

ings and an endowment. During the period from 1900 to 1942, when he resigned from the presidency, the Marine Biological Laboratory developed from a struggling organization to its present position as the leading cooperative laboratory of the world.

It is, of course, true that only by the devoted work of the members of the corporation and the active interest of its many friends, could such an end be reached; but it is equally true that without wise guidance this effort would have failed. From the beginning, when Whitman, against every force and discouragement, fought for the principles of cooperation and independence, this laboratory has pursued its steady course, adapting itself wisely to new conditions as they arose, but always holding to those basic ideals. During his fruitful years as director Dr. Lillie frequently stressed these principles. "Our purpose," he wrote, "is essentially ideal, and its pursuit demands our best efforts and our loyalty." And again, "We have

laid the principle of cooperation at our foundation, and we have attempted to build it into every one of our activities." In this course he has always quietly led. There has never been any thought of division since he has been in charge. Here lies his strength, and here lies the secret of the continued success of the laboratory.

In accepting his resignation from the presidency, the corporation and the trustees are rejoiced that he will continue his connection with the laboratory as president emeritus. We extend to him and to Mrs. Lillie, who has so ably assisted him in the development of the Marine Biological Laboratory, our grateful thanks, and we pledge to him our best efforts to continue the work which he has so long and so wisely guided.

C. E. McCLUNG
E. G. CONKLIN
CHARLES PACKARD

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. ANTON J. CARLSON, emeritus professor of physiology of the University of Chicago, has been elected president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

DR. ARNO S. LUCKHARDT, professor of physiology at the University of Chicago, who first used ethylene gas as an anesthetic, has received the Callahan Memorial award of the Ohio State Dental Society, "for his contribution to humanity and the healing arts."

DR. N. G. CHOLODNY, professor of plant physiology in the University of Kiev, has been awarded the Charles Reid Barnes Life Membership in the American Society of Plant Physiologists. The award, made only once every five years, is given to a foreign plant physiologist. An American life membership was awarded to Dr. W. W. Thomas, of Pennsylvania State College, who is known for his work on the mineral nutrition of plants.

THE Kentucky Academy of Science announces that the 1943 King Award of \$50, made annually by Mr. Fain W. and Mrs. Blanche B. King, of Wickliffe, Ky., to the author of the most meritorious paper presented at the annual meeting of the academy, will go to M. J. Astle, Wendell P. Cropper and Stanly P. Stephenson for their joint papers on "Polarographic Investigation of Some Nitrocresols" and "Polarographic Investigation of Hydrogen Bonding in Nitrodihydroxybenzenes." The work was done in the department of chemistry of the University of Kentucky, and the papers were presented at the thirtieth annual meeting of the academy held on April 24 at Louisville, Ky. The award was established by Mr. and Mrs. King in 1939, to be made for five years. This marks the fifth and final presentation.

DR. WILMER SOUDER, principal physicist of the National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C., was elected an honorary member of the American Dental Association at the recent meeting held in Cincinnati.

At the tenth annual meeting of the American Academy of Tropical Medicine, held on November 17 in conjunction with the Southern Medical Association at Cincinnati, the presidential address, entitled "The South American Scene," was delivered by Dr. Lewis W. Hackett, assistant director of the Division of International Health of the Rockefeller Foundation. At this meeting the third Theobald Smith Gold Medal of the George Washington University was presented to Colonel Charles F. Craig, U.S.A. (retired). The following officers were elected for 1944: *President*, Colonel Edward B. Vedder, U. S. A. (retired), Oakland, Calif.; *Vice-president*, Dr. Mark F. Boyd, Tallahassee, Fla.; *Secretary*, Dr. Ernest Carroll Faust, New Orleans; *Treasurer*, Lieutenant Colonel Thomas T. Mackie, Washington, D. C.; *Councilor* (for five-year term), Brigadier General James S. Simmons, Washington, D. C. The following were elected to membership: Dr. Harold W. Brown, Dr. J. A. Curran, Dr. J. S. D'Antoni, Dr. George K. Strode and Dr. Robert Watson.

At the joint meetings of the American Pomological Society held at St. Louis, Mo., on December 13, 14 and 15, Professor T. J. Talbert, chairman of the department of horticulture and forestry of the College of Agriculture of the University of Missouri, was reelected president of the society.

