

Dr. Carl F. Prutton, professor of chemical engineering at Western Reserve University, has been appointed general chairman of the meeting. Dr. Eric A. Arnold, associate professor of chemistry at the Case School of Applied Science, has been named general vice-chairman. Dr. Harold S. Booth, head of the department of physical science at Western Reserve, is honorary chairman.

Vice-chairmen to direct the work of local committees on arrangements for the convention are W. J. Bartlett, Mathew M. Braidech, G. H. McIntyre, A. S. Weygandt and F. M. Whitacre.

#### AWARDS OF THE INSTITUTE OF THE AERONAUTICAL SCIENCES

THE Institute of the Aeronautical Sciences under the presidency of Major R. H. Fleet opened its twelfth annual meeting with the "honors night" dinner in the Waldorf-Astoria, New York City, on January 24. The following awards were made:

General Henry H. Arnold, commanding general of the Army Air Forces, an honorary fellowship, presented by Brigadier-General Frank P. Lahm, retired.

Sir Richard Fairey, director-general of the British Air Commission, an honorary fellowship, presented by T. P. Wright, of the War Production Board.

Sanford A. Moss, consulting engineer of General Electric, the Sylvanus Albert Reed award, presented by Charles L. Lawrence, head of Lawrence Engineering and Research.

Lieutenant-Colonel Joseph J. George, of the Army Air Forces Weather Division, the Robert M. Losey award, presented by F. W. Reichelderfer, chief of the United States Weather Bureau.

Brigadier-General Eugen G. Reinartz, commandant of the Army School of Aviation Medicine, the John Jeffries award, presented by Major-General D. N. W. Grant, air surgeon of the Army Air Forces.

William H. McAvoy, chief test pilot of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, the Octave Chanute award "for continuous service in the flight-testing of experimental airplanes under hazardous conditions."

William B. Bergen, chief flight test engineer of the Glenn L. Martin Company, the Lawrence Sperry award, presented by E. G. Sperry, Jr., vice-president of Sperry Products.

Colonel H. F. Gregory, of the Army Air Forces, the Thurman H. Bane award "for his contribution to the military and commercial development and use of the helicopter," presented by Igor I. Sikorsky, of the Vought-Sikorsky Aircraft Division of United Aircraft.

#### THE GIBSON ISLAND RESEARCH CONFERENCES

THE seventh series of the Gibson Island special research conferences on chemistry of the American Association for the Advancement of Science will begin on June 12. There will be eleven conferences during the summer of 1944, each extending over a period of five days, from Monday to Friday, inclusive, on successive weeks. The final conference will open on Monday, August 21. The subjects of the eleven conferences are:

1. Petroleum Chemistry. June 12-16. Frederick D. Rossini, *chairman*; George Calingaert, *vice-chairman*.
2. Catalysis. June 19-23. Otto Beeck, *chairman*; P. H. Emmett, *vice-chairman*.
3. Organic Highpolymers. June 26-30. H. Mark, *chairman*; Emil Ott, *vice-chairman*.
4. Medicinal Chemistry. July 3-7. D. L. Tabern, *chairman*; W. G. Bywater, *vice-chairman*.
5. Textiles. July 10-14. Milton Harris, *chairman*; Warren F. Busse, *vice-chairman*.
6. Strategic Materials. July 17-21. Robert Calvert, *chairman*; Richard J. Block, *vice-chairman*.
7. Vitamins. July 24-28. Walter C. Russell, *chairman*; James Waddell, *vice-chairman*.
8. Cancer. July 31-August 4. Dean Burk, *chairman*; Ralph G. Meader, *vice-chairman*.
9. Corrosion. August 7-11. F. L. LaQue, *chairman*; G. H. Young, *vice-chairman*.
10. Instrumentation. August 14-18. W. G. Brombacker, *chairman*; J. G. Ziegler, *vice-chairman*.
11. X-ray and Electron Diffraction. August 21-25. Lester H. Germer, *chairman*; P. Debye, *vice-chairman*.

