mechanical difficulties the page size will be slightly smaller than the original, but the paper will be a little heavier. Since this work is undertaken solely to meet current demands very few extra copies of any issue will be made beyond those actually ordered. Should sufficient interest be shown this project may be extended to include the first Decennial Index.

BYRON SOULE

THE RADIOLOGICAL RESEARCH LABORATORY OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

THE establishment of a Radiological Research Laboratory in connection with the cancer research program of Columbia University is announced by Dr. Willard C. Rappleye, dean of the faculty of medicine. Dr. Rappleye said:

> The research in the laboratory will be mainly concerned with the study of the effect of radiation on living cells and the possibilities of altering resistance to radiation and to the introduction of chemical and endocrine substances that might conceivably have some bearing on the problem of cancer.
>
> Special attention will be given to setting up a satisfactory program of deep therapy treatment in which high voltage x-rays are used to penetrate deeply into the tissues and destroy cancer. A million volt therapy machine will be installed in the Presbyterian Hospital in connection with the plan.

In addition to research in radiology, experiments will be carried on in the fields of chemistry, immunology, endocrinology and biology. The program represents an effort to develop real authorities on cancer, of whom there are very few. Research will go beyond the ordinary hospital work and will be more of an experimental nature.

Dr. Gioacchino Failla, physicist at the Memorial Hospital, has been appointed director of the laboratory. Dr. Edith H. Quimby, associate physicist at the Memorial Hospital, and Dr. Titus C. Evans, assistant professor of radiology at the State University of Iowa, will be his associates.

Dr. Failla was assistant to the scientific attaché at the American Embassy in Rome from 1918–19. He also served as chairman of the radiophysics section at the fifth International Congress of Radiology. Dr. Failla is a member of the Radiological Society of North America, of the American Radium Society and of the American Physical Society, and is a fellow of the Optical Society. He has been physicist at the Memorial Hospital since 1915.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE first three medals to be awarded in memory of Major General William Crawford Gorgas, Surgeon General of the United States Army before his retirement in 1918, will be presented, according to *The Times,* New York, by the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States at a luncheon to be held in the Cosmos Club in Washington on December 15. The awards were established by John Wyeth and Brother, Philadelphia, and consist of silver medals and checks of $500. These will be awarded for their contributions to the health of the armed forces to Brigadier General Jefferson Randolph Kean, retired, chief surgeon of the Department of Western Cuba in 1900; to Brigadier General Frederick Fuller Russell, who continued the researches of Dr. Walter Reed, and to Rear Admiral Edward Rhodes Stitt, who devoted forty-two years of service to the Naval Medical Corps, including eight years as Surgeon General.

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER ARTHUR P. BLACK, of the U. S. Naval Medical Corps (R), has received the Sir Henry Wellcome award for 1942 for a manuscript entitled "Measures of Preventive Medicine Recommended by the Federal Medical Services to Insure the Maximum Improvement of the Selectee of 1961 over him of 1941." The second award has been made to Lieutenant Colonel Henry Pleasants, Jr., West Chester, Pa., of the U. S. Medical Reserve Corps. These awards also are made by the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States.

DR. ARTHUR FREEBORN CHACE has been elected president of the New York Academy of Medicine for a two-year term. He succeeds Dr. Malcolm Goodridge, who has become trustee of the academy for a five-year term. Dr. Chace has practiced medicine in New York City since 1903, and was professor of medicine at the New York Post-Graduate Medical School from 1912 to 1938. He was vice-president of the New York Academy of Medicine from 1937 to 1939 and a member of its board of trustees. Dr. Cornelius P. Rhoads, director of Memorial Hospital for the Treatment of Cancer and Allied Diseases, was elected vice-president for a term of three years, succeeding Dr. Henry W. Cave, who has been appointed chairman of procurement and assignment of the War Man Power Commission in the 2d Service Command.

DR. HUGH L. DRYDEN, who has been for twenty-four years associated with the National Bureau of Standards, has been elected president of the Institute of the Aeronautical Sciences, New York. Dr. Dryden is the editor of the journal of the institute.

DR. J. BEN ROBINSON was elected to the presidency and C. Raymond Wells, of Washington, D. C., com-

mander, Navy Dental Corps, was named president-elect of the American Dental Association at the recent St. Louis meeting.

