

on medical preparedness was changed to the committee on war participation.

The association will meet next year in San Fran-

cisco; the meeting in 1944 is to be held in St. Louis, providing transportation facilities permit; New York City was chosen as the meeting place for 1945.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

HARVARD UNIVERSITY, at its 291st commencement exercises on June 11, conferred the doctorate of laws on Dr. Frederick P. Keppel, president of the Carnegie Corporation, retired. The doctorate of science was conferred on Dr. Adolf Meyer, professor emeritus of psychiatry of the Johns Hopkins University; on Dr. René J. Dubos, bacteriologist and associate member of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, and on Dr. Reginald A. Daly, Sturgis-Hooper professor of geology at the university.

At Yale University the doctorate of laws was conferred on Dr. Vannevar Bush, president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, and the doctorate of science on Dr. Robert R. Williams, chemical director of the Bell Telephone Laboratories of New York.

THE University of California conferred at commencement the degree of doctor of laws on Dr. Langley Porter, dean emeritus of the School of Medicine at San Francisco.

WILBUR B. RAYTON, director of the Bausch and Lomb Optical Company, Rochester, N. Y., received a doctorate of science from Syracuse University on June 8.

DR. WILLIS A. GIBBONS, director of the general development department of the United States Rubber Company, has been awarded the honorary degree of doctor of science by Wesleyan University.

AMONG honorary degrees conferred on June 15 by the Ohio State University was the doctorate of science on Dr. Edwin G. Hastings, professor of agricultural bacteriology at the University of Wisconsin. Dr. Herbert B. Brooks, consulting electrical engineer, Washington, was presented with the Benjamin G. Lamme Meritorious Achievement Medal awarded each year to an alumnus distinguished in engineering.

THE Francis P. Garvan Gold Medal honoring women in chemistry has been awarded by the American Chemical Society to Dr. Florence B. Seibert, associate professor of biochemistry at the Henry Phipps Institute of the University of Pennsylvania, for "distinguished work on the chemistry of tuberculosis." The presentation will be made at the one hundred and fourth national meeting, to be held in Buffalo from September 7 to 11. The Garvan Medal was founded by the late Francis P. Garvan, of New York, president of the Chemical Foundation.

LEWIS H. CARRIS, director emeritus of the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness, has been awarded the Leslie Dana Gold Medal for outstanding achievements in the prevention of blindness and the conservation of vision. The medal is given annually through the St. Louis Society for the Blind by Leslie Dana, of St. Louis, on the recommendation of the Association for Research in Ophthalmology.

DR. JOSEPH MCFARLAND, emeritus professor of pathology of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, was presented on May 7 with the 1941 Strittmatter Award of the Philadelphia County Medical Society. The award, which consists of a scroll describing the accomplishments of the recipient and a gold medal, was presented by Dr. Jacob Parsons Schaeffer, chairman of the committee on the award. Dr. William Wayne Babcock, professor of surgery at the Temple University School of Medicine, delivered the annual DaCosta Oration. He spoke on "The Life of a Surgeon."

DR. ERNEST SACHS, of St. Louis, was elected president of the American Neurological Association at the meeting of the society held in Chicago on June 4, 5 and 6.

THE annual meeting ending the 1941-42 season of the Physical Society of Pittsburgh was held on June 4 in the auditorium of the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research. Dr. Harold G. Moulton, president of the Brookings Institution, Washington, D. C., addressed the meeting on "Science and Government." Officers of the society elected for the 1942-43 term are: *President*, Professor Otto Stern, Carnegie Institute of Technology; *Vice-president*, Dr. Sigmund Hammer, Gulf Research and Development Company; *Secretary-Treasurer*, Dr. Lee Devol, Mellon Institute of Industrial Research.

DR. ROBERT T. LEGGE, professor of hygiene at the University of California and chairman of the department, has retired with the title emeritus. He was connected with the university for a period of twenty-eight years.

