WIRELESS dispatch to *The New York Times* states that Dr. Alexis Carrel has been commissioned by Marshal Pétain's Government to organize in France an institute for scientific and medical research. The institute would be in the occupied zone, where Dr. Carrel is at present. Funds for its operation would be granted through subventions by the State.

THE Lamme Medal "for meritorious achievement in engineering" of the Ohio State University has been awarded to Harry C. Mougey, Detroit, technical director of the Research Laboratories Division of the General Motors Corporation.

At the annual meeting of the Rochester Academy of Medicine the Albert D. Kaiser Medal "for distinguished service to the medical profession" was awarded to Dr. David B. Jewett in recognition of his efforts in building up the library of the academy.

DR. C. H. DESCH, scientific adviser to the British Iron and Steel Research Council, has been awarded the platinum medal for 1941 of the Institute of Metals "for distinguished services to non-ferrous metallurgy." The medal, which is awarded every year, was presented to the institute by the Mond Nickel Company.

SIR THOMAS LEWIS, University College Hospital, London, has been elected a foreign member in the division of medical research of the Royal Swedish Academy of Science.

ACCORDING to the *Journal* of the American Medical Association the annual award of the faculty of medicine of the University of Berne for research on encephalitis will be made retroactively to Dr. B. Disertori, of Trient, Italy, for 1938 and to Professor G. Panegrossi, of Rome, for 1939.

At the annual meeting of the American Association for the Study of Allergy held in Cleveland on June 2 and 3, Dr. Milton B. Cohen, of Cleveland, was elected

president; Dr. Samuel Feinberg, of Chicago, president-elect; Dr. Oscar Swineford, Jr., of Charlottesville, Va., vice-president, and Dr. J. Harvey Black, secretary-treasurer.

DR. L. A. CORWIN, of Jamaica, L. I., was elected president of the New York State Veterinary Medical Society at the Ithaca meeting. He succeeds Dean W. A. Hagan, of Cornell University. Dr. H. H. Fehr, of Buffalo, was elected vice-president and Dr. W. J. Hellman, of Utica, treasurer.

DR. HARDY A. KEMP, professor of bacteriology and preventive medicine and dean of the College of Medicine of the University of Vermont, has been appointed dean of the College of Medicine of the Ohio State University. He succeeds Dr. John H. J. Upham, who has retired.

DR. WILLIAM STOCKTON NELMS, since 1920 professor of physics at Emory University, retired from active service with the title emeritus at the close of the college year.

DR. OLIVER REYNOLDS WULF, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, has been appointed research associate in physics at the Institute of Meteorology of the University of Chicago. He also will take charge of the Chicago station of the U. S. Weather Bureau.

DR. ROBERT J. TERRY, professor of anatomy of the School of Medicine of Washington University at St. Louis and head of the department, retired in June. He will be succeeded by Dr. Edmund V. Cowdry, professor of cytology.

DR. GEORGE F. KAY, of the University of Iowa, will relinquish his administrative work on September 1. He will become dean emeritus and professor of geology. Since Dr. Kay went to Iowa in 1907 he has served for twenty-three years as head of the department of geology, as state geologist for an equal length of time and as dean of the College of Liberal Arts for twenty-four years.

H. P. GOULD retired on July 1 as head of the Division of Fruit and Vegetable Crops and Diseases of the Bureau of Plant Industry after serving for forty years. He will be succeeded by Dr. John R. Magness, who has been a project leader in the division for several years. Dr. Lee M. Hutchins has been appointed chief of the Division of Forest Pathology. He has been in charge of research on virus diseases of tree fruits, working principally in the South and West. He succeeds the late Dr. Haven Metcalf.

PROFESSOR EARLE D. ROSS, of the department of history of the Iowa State College, has been selected

by the Iowa State Historical Society to prepare a history of agriculture in Iowa for the centennial publication of the society. This book, which Dr. Ross, as research associate of the Historical Society, is preparing this summer, will be one of a series to commemorate Iowa's one-hundredth anniversary of statehood in 1946.

