of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, would be useful both to the biologists and to biologically-minded mathematicians and physicists.

At a business meeting called during the second day it was resolved to set up a permanent organization, to be known as the Western Society of Biometricians, which may become affiliated with the American Association for the Advancement of Science, with the American Statistical Association and perhaps with other organizations. A committee was elected to draw up the form of the permanent society. The members of the committee were selected to represent all fields of biology and mathematics. The following officers have been elected:

Chairman: J. Neyman (Mathematical Statistics); *Vice-chairmen:* E. B. Babcock (Genetics); R. T. Birge (Physics); E. C. Tolman (Psychology), all of the University of California, Berkeley; *Secretaries:* E. R. Dempster (Genetical Effects of Irradiation), also of the University of California at Berkeley, and A. Hormay (Range Management), California Range and Forest Experiment Station at Berkeley.

The organization of a second meeting, where the form of the new society could be discussed and voted upon, was left to this committee. In addition, the committee was directed to consider the possibilities of establishing a journal for the publishing of biological papers involving the application of mathematics to biological problems. Such a journal is needed in order to fill the gap between mathematical publications and the journals of biology. No such journal has been published in this country up to the present time. The idea of the new journal originated with the Committee of the Biometric Section of the American Statistical Association, and was heartily approved by those in attendance at the first western meeting in Berkeley. Any one interested in the new society is invited to communicate with members of the organizing committee.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE annual general meeting of the American Philosophical Society will be held in Philadelphia on April 23, 24 and 25. The sessions on Thursday, April 23, will be devoted to a symposium on recent advances in American archeology in which fifteen leaders in that field will take part. The Franklin Medal Lecture will be given on that evening by Dr. Sylvanus G. Morley on the work of the Carnegie Institution in Central America and Mexico. Dr. James Rowland Angell will deliver the Penrose Memorial Lecture on Friday evening, April 24, on the general subject of education in a world at war.

A SPECIAL cable from London to *The New York Times,* dated February 21, reports that the Faraday Medal of the Council of the British Institution of Electrical Engineers has been awarded to Dr. Peter Kapitza in recognition of his contributions to science in the generation and utilization of intense magnetic fields. Dr. Kapitza is director of the Institute of Physical Problems at the Moscow Academy of Sciences. Formerly he was assistant director of magnetic research at the University of Cambridge.

PRESENTATION of the gold medal of the Radiological Society of North America was made at the recent San Francisco meeting to Edith H. Quimby, "in recognition of her work on dosage and filtration." Since 1932 Mrs. Quimby has been physicist at the Memorial Hospital for the Treatment of Cancer and Allied Diseases, New York.

A. B. HOEN, president of the firm of A. Hoen and Company, lithographers, Baltimore, has been elected an honorary member of the American Geographical Society of New York. The honor was conferred on Mr. Hoen in recognition of the contributions that his firm and he personally have made to the development of the science and art of fine map reproduction in the United States.

HAROLD S. OSBORNE, plant engineer in the operation and engineering department of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, New York, has been nominated for the presidency of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers.

FRANCIS W. PENNELL, curator of plants of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, has been elected president of the American Society of Plant Taxonomists.

DR. FRANCIS S. SMYTH, professor of pediatrics at the Medical School of the University of California, has been appointed dean. The post has been vacant since the retirement in December, 1939, of Dr. Langley Porter.

PROFESSOR DAVID L. ARM, of the Iowa State College, has been appointed head of the department of mechanical engineering. He succeeds Mark P. Cleghorn, who will continue his work as professor.

G. M. RIDENOUR, formerly associate professor of sanitary engineering at Pennsylvania State College, has been appointed associate resident lecturer on public health engineering at the School of Public Health of the University of Michigan.

THE staff of the department of psychology of the

Louisiana State University has undergone several changes in the past few months. Dr. Wayne Dennis has been appointed professor of psychology and head of the department; Dr. James H. Elder has been appointed assistant professor of psychology to succeed Dr. Harry M. Capps, who died on January 17; Dr. Alan D. Grinsted has leave of absence while on duty as a lieutenant in the U. S. Navy.