IN appreciation of his thirty years of service to Cornell University and on the occasion of his impending retirement as professor of astronomy and geodesy and as chairman of the department of astronomy, the friends and associates of Professor S. L. Boothroyd tendered him a testimonial dinner on the evening

of May 21. Professor R. William Shaw has been appointed chairman of the department of astronomy and director of the Fuertes Observatory to succeed Professor Boothroyd. Dr. Donald MacRae, of Harvard College Observatory, has joined the staff at Cornell as an instructor in astronomy.

A BANQUET in honor of Dr. Thomas B. Hartzell, emeritus professor of dentistry of the University of Minnesota, was given in Minneapolis on June 16. Dr. Hartzell is a past-president of the American Dental Association.

DR. RENÉ JULES DUBOS, member of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, has been appointed George Fabian professor of comparative pathology and professor of tropical medicine at the Harvard Medical School, Boston. He succeeds Dr. Ernest E. Tyzzer, who becomes professor emeritus.

DR. EUGENE A. STEAD, JR., instructor in medicine, Harvard Medical School, has been appointed head of the department of internal medicine at the School of Medicine of Emory University, Atlanta.

MALCOLM J. PROUDFOOT, assistant geographer of the Bureau of the Census, has been appointed assistant to the director of the bureau. Prior to his connection with the Census he was associate geographer of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

DR. WALTER E. HAMBOURGER has resigned his position as assistant professor of pharmacology at Western Reserve University, to become pharmacologist for G. D. Searle and Company, Skokie, Ill.

DR. HENRY WIGDERSON, formerly of New York University College of Medicine, was recently appointed neuro-surgeon in chief of the Rothschild Hadassah University Hospital, Jerusalem.

DR. MARSTON TAYLOR BOGERT, emeritus professor of organic chemistry of Columbia University, addressed a group of officers and committee members of the New York Academy of Medicine on May 20. He spoke on "Malaria and Quinine," illustrating his remarks by lantern slides depicting the cinchona industry of Java, plasmodia infecting humans and anopheline vectors.

A DEPARTMENT of Aeronautical Engineering has been established at Iowa State College, with Professor Wilbur C. Nelson as its head. In addition to training in aeronautical engineering and cooperation with the federal government in the civilian pilot training course, there will be research in aerodynamics, airplane structure and airplane engines. Courses in aeronautical engineering were formerly given in the department of mechanical engineering.

THE sixth annual Botanical Garden and Arboretum

Day Program was held in the Botanical Garden of Huntington College, Indiana, on June 1. The address was given by Dr. Ralph Cleland, head of the department of botany of Indiana University. He reported his experiences of a botanical study in Jemaca. The Botanical Garden of Huntington College is now seven years old and has over 650 species of wild plants, including trees and shrubs collected mostly from Indiana and Michigan. The arboretum covers about forty acres of varied topography on which there are 35 mature species of trees and thirty of shrubs growing naturally besides many species of herbaceous plants. Over thirty trees and sixty additional shrubs have been brought into the arboretum and garden since its founding. This garden and arboretum are proving a valuable adjunct to the biology department of the college and are always open to visitors.

THE regular annual meeting of the trustees of the Elizabeth Thompson Science Fund was held on April 10. The following grants were awarded: Grant No. 366, \$150 to Dr. Clinton M. Osborn, the Ohio State University, for equipment to build a constant temperature bath to be used in studies in the physiology and chemistry of pigmentation; and Grant No. 367, \$250 to Dr. Benjamin Kropp, Queen's University, Canada, to be used for technical assistance in an experimental study of the cytology and growth of trophoblast.

THE Joint Committee on Indexing and Abstracting in the Major Fields of Research is formulating a plan for the study and solution of the most pressing problems connected with the publication of indexing and abstracting services covering the literature of the several scientific, humanistic, social science, learned, professional and business fields. The committee is composed of representatives from the following associations: The American Association of Law Libraries, The American Library Association, The American Medical Association, The Association of Research Libraries, The Medical Library Association, The National Research Council and The Special Libraries Association. The committee is interested in hearing from other associations or individuals interested in these problems. Address all communications to Mrs. Barbara Cowles, chairman, Joint Committee on Indexing and Abstracting in the Major Fields of Research, University of California Library, Berkeley, Calif.