DR. HARRY R. HOFFMAN, associate clinical professor of neurology of the Rush Medical College, Chicago, and director of the Cook County Behavior Clinic, has been appointed state alienist of Illinois, taking the place of the late Dr. H. Douglas Singer. He will be succeeded at the clinic by his assistant, Dr. William H. Haines.

DR. SAMUEL GLASSTONE, research associate in chemistry at Princeton University, has been appointed scientific editor of the Princeton University Press.

DR. ROBERT S. MORISON, of the department of anatomy of the Harvard Medical School, has succeeded Dr. Alexander Forbes as editor of the section of neurophysiology of *Biological Abstracts*. Dr. Ralph G. Smith, of the Medical School of the University of Michigan, has become editor of the section of pharmacology in the place of Dr. Erwin C. Nelson.

DR. SHARAT K. ROY, curator of geology at the Field Museum of Natural History, left Chicago on July 1 for western New York to collect specimens of invertebrate fossils of the Paleozoic era. Dr. Fritz Haas, curator of lower invertebrates, has recently returned to the museum after a two months' expedition to Southern California, where he collected specimens of Pacific shore animals.

DR. MADISON BENTLEY has completed a term as special lecturer in psychology at Goucher College. On June 2 he lectured before the Rochester Psychology Society on "The Hominid Animal from Egg to Age." Since he left the consultantship in psychology at the Library of Congress his address has been Palo Alto, Calif.

DR. GEORGE W. CORNER, director of the department of embryology of the Carnegie Institution of Washington at the Johns Hopkins University, delivered on May 6 the sixth Leo Loeb Lecture before the St. Louis Medical Society. His subject was "The Ovarian Cycle."

DR. CECIL K. DRINKER, professor of physiology and dean of the School of Public Health of Harvard University, will give from October 6 to 20 a series of five Lane Lectures at Stanford University Medical School, on the general subject of the lymphatic system. The Lane Medical Lectures, given biennially, were founded in 1896 by Dr. Levi Cooper Lane.

It is planned to build a laboratory for medical

physics with a staff of five research workers at the University of California at Berkeley. This has been made possible by a gift of \$165,000 from an anonymous donor to build and equip the laboratory; and a contribution of \$50,000 from the Columbia Foundation of San Francisco for the payment of salaries. The laboratory will represent a union of physics and medicine and other branches of science, such as chemistry, bacteriology, biology and genetics. The plans are under the direction of Dr. John H. Lawrence, who now is in charge of medical investigations with the cyclotron.

By the will of Dr. Robert S. Forsythe, formerly head of the department of book selection at Newberry Library, Chicago, the sum of \$100,000 for research on asthma is bequeathed to Harvard University.

J. P. ANDERSON, of Juneau, Alaska, has given to Iowa State College one of the largest collections of Alaskan plants in the United States. It comprises more than 10,000 specimens. Mr. Anderson, a graduate of Iowa State College of the year 1914, has been active in Alaskan public affairs, recently serving in the territorial legislature and as superintendent of census. He plans to increase the selection further this summer and to carry on research with Alaskan plants at Iowa State College next fall.

THE Institute of Medicine of Chicago announces the establishment of a foundation to be known as the Edwin R. Kretschmer Memorial Fund, given by Dr. Herman L. Kretschmer, the Chicago surgeon, and Mrs. Kretschmer, in memory of their son, who died last February. Income from the fund is to be used for lectures on myelogenic leukemia and for research in the field of blood dyscrasia. Dr. Kretschmer is a member of the Board of Governors of the Institute of Medicine and treasurer of the American Medical Association.

REVISED examinations have been announced by the Civil Service Commission for those qualified in all branches of naval architecture and marine engineering. They are particularly needed for positions in the assistant and associate grades (\$2,600 and \$3,200 a year, respectively). However, naval architects or marine engineers qualified to fill all the grades (salaries range as high as \$5,600 a year) are urged to apply at once, although applications will be accepted until June 30, 1942. The commission will not accept applications from those who successfully passed the examinations for the position of naval architect or marine engineer which closed on June 30, unless they are now eligible for rating in a higher grade. Those who have been placed on the commission's em-

ployment list will be retained on the new list to be established as a result of the examinations just announced. An open continuous examination for inspectors of naval ordnance materials is also announced. No written examinations are being given, but applicants are being rated on the basis of education, training and experience as shown on the applications. Any one under 65 years of age qualified in any of the several fields connected with the work is eligible for positions, which carry salaries ranging from \$1,620 to \$2,600 a year for the various grades. To qualify for either of two higher grades, considerable experience must be shown in one of the four specific branches of naval ordnance: optical and fire control instruments, naval guns and accessories, munitions or ordnance units. In the lower grades an applicant may qualify on education alone or by showing the proper amount of experience in varied fields.