DR. A. PACKCHANIAN, who during the last six years has been connected with the National Institute of Health of the U. S. Public Health Service, has resigned to become associated with the School of Medicine of the University of Texas at Galveston. He will continue research in bacteriology and tropical medicine.

DR. ERNEST W. REID, of Pittsburgh, who has been assistant chief, has been appointed chief of the Chemicals Branch of the Division of Materials of the War Production Board. He takes the place of Dr. Edward R. Weidlein, director of Mellon Institute, who will continue as senior consultant. Dr. Weidlein has been devoting part of his time to the branch, with his efforts centered recently on development of the synthetic rubber program. He will continue this responsibility for the Materials Division.

DR. AMOS CHRISTIE, associate professor of pediatrics at the Medical School of the University of California, San Francisco, has been appointed assistant director of medical and health service of the American Red Cross, with headquarters in Washington.

DR. ROBERT CUSHMAN MURPHY, of the American Museum of Natural History, has been elected a councilor of the American Geographical Society.

C. F. RASSWEILER, director of research of the Johns-Manville Corporation, has been appointed a vice-president of the company. He will continue in charge of research and development activities.

FOLLOWING the death of Senator Alva B. Adams of Colorado, Senator Carl A. Hatch of New Mexico was named on January 15 to take his place as chairman of the Senate Committee on Public Lands and Surveys. This committee has charge of all Senate bills relating to national parks.

PROFESSOR THEODORE H. MORGAN, head of the department of electrical engineering of the Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, Massachusetts, has been called to the U. S. Office of Education at Washington as principal specialist in engineering education. His work will involve responsibility for the administration of the educational aspects of the national engineering defense training program in colleges and universities, including the development of intensive courses designed to fit engineers for specialized positions in defense industries involving all fields of engineering. He has been granted leave of absence, and will reside in Washington.

Nature states that Sir John Russell, director of the Rothamsted Experimental Station, has been appointed adviser to the Soviet Relations Branch of the Ministry of Information. When carrying out research in the agricultural sciences, Sir John came into close contact with Soviet men of science and has traveled widely in the U.S.S.R.

NOMINATIONS to the council of the American Association of Museums for the three-year term 1942–45 have been made by the council as follows: Henry Butler Allen, director of the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia; Andrey Avinoff, director of the Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh; Alfred H. Barr, Jr., director of the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Charles M. B. Cadwalader, director of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia; Grace L. McCann Morley, director of the San Francisco Museum of Art; Arthur C. Parker, director of the Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences; Laurance P. Roberts, director of the Brooklyn Museum, New York; Carl P. Russell, supervisor of interpretation, National Park Service, Washington; Paul J. Sachs, associate director of the Fogg Art Museum, Cambridge, and Alexander Wetmore, assistant secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington.

DR. OTIS W. CALDWELL, general secretary of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, spoke on February 26 at 7:30 P.M. at Members Night of the American Institute, New York. His subject was "Text-book Science."

DR. ALBERT F. BLAKESLEE, of Cold Spring Harbor, N. Y., last year president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, delivered on February 19 the annual Phi Beta Kappa lecture at the College of Wooster on "Personality in Relation to Science and Society." He also addressed the students on "The Scientific Method in Every-day Life," and spoke to the staff of the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station and a genetics group at the college on "Control of Evolution in Datura."

THE seventh annual Hughlings Jackson memorial lecture of the Montreal Neurological Institute will be given on February 27 by Dr. Edgar D. Adrian, professor of physiology at the University of Cambridge, Nobel laureate in medicine in 1932. He will speak on "Sensory Areas of the Brain."

DURING the period from February 23 to March 14, Dr. P. W. Bridgman, Hollis professor of mathematics

and natural philosophy at Harvard University, is delivering Sigma Xi lectures dealing with the problems and techniques of high pressure at the following institutions: the Iowa State College, the University of Minnesota, the University of Wisconsin, Purdue University, the University of Cincinnati, the Carnegie Institute of Technology, the University of Illinois, the Ohio State University, the Pennsylvania State College, Swarthmore College, Rutgers University, Yale University, the University of North Carolina, the Louisiana State University, Tulane University, the University of Texas and the Rice Institute.