At the recent meeting of the Indiana Branch of the Society of American Bacteriologists, the following

officers were elected: *President*, Dr. Norman J. Miller, Mead Johnson Company; *Vice-president*, Dr. James A. Reyniers, University of Notre Dame; *Secretary-Treasurer*, Dr. L. S. McClung, Indiana University, and *Director*, Deliah Metz, Indiana State Board of Health.

THE following officers were elected for 1944 at the annual meeting of the Board of Governors of the Institute of Medicine of Chicago: *Honorary chairman of the Board of Governors*, Dr. Ludvig Hektoen; *Chairman of the Board*, Dr. William F. Petersen; *President*, Dr. Andrew C. Ivy; *Vice-president*, Dr. Harry S. Gradle; *Secretary*, Dr. George H. Coleman, and *Treasurer*, Dr. Grant H. Laing. The newly elected members of the Board of Governors for terms of five years each are Drs. Bowman C. Crowell, Herman L. Kretschmer and Eric Oldberg.

DR. HOWARD C. TAYLOR has been appointed chairman of the department of obstetrics and gynecology of the College of Medicine of New York University. Dr. Taylor has been a member of the faculty since 1935.

HERBERT F. SCHWARZ, since 1921 associated with the American Museum of Natural History, has been appointed chairman and curator of the department of insects and spiders to succeed the late Dr. Frank E. Lutz.

BENJAMIN PARRY, first assistant to Dr. James H. Kimball, who died on December 21, has been appointed his successor as chief meteorologist of the New York Weather Bureau.

J. LOUIS NEFF, East Williston, Long Island, N. Y., has been appointed to the newly established position of executive director of the American Society for the Control of Cancer, of which Dr. Clarence C. Little is managing director.

DR. VALY MENKIN, formerly assistant professor of pathology at the Harvard Medical School, is now associate in research at the Fearing Research Laboratory of the Free Hospital for Women at Brookline, Mass. In this capacity he is continuing his studies in general pathology with particular emphasis on inflammation and cancer research.

DR. SIMON EDWARD SULKIN, instructor in bacteriology and immunology at the School of Medicine of Washington University, St. Louis, has been placed in charge of the virus research laboratory now being organized at the medical school of the Southwestern Medical Foundation, Dallas.

FIVE physicians have been appointed by President Roosevelt members of a commission to recommend possible changes in physical, mental and moral qualifi-

cations for admittance to the armed services. These are Rear Admiral Ross T. McIntire, Surgeon General of the Navy; Major General Norman Kirk, Surgeon General of the Army; Dr. Alan C. Woods, ophthalmologist-in-chief of the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Dr. Frank H. Lahey, surgeon-in-chief of the Lahey Clinic, Boston, and Dr. Edward A. Sprecker, professor of psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania.

DR. THOMAS R. WOOD has been appointed a member of the staff of the section of organic chemistry of the Central Laboratories at Hoboken, N. J., of the General Foods Corporation.

DR. FRED OBERST, biochemist for the U. S. Public Health Service in Lexington, Ky., has recently been appointed chief of the biochemical division of the Research Laboratories of the Wm. S. Merrell Company.

THE British Minister of Production has appointed Sir Charles Hambro, chairman of the Great Western Railway, as United Kingdom member of the Combined Raw Materials Board and head of the British Raw Materials Mission in Washington. He succeeds Sir Clive Baillieu, who has held these posts since the formation of the two bodies, and had previously served as head of the British Purchasing Commission. He will return to England to become deputy-president of the Federation of British Industries.

JOHN WENDELL BAILEY, professor of biology in the University of Richmond, Va., has been granted leave of absence to enter the Army. He will serve as Major in the Specialists Corps. He left for Fort Custer, Mich., on December 26.

REAR ADMIRAL LUTHER SHELDON, JR., assistant chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, recently returned to Washington after a tour of four months to make observations of medical facilities in the United Kingdom, North Africa, Sicily, West Africa, Brazil and the West Indies. He reported, according to the *Journal* of the American Medical Association, that "existing medical facilities, and those which are now in the process of completion, will be entirely adequate to meet any contingency."

AMONG the faculty of Yenching University, Peking, recently repatriated from the North China Internment Camp, in Japanese-occupied China, were the following: Dr. Wm. H. Adolph, professor of biochemistry; Dr. Alice M. Boring, professor of biology; Dr. Martha M. Kramer, professor of nutrition; Dr. Earl O. Wilson, professor of industrial chemistry, and Dr. Stanley D. Wilson, professor of organic chemistry.