FIVE members of the faculty of the University of Chicago have been appointed by President Robert Maynard Hutchins as a Committee on Biology and Medicine to further the publication through the University Press of books in the field of medicine and the biological sciences. Members of the committee are: Dr. William H. Taliaferro, dean of the Division of the Biological Sciences, chairman of the department of bacteriology and parasitology; Dr. Franklin C. McLean, professor of pathological physiology; Dr. C. Phillip Miller, associate professor of medicine; Thomas Park, assistant professor of zoology, and Dr. Lester R.

Dragstedt, professor of surgery. The committee will advise the University of Chicago Press of research suitable for publication, will plan needed texts, and act as a possible outlet for valuable work now being done throughout the country in the biological and medical fields. In the matter of securing manuscripts, the committee will be assisted by an advisory group, one man from each department of the biological sciences at the University of Chicago.

THE American Standards Association has announced the publication of a new list of American Standards for 1941. It is pointed out that in view of the importance of standards and specifications not only for every-day work but to speed up production to meet defense requirements, this particular list of standards will be of unusual interest to industry. More than four hundred American Standards are listed, covering definitions, technical terms, specifications for metals and other materials, methods of test for the finished product, dimensions, safety provisions for use of machinery and methods of work. They reach into every important engineering field and serve as a basis for many municipal, state and federal regulations. Six hundred manufacturing, government and user groups have shared in their development. The list will be sent free of charge to any one interested in the work. Requests should be addressed to the American Standards Association, 29 West Thirty-ninth Street, New York, N. Y.

## DISCUSSION

### EVIDENCE OF UNDERTOW FROM ENGINEERING PRACTICE

DOUBTS as to the existence of the undertow were raised some years ago by Professor W. M. Davis.<sup>1</sup> Some years later Shepard<sup>2</sup> described river-like movements of water that here and there flow outward nearly perpendicular to the shoreline, and supported Davis in his suggestion that the undertow is non-existent.

The presence of outward moving surface currents does not, of itself, disprove the existence of undertow, since it is conceivable that water forced on a lee shore by the wind might escape in either or both ways. Investigations by Evans<sup>3</sup> have proved the existence in lakes and ponds of fairly strong subsurface currents which move outward from shore during on-shore winds and are reversed in direction during off-shore winds. This suggests that similar movements may take place in larger bodies of water but does not prove it.

It is evident that both Davis and Shepard in their

discussions have used the word "undertow" in the popular sense of strong subsurface currents moving outward in the comparatively shallow water near shore and have left out of consideration those subsurface movements that occur farther off-shore and which Davis<sup>4</sup> mentioned but seemed to dismiss as of little importance. As originally used, the word "undertow" was intended to apply to subsurface currents extending entirely to the outer edge of the subaqueous terrace and even beyond. Russell says:<sup>5</sup>

The finest of the waste from the land is carried lakeward by the undertow and finally deposited as lacustral beds; portions less finely comminuted fall on the outer slopes of the terrace and serve to broaden it.

Also Gilbert<sup>6</sup> uses the term in the same way when he says:

The finer portion (of the detritus) being lifted up by

<sup>4</sup> *Op. cit.*, 207, 1925.

<sup>5</sup> I. C. Russell, "Geological History of Lake Lahontan," pp. 88-89, U.S.G.S., Mono. 11, 1885.

<sup>6</sup> G. K. Gilbert, "Lake Bonneville," p. 33, U.S.G.S., Mono. 1, 1890.

<sup>1</sup> SCIENCE, 61: 206-208, 1925.

<sup>2</sup> SCIENCE, 84: 181-182, 1936.

<sup>3</sup> SCIENCE, 88: 279-281, 1938.