A SERIES of three public lectures entitled "Our Ancestors, Ourselves, Our Descendants" has been arranged at the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania. On January 23, Professor R. Ruggles Gates, of the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, Mass., delivered the first lecture. Professor Laurence H. Snyder, of the Ohio State University, will give the second lecture on March 27, and Professor Earnest A. Hooton, of the department of anthropology of Harvard University, will give on April 24 the last lecture.

A SERIES of fourteen Thursday evening seminars on "Biologically Active Substances" will be conducted this winter at the Physiological Laboratories of Clark University. Those in charge of the seminars are: Dr. Kenneth Thimann, Harvard Biological Laboratories; Dr. Gregory Pincus, Clark Physiological Laboratories; Dr. E. B. Astwood, Harvard Medical School; Dr. Arturo Rosenblueth, Harvard Medical School; Dr. G. H. Parker, Harvard Biological Laboratories; Dr. Valy Menkin, Harvard Medical School; Dr. George Wald, Harvard Biological Laboratories; Dr. Mark Graubard, Clark Physiological Laboratories; Dr. Elmer Stotz, Harvard Medical School; Dr. Kurt Stern, Yale Medical School; Dr. Hudson Hoagland, Clark Physiological Laboratories; Dr. Robert S. Harris, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Dr. H. J. Muller, Amherst College; Dr. M. L. Anson, The Rockefeller Institute.

THE Civil Service Commission is seeking metallurgists for work in Government navy yards, arsenals and other war agencies. The positions pay from $2,000 to $5,600 a year and will last in most cases for the duration of the war. Sending application forms, obtainable in any first- or second-class post office, to the Commission in Washington, D. C., is all that is necessary to be considered for these positions. Experience in metal-working industries with fabrication processes such as welding, die-casting, heat treating, x-ray testing and metallographic work is particularly desired, but not necessary for all positions. College training in metallurgy or college training in other subjects and one year's experience in metallurgy will qualify for positions paying $2,000 a year. For the higher salaried positions, some industrial experience or graduate study, in addition to a bachelor's degree, is required. The positions are in Washington, D. C., and in Government war establishments throughout the country.

ALUMNI of Bucknell University have organized the Bucknell Alumni Research Foundation and have incorporated it as a non-profit organization. Its immediate purpose is to utilize the results of the researches of Dr. William H. Eyster, who has been made research professor of genetics. Dr. Eyster will, in the future, devote most of his time to a study of the genetics and breeding of economically important food and ornamental plants.

THE third annual symposium of the Society for the Study of Growth and Development was advertised in SCIENCE of January 2 as $3.00 to members of the society. The price should have been $3.00 to nonmembers of the society. Members, of course, receive a copy free.

THE eighty-first national meeting of the Electrochemical Society will be held at Nashville, Tenn., from April 15 to 18. Plans for the meeting are being carried out by Professor J. M. Breckenridge and his committee. There will be two symposia, one on "Electric Furnace Reactions," in charge of Dr. John D. Sullivan, of Battelle Institute, Columbus, and the other on "Corrosion," in charge of Dr. R. M. Burns, of the Bell Telephone Laboratories, New York City.

THE Midwestern Psychological Association will hold its seventeenth annual meeting at Hotel Statler, St. Louis, Mo., on Friday and Saturday, May 1 and 2, under the presidency of Dr. J. P. Porter. The title of his presidential address will be "Psychology and the Functional Integration of Human Behavior." The members of the department of psychology at Washington University will act as hosts, with Dr. J. P. Nafe as chairman of the local committee. On account of the considerable distance of the university from housing facilities, all meetings will be held at Hotel Statler, the headquarters.