DR. KARL PAUL LINK, professor of biochemistry of the Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station, will deliver the fourth Harvey Society Lecture of the

current series at the New York Academy of Medicine on January 20. Dr. Link will speak on "The Anti-coagulant from Spoiled Sweet Clover Hay."

DR. WALTER SYMMINGTON MACLAY, head of the Mill Hill Emergency Hospital, London, recently described the work of the Mill Hill Relocation Center to the staff and students of the Medical Branch of the University of Texas at Galveston. Army psychiatrists from camps in Texas also attended. Dr. MacLAY lectured on the rehabilitation methods used and showed a motion picture of the center in operation.

At the five hundred and forty-second regular meeting on January 6 of the Entomological Society of Washington the presidential address was delivered by Dr. R. W. Harned. The program was as follows: "Medical Entomology in Wartime," by F. C. Bishopp; "Agricultural Entomology in Wartime," by S. A. Rohwer, and "Extension Entomology," by M. P. Jones.

As already announced in *SCIENCE*, the American Physical Society, the American Association of Physics Teachers and the Electron Microscope Society of America will meet at Columbia University on January 14 and 15. At this meeting there will be a joint symposium on Training Programs for Army and Navy Personnel in the Field of Physics; the retiring presidential address of President A. W. Hull, of the Physical Society; the Richtmyer Lecture and the presentation of the Oersted Medal of the Physics Teachers; thirty invited papers of the Electron Microscope Society and a number of contributed papers.

IN accordance with the recent decision of the council the next meeting of the Society of American Bacteriologists will be held on May 3, 4 and 5, at the Hotel Pennsylvania, New York City. To aid in the national transportation problem, groups which are distant from New York City will be urged to send representatives who will attend the sessions and report to their groups. The scientific program will feature contributed papers and panel discussions on wartime problems and recent research in the various fields of bacteriology and immunology. Inquiries relating to the program should be addressed to Dr. L. S. McClung, Indiana University, Bloomington, who has been appointed chairman of the program committee. Abstracts of papers contributed by members must be received on or before February 14.

THROUGH the Ophthalmologic Section of the National Research Council, at the request of Sir W. Stewart Duke-Elder; Williamson-Noble of Great Britain; Lieutenant Colonel Derrick Vail, the consulting ophthalmologist to the American Expeditionary Force, and a number of other prominent American ophthalmologists, it has been decided to produce a work of two or more volumes covering a review of the literature of ophthalmology during the war years. The first volume will cover the period starting with the beginning of the war in 1940 until January 1. The next volume will continue until the time after the cessation of hostilities when there will be a free exchange of literature. Dr. Meyer Wiener, of Coronado, Calif., will appreciate the receipt of works for review in these volumes on, or pertaining to, ophthalmology, or of interest to the ophthalmologist.

DISCUSSION

THE ORIGIN OF LANGUAGE

It is reported that Dr. E. L. Thorndike has recently published in *SCIENCE* his new theory of the origin of human speech. Unfortunately, under present conditions, scientific journals from overseas are difficult to obtain in England, but it is stated that, according to the new theory, speech arose from the "babbling" of primitive men and that meanings became attached to the individual sounds by "luck"; also that the various unrelated languages of mankind were all developed in the same way.

How can this theory (if correctly reported) account for the fact that many simple sounds are found to bear closely related meanings in nearly all the language groups, or the fact that, when a single sound is found to bear many different meanings (in the same language), these various meanings are found, in many instances, to be related to one another? The relation, in this case, is that they represent different natural

ways of construing the same hand- (or mouth-) gesture.

Thus, the sound (or word) *ku* is the result of a sudden release of a tongue-to-throat closure, formed far back in the mouth, and a projection of the rounded lips—so as to form an elongated tube through which the voice flows. According to the gesture theory, this mouth gesture would be related to an originating hand-gesture from which the mouth-gesture was derived by unconscious sympathy of movement between man's hands and his mouth. The originating hand-gesture, in this case, might be one in which the two slightly cupped palms were held together, pointing forward, with the balls of the two thumbs touching (so as to form a closure), and the two hands were then moved suddenly forward.

This sign and the related mouth-gesture which produces the sound *ku* (or the closely allied sounds *gu* or *hu* or *xu*—where *x* stands for the German *ch* in *ach*) might be expected to bear any of the following panto-