The island offers opportunities for golf, tennis, bathing in both salt and fresh water, fishing and swimming. Yacht races are held off the shore at various times during the summer.

The conference property was purchased and furnished by the association with gifts of \$1,000 each from industrial companies whose laboratories have been represented at the conferences, each company having the right to have one representative at each conference. Attendance is limited to 60 persons, distributed as widely as possible among representatives of industrial, foundation and university laboratories.

Registration for the coming summer should be made before February 20 with the director, Dr. Neil E. Gordon, Wayne University, Detroit, who is secretary of the Section on Chemistry of the association.

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Distinguished Service to Geography Award of the National Council of Geography Teachers has been given to President Wallace W. Atwood, of Clark University, "for his persistent efforts to advance geogra-

phy, especially for his headship, since 1920, of the Graduate School of Geography at Clark University and his establishment and editorship of *Economic Geography* since 1925."

THE Edison Medal of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers was presented to Dr. Vannevar Bush at a general session of the institute on January 26. As already recorded in *SCIENCE*, the medal was awarded in recognition of "his contribution to the advancement of electrical engineering, particularly through the development of new applications of mathematics to engineering problems, and for his eminent service to the Nation in guiding the war research program."

THE International Acetylene Association presented at a dinner given on January 24 at the Union League Club, New York City, the James Turner Morehead Medal to Charles Ellison MacQuigg, dean of engineering at the Ohio State University, "for advancing the oxy-acetylene processes through metallurgical research and for leadership in engineering education."

THE Founders Gold Medal of the Horticultural Society of New York for "outstanding achievement in horticulture" was presented on January 19 to A. T. De La Mare, editor of *The Florists Exchange and Horticultural Trade World*, a weekly magazine that he has published for fifty-five years.

DR. FLORENCE B. SEIBERT, of the Henry Phipps Institute, associate professor of biochemistry in the University of Pennsylvania, has been elected, in recognition of her work in tuberculosis, a national honorary member of Sigma Delta Epsilon, the Graduate Women's Scientific Fraternity.

It is reported in the *Journal* of the American Medical Association that Dr. Robert Denison, president of the Harrisburg, Pa., Academy of Medicine, has received the Seibert Memorial Prize of \$500. The award was established in memory of the late Dr. William Seibert by his sister and was originally intended for study abroad. It is given every two years to a member of the academy who has done notable work.

DR. THOMAS J. HEADLEE, known for his work on mosquito control in New Jersey, retired on January 1 with the title emeritus after serving since 1912 as chief of the department of entomology of Rutgers University and of the State Agricultural Experiment Station. Dr. Bailey B. Pepper, associate entomologist, has been named acting head of the department. A tea was given in honor of Dr. Headlee on the occasion of the annual conference of the New Jersey Extension Service. It was attended by many county extension workers as well as by members of the faculty of Rutgers University who had worked with him from time to time. Dr. William H. Martin presented Dr. Headlee with a chair and a lamp on behalf of the staff of the institution.

MALCOLM PIRNIE, sanitation engineer of New York

City, has been elected president of the American Society of Civil Engineers, and Richard E. Dougherty, vice-president of the New York Central Railroad, has been elected vice-president. They took office at the annual meeting on January 17.

CHANCELLOR SAMUEL P. CAPEN, of the University of Buffalo, was elected at the annual meeting held in New York City on January 19 president of the Association of Colleges and Universities of the State of New York.

THE following have been elected officers of the American Society for X-ray and Electron Diffraction: W. H. Zachariasen, department of physics, University of Chicago, *Vice-president* for 1944 and *President-elect* for 1945, and J. D. H. Donnay, Laval University, Quebec, and Hercules Powder Company, Wilmington, Del., *Secretary-Treasurer* for 1944. Dr. L. H. Germer, of the Bell Telephone Laboratories at Murray Hill, N. J., is president for 1944. The next meeting of the society will be a joint Research Conference with Section C of the American Association for the Advancement of Science next August at Gibson Island, Md.