THE Association of Southeastern Biologists will hold its sixth annual meeting at Miami, Fla., April 16, 17 and 18, with the University of Miami as host, The official hotel will be the Antilla, Coral Gables, at $1.50 per day. The president, A. S. Pearse, Duke University, will address the association on marine biology in the Southeast. The first day of the meeting will be devoted to a marine trip and a field trip to the Everglades. Information regarding the trips can be obtained from Professor Jay F. W. Pearson, of the

University of Miami. Abstracts of papers to be presented must be filed with the secretary, Donald C. Boughton, U. S. Regional Laboratory, Auburn, Alabama, not later than March 31.

THE second American Congress on Obstetrics and Gynecology, sponsored by the American Committee on Maternal Welfare, will be held in St. Louis from April 6 to 10. The program will include general assemblies and individual group meetings on medical, nursing, public health and institutional administrative problems relating to the factual and scientific aspects of maternal and infant care.

DISCUSSION

A YEAR IN AN AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

IT is always with the greatest of pleasure that I recall the time I spent in the United States in 1928–29 as a visiting professor of colloid chemistry in the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Madison is a charming little town lying in the midst of the golden fields of the Middle West and surrounded by numerous lakes and forests. The locality strongly resembles that of the Valdai Hills or Lake Seliger, the favorite vacation spots of the residents of Moscow and Leningrad.

Almost the whole of Madison is permeated with the life of the university, and the university grounds are the real heart of the city. There are many such towns in England and Holland, and once Germany, too, had such towns, but that was before the tempest of madness dispelled the traditions of German learning.

Particular attention was concentrated on colloid chemistry in the University of Wisconsin, and this chair was occupied in turn by a number of professors invited from other universities and even from other countries. Nowhere is this excellent form of international scientific collaboration practiced so widely as in the United States. Besides teaching, I had the opportunity, while in Madison, of engaging in certain experimental researches on various problems of electrochemistry. What especially amazes the foreigner in an American laboratory is the ability to get along with a very small service staff and with a modest supply of apparata and reagents. The necessary orders are put through without any formalities and thanks to the high level of the American laboratory supplies industry and the fact that standard spare parts for instruments are always on sale, these orders are very easily filled. American students very quickly grasp and carry out the idea of experimental work, for they come of a people accustomed to automobiles and radios from childhood.

Another attractive feature of the University of Wisconsin was its democratic traditions and the interest its members showed in the Soviet Union. Every new person I met followed up the traditional first question, "How do you like this country?" with questions concerning the life of the Soviet Union, its organization and aims. The American does not put these questions in a general form. On the contrary, he tries to build up a picture for himself on the basis of concrete details. I remember that when I was asked to speak on the Soviet Union at the faculty of the chemistry department the questions put to me sometimes concerned minor everyday matters, which, however, helped the audience form a tangible idea of life in the Soviet Union.

In general the year I spent in Madison is one of the most pleasant years of my life. The only thing that worried me at first was the fear that my English would be unintelligible to my students. These fears, however, were soon dispelled; as explained to me with the characteristic outspokenness of the American students, since I always made the same mistakes my hearers soon readily grew accustomed to them.

My year in Madison also gave me the opportunity to visit a number of other American universities and laboratories and to become acquainted with many prominent American chemists. In the General Electric laboratories in Schenectady I had the great pleasure of meeting Dr. Irving Langmuir, who, in my opinion, has had more influence than anybody else on the modern development of physical chemistry. Especially that field which has taken most of my attention, the study of surface phenomena, is endlessly indebted to the brilliant and versatile gifts of this scientist. I remember very well how, at the beginning of my career, I used to impatiently await every new work of Langmuir's. The last time I saw his signature under a printed text was but a few weeks ago. It stood under an appeal addressed by American scientists and writers and calling for a fight against Nazism.

At the invitation of Professor J. W. McBain, I delivered a lecture at Stanford University, amidst the cactuses and palms of California. We had a long discussion then about the structure of surface layers, but just now I should like to remember Professor McBain not only as an outstanding scientist but as a man who has given a great deal of effort to consolidating the ties between American and Soviet science. On my way back to Moscow from America I stopped in Berlin. This was in the summer of 1929. German science was still in existence then, and on the quiet streets of Dahlem people spoke of scientific theories