NEW members of the Board of Trustees of the Industrial Hygiene Foundation, which recently held its seventh annual meeting at Mellon Institute, Pittsburgh, have been elected as follows: Ned H. Dearborn, executive vice-president of the National Safety Council; Professor Philip Drinker, of the Harvard School of Public Health; Lieutenant Colonel A. J. Lanza, M.C., chief of the Occupational Hygiene Branch, U. S. Army, and Dr. C. D. Selby, medical consultant of the General Motors Corporation. John F. McMahon was recently appointed managing director of the foundation to succeed Dr. H. B. Meller, who retired from the active management because of ill health. Dr. Meller continues as consultant. Dr. Raymond Hussey, of the State Industrial Accident Commission, Baltimore, has become a member of the medical committee.

DR. CARL A. NAU, director of the industrial hygiene division of the Texas State Department of Health, Austin, has been appointed professor of preventive medicine and public health at the University of Texas.

DR. A. R. DAVIS, professor of plant physiology and chairman of the department of botany of the University of California at Berkeley, is serving as major in the Coast Artillery, U. S. Army. Lee Bonar, associate professor of botany, has become chairman of the department.

DR. RALPH W. MACY, of the College of St. Thomas, St. Paul, has joined the Reed College faculty as professor of biology.

DR. KARL F. OERLEIN, head of the division of science and mathematics of the State Teachers College, California, Pa., has been commissioned lieutenant in the USNR. He reported to the Cornell University Naval Training School on December 1. Following preliminary training he will report to the Cruft Radio Laboratory of Harvard University.

JOHN W. MOYER, taxidermist in the division of birds at Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, has leave of absence from the museum to join the Navy. He has received a rating as chief specialist, and has been assigned to the Bureau of Aeronautics for special work in cinematography.

DR. JACK SHERMAN has leave of absence from the research laboratories of the Texas Company to enable him to engage in defense work as physical chemist for the National Defense Research Council, Office of Scientific Research and Development.

Chemical and Engineering News reports that Dr. Pieter Honig, formerly director of the Experimental Station of the Java Sugar Industry at Pasoeroean and during the past year director of the Rubber Research Institute at Buitenzorg, Java, left Java for the United States just before the surrender of the Netherlands-Indies to the Japanese. He has been appointed commissioner of the board in New York City, for the Netherlands-Indies, Surinam and Curaçao, and will direct post-war reconstruction problems in relation to the agricultural industries of the Netherlands-Indies.

DAVID SEVLEVER, professor of hygiene and social medicine, and general technical secretary of the Department of Public Health in Santa Fé, Argentina, is in the United States for three months on a Rockefeller Foundation grant, to make investigations in public health, hospitals and vital statistics.

DR. THOMAS PARRAN, U. S. Surgeon General, has accepted membership on the sponsoring board of the National Jewish Hospital at Denver, a free, non-sectarian medical center for the tuberculous poor.

DR. JULIAN A. STEYERMARK, assistant curator of the herbarium of Field Museum of Natural History, who has been conducting the fourth Field Museum Botanical Expedition to Guatemala, has returned to Chicago. Thirty thousand plant specimens, representing eleven thousand numbered collections, were obtained by the expedition. After two or three months, which are needed to wind up his work at the museum, Dr. Steyermark expects to take leave of absence to accept an appointment from the Bureau of Economic Warfare, which will send him early next year to South America on a special botanical mission of importance to the war.

CHARLES A. ANDERSON, associate professor of geology at the University of California at Berkeley, has been given leave of absence at the request of the U. S. Geological Survey to make a study of strategic minerals in the Pacific Coast states. He has started his survey in Washington, and plans to proceed southward through Montana and Idaho to Arizona and back along the coast to complete a circuit of the western area.

DR. JOHN R. PAUL, professor of preventive medicine at the Yale University School of Medicine, will deliver the third Harvey Society Lecture of the current series at the New York Academy of Medicine on December 17. He will speak on "Poliomyelitis."