A NEW American Standard known as "Definitions of Electrical Terms, C42," sponsored by the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, is now ready for general distribution. It is the first time the definitions of the important terms common to all branches

of the art as well as those specifically related to each of the various branches have been assembled and printed under one cover. This glossary is the result of more than twelve years' work of a sectional committee of 46 members having 18 subcommittees drawn from available specialists. More than 300 individuals have given material assistance and many others have assisted in specific instances. The thirty-four organizations represented on the sectional committee include the national engineering, scientific and professional societies, trade associations, government departments and miscellaneous groups.

AN extensive list of institutions, societies and research workers in the pure and applied plant sciences in Central and South America has been prepared by the editors of *Chronica Botanica*, in cooperation with the Division of Agriculture of the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, Washington. It has been published in *Chronica Botanica*, Vol. 7, Nos. 2 and 3 (March and May, 1942).

DRIVEN out of China by the advance of Japanese troops, the California College in China has come to the United States and is again functioning at the University of California at Berkeley. It is cooperating with the University Extension Division under the direction of President Robert Gordon Sproul and a faculty committee headed by Peter A. Boodberg, chairman of the department of Oriental languages.

President W. B. Pettus, head of the Chinese college for the past twenty-five years, has lived in China more than thirty-five years. In Peiping the campus included fifteen buildings for classes, dormitories and a library. Much of the library, considered the finest library on China in the Orient, was rescued and is now in the collection of the University Library. Work at the university was made possible by grants from the Rockefeller Foundation and the Harvard-Yenching Institute. Among the trustees of the California College in China are President Sproul, David P. Barrows, chairman of the department of political science of the University of California, and James K. Moffitt, regent of the university.

ACCORDING to the *Journal* of the American Dental Association, United China Relief received a cablegram late in April announcing the safe arrival in India of R. Gordon Agnew, Canadian missionary, well known in this country for his work on the bacterial and dietary aspects of dental caries. Dr. Agnew, who was returning to his post at West China Union University at Chengtu, Szechwan Province, near Chungking, took with him from the United States twenty-three cases of surgical and dental instruments, a third of which were consigned to the medical relief corps of the Chinese Red Cross, supported by United China Relief. The instruments, valued at \$12,000, and originally consigned to Rangoon, will reach China from India by a road that can be traveled only by mules.

DISCUSSION

METHODS OF DETECTING MILD CASES OF VITAMIN A DEFICIENCY

IN 1939 Booher, Callison and Hewston¹ asserted that "impaired dark adaptation as measured with the visual adaptometer was the earliest definite ocular abnormality observed as a result of vitamin A deficiency" experimentally induced.

In 1941 Kruse,² reporting on the biomicroscopic detection of conjunctival manifestations of avitaminosis A, stated that ordinarily xerosis conjunctivae probably precedes night blindness and recommended the biomicroscopic examination as a simple, convenient, objective method of detecting avitaminosis A.

Recently Miss Callison,³ calling attention to the seeming discrepancy between the two sets of observations, argues that dysadaptation precedes conjunctival

changes; indicates tacitly that the test for adaptation is the more reliable and preferred routine procedure for detecting avitaminosis A; and casts doubt on the reliability of the biomicroscopic method for that purpose.

Miss Callison's assertion that slit-lamp examination by ophthalmologists before and during impaired adaptation in her subjects and after their recovery revealed no evidence of abnormality in the conjunctivae carries the implication that they had consciously been looking for the conjunctival changes described by Kruse as characteristic of avitaminosis A. But they made their observations in 1938. And Kruse did not publish his description until 1941. It is not to be expected that they would recognize or regard changes as abnormal which in 1938 were generally accepted as normal or unrelated to avitaminosis A and which only since have been shown to be pathological and characteristic of avitaminosis A.

Indeed, if they were judging by keratinization of epithelium, as stated in their original report, it is

¹ L. E. Booher, E. C. Callison and E. M. Hewston, *Journal of Nutrition*, 17: 317, 1939.

² H. D. Kruse, *The Milbank Memorial Fund Quarterly*, 19: 207, 1941.

³ E. C. Callison, *SCIENCE*, 95: 250, 1942.