At the January meeting of the New York City Branch of the Society of American Bacteriologists, the following officers for 1944 were elected: *President*, Mrs. Mary B. Horton, Sheffield Farms Company, Inc., New York; *Vice-president*, Dr. Gustav I. Steffen, New York City Department of Health; *Secretary-Treasurer*, Dr. Mortimer P. Starr, Brooklyn College; *Corresponding Secretary*, Dr. C. Virginia Fisher, Warner Institute; *Program Committee*, Dr. William W. Browne, the City College.

DR. GEORGE MORRIS PIERSOL, professor of medicine in the Graduate School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania, past president of the American College of Physicians and a member of the Council on Physical Therapy of the American Medical Association, has been appointed director of the new Center for Research and Instruction in Physical Medicine in the Graduate School of Medicine of the university. To establish this center the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis recently made a grant amounting to \$150,000 for a five-year period from January 1, this year, to December 31, 1948.

DR. ROBERT C. MAJOR has resigned as assistant in surgery at the School of Medicine of Emory University, Atlanta, to become full-time professor of thoracic surgery at the School of Medicine of the University of Georgia at Augusta, effective on January 1. Dr. John Robert Rinker, Fort Worth, has been appointed full-time professor of urology at Georgia.

G. W. GROFF, who has been, since its founding in 1921, dean and director of the College of Agriculture

of Lingnan University, China, has been appointed lecturer on world agriculture at the Pennsylvania State College.

WHILE on leave of absence from the Graduate School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania, where he is a member of the faculty, Dr. Kehar Singh Chouke is serving, during the first six months of the current year, as visiting associate professor of anatomy at the School of Medicine of Washington University, St. Louis.

DR. ROBERT WILSON, since 1908 dean of the College of Medicine of the State of South Carolina, Charleston, associated with the college since 1893, has presented his resignation. He will be succeeded by Dr. Kenneth M. Lynch, who has been assistant dean since 1935.

DR. GEORGE R. COWGILL, of the School of Medicine of Yale University, has been promoted from an associate professorship of physiological chemistry to a newly established professorship of nutrition.

DR. GEORGE B. PEGRAM, professor of physics and dean of the Graduate School of Columbia University, and Dr. William J. Robbins, director of the New York Botanical Garden, have been elected members of the Council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Dr. Arthur H. Compton, professor of physics at the University of Chicago, and Dr. Elvin C. Stakman, professor of plant pathology at the University of Minnesota, have been elected members of the Executive Committee.

STANLEY FIELD has been reelected for the thirty-sixth consecutive year president of the Chicago Natural History Museum, formerly the Field Museum of Natural History.

DR. ISAAH BOWMAN, president of the Johns Hopkins University, has been appointed by Secretary Hull a member of the policy committee of the Department of State recently organized "to facilitate the conduct of foreign relations of the United States in war and in peace."

THE United Fruit Company has announced the organization of a Department of New Crops. Dr. Atherton Lee, formerly director of the Puerto Rico Experiment Station of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and subsequently chief of the Natural Rubber Section, Office of the Rubber Director, will be director of the new department. First attention will be devoted to the production of tropical strategic crops for the war effort and subsequently of tropical food crops to aid after-invasion economy.

DR. RUFUS S. REEVES has been appointed for a four-year term director of health of Philadelphia to suc-

ceed Dr. Hubley R. Owen. He took office on January 3.

MAJOR GUSTAVE J. DAMMIN, of the Medical Corps of the Army, after serving for two and a half years at the Antilles Medical Department Laboratory, during the last year of which he was commanding officer, is returning to the continental United States to join another laboratory unit.

DR. L. J. WITTS, Nuffield professor of clinical medicine in the University of Oxford, and Dr. J. R. Learmonth, professor of surgery at the University of Edinburgh, have been appointed members of the British Medical Research Council.