DR. STANHOPE BAYNE-JONES, professor of bacteriology at the Yale University School of Medicine, colonel in the Medical Corps of the United States Army, will speak on January 13 on "Tetanus" before the Philadelphia County Medical Society. The lecture is one of the series of scientific lectures sponsored jointly by the society and by the College of Physicians of Philadelphia.

DR. FRANCIS PEYTON ROUS, of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, New York, delivered the fourth annual Barnard Free Skin and Cancer Hospital Lecture before the St. Louis Medical Society on November 17. His address was entitled "The Nearer Causes of Cancer."

THE one hundred and twenty-fifth annual meeting of the New York Academy of Sciences for the presentation of the annual reports and for the election of officers will be held on Tuesday evening, December 15, in the Roosevelt Memorial Building of the American Museum of Natural History. Addresses will be made by Dr. Frank Baldwin Jewett on "The Mobilization of American Scientists for War" and by Dr. Igor I. Sikorsky on "Direct Lift Aircraft."

THE sixty-ninth meeting of the American Astronomical Society under the presidency of Dr. Joel Stebbins will be held at Dearborn Observatory, Northwestern University, on December 28, 29 and 30.

THE U. S. Civil Service Commission announces that there is special need for workers who have basic training in economics, sociology and statistics. Salaries range from $2,000 to $6,500 a year. Information in regard to these positions can be obtained by addressing the U. S. Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C.

A SCHOLARSHIP in chemical research at McGill University has been established by the Gottesman Foundation of New York. It is open to any British or United States graduate of a recognized university, and is valued at $800 a year.

THE American Optical Company at Southbridge, Mass., has been awarded the E production emblem of the Army and Navy.

AT the request of the Internal Security Division of the office of the Provost Marshal General in the War Department, a special course in "Plant Protection Engineering" is being given by New York University at its Washington Square Center. It is aimed to provide intensive training in methods of maintaining safety and security in industrial plants engaged in producing war materials. The course will be attended by some forty inspectors employed by the War Department in the various Army service commands in the East under its plant-inspection program, which is directed by Colonel A. B. Johnson, of the Internal Security Division.

AFTER the publication of Volume V, Number 4 (December, 1942), the *Journal of Geomorphology* will suspend publication for the duration of the war. This step is necessary, much to the regret of the editors, because the war has resulted in the loss of almost all foreign subscriptions and has made it impossible to secure, from either American or foreign scholars, sufficient manuscripts of high quality.

THE Board of Trustees of Stanford University has voted to accept as first-year students, beginning with the opening of the winter quarter on January 5, a limited number of highly competent students who have qualified for the senior year in high school. This plan will permit boys and girls 16 and 17 years of age to have at least one year of college life and work before being called to military service and will give the university an earlier opportunity to secure for the military and other war services young people qualified in such technical fields as medicine, engineering, chemistry, physics, mathematics, military science, industrial management, bacteriology, nursing, geology, mining, foreign languages, government economics and nutrition. All curricula will be coordinated with the needs of the Army, Navy and other governmental services and particularly with the requirements of the post-war world.

DISCUSSION

THE PRODUCTION OF SALTPETER IN THE SOUTH DURING THE CIVIL WAR

THE recent paper by Dr. Eisenschiml on "The Chemist in Three Wars" is interesting and timely, but it contains one minor error which should be corrected. He states that during the Civil War saltpeter was mined from "deposits in limestone caverns near Columbia, Charleston, Savannah, Augusta, Mobile and Selma";[1] but caves are not found in the vicinity of these cities.

The saltpeter used in the manufacture of gunpowder for the Confederate Army was obtained through a special agency, known as the Niter and Mining Bureau, with Colonel I. M. St. John as its chief. Dr. Joseph LeConte, then professor of chemistry and geology at the South Carolina College, was appointed chemist for the bureau with the rank and pay of major. LeConte states that it was his business to "test all nitrous earth whether from caves or niter beds," and that he "visited all the niter caves in northern Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee, all the niter beds in South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama, and the iron mines and blast-furnaces at Shelbyville, Alabama."[2]

Nitrates were found in the caves of Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee, chiefly in the form of calcium nitrate. Bat guano and other organic material ac-

[1] Otto Eisenschiml, SCIENCE, 96: 348, 1942.

[2] "The Autobiography of Joseph LeConte," p. 184, New York, 1903.