DR. WILLIAM E. LADD, William E. Ladd professor of child surgery at the Harvard Medical School, gave the twelfth annual series of the Benjamin Knox Rachford Lectures on January 18 and 19. The lectureships were established as a memorial to Dr. B. K. Rachford in recognition of his work in the physiology of digestion and other scientific investigations.

DR. CHARLES F. CHURCH, chief of the medical department of E. R. Squibb and Sons, delivered recently lectures on "Penicillin—Its Background and Therapeutic Uses," before the Baltimore City Medical Society, the Georgia Pediatric Society, the University of Georgia Medical School, the District of Columbia Medical Society and the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science.

THE annual meeting of the American Association of Cereal Chemists will be held on May 23, 24 and 25 at the Nicollet Hotel, Minneapolis. It is urged that all those who anticipate attending this meeting make their railroad and hotel reservations at the earliest possible moment so that a minimum of confusion and disappointment may result to those attending this convention.

A MEETING of leaders of nutrition research was held at the University of California at Berkeley on January 25 and 26. This is one of four regional meetings which will include all the states. The purpose of the conferences is to evaluate experiments in progress on the conservation of the nutritive value of foods.

A SYMPOSIUM on the industrial application of x-ray diffraction will be held at the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, on Friday evening, February 25, and Saturday morning and afternoon, February 26.

By the will of Dr. William Llewellyn Pryce Bevan the University of Edinburgh will receive a bequest of approximately £22,000 for the promotion of the teaching or the advancement of medical science.

THE Council of the National Institute of Sciences of India, according to *Current Science*, Bangalore,

has been authorized to take necessary steps for the organization of a National Research Council constituted under the statutory authority of the Government of India, at the symposium on Post-War Organization of Scientific Research held last October in Calcutta. It was also decided to approach the Government of India for an annual grant to enable the council to give effect to its policy of scientific development. The symposium considered that the National Research Council should be directly responsible to the government. Its main functions should be to plan the main lines of scientific work in accordance with national needs, to ensure balanced development of all branches of science and advise and help regarding the training and supply of scientific personnel for pure and applied research. The council should consist of scientific and technical experts not exceeding sixty in number, the majority of whom should be elected by non-official scientific organizations, including universities. Boards of research should be constituted for each sphere of work, and each board should be authorized to constitute research committees on all important subjects.

THE Pyrethrum Board of Kenya has been asked by the British Ministry of Supply to send 10,000 pounds of pyrethrum seed to the United States Board of Economic Warfare. The seed will be flown across the Atlantic and probably planted in Brazil.

A NATIONAL Department of Public Health and Social Assistance was recently established at Buenos Aires, of which Dr. Eugenio A. Galli, major surgeon, R. A., has been appointed president. It includes the National Department of Hygiene, the Advisory Committee of Regional Hospitals, the National Institute of Nutrition, the Society of Beneficence of the Federal Capital, the National Centers of Social Assistance, the Department of Subsidies and all the national branches of the departments of Public Health and Hygiene.

IN the British House of Commons, it was announced

recently by Mr. Attlee, Lord President of the Council, that the government had decided to set up a Royal Commission to investigate the birth-rate and trends of population and that the Lord Chancellor had accepted the chairmanship. The terms of reference of the commission are to examine the facts relating to the present population trends in Great Britain; to investigate the causes of these trends and to consider their probable consequences; to consider what measures, if any, should be taken in the national interest to influence the future trend of the population and to make recommendations.

THE British Secretary of State for the Colonies, according to *Nature*, has appointed a Colonial Fisheries Advisory Committee to advise him on problems concerning fisheries (marine and freshwater) in the Colonial Empire, in association with his fisheries adviser. The committee is constituted as follows: The Duke of Devonshire, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, *chairman*; G. L. M. Clauson, Colonial Office, *vice-chairman*; Dr. S. Kemp, director of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom; Dr. E. B. Worthington, director of the Freshwater Biological Association of the British Empire; Dr. E. S. Russell, fisheries adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies; Dr. G. A. Reay, director of the Torry Research Institute, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Aberdeen; Dr. B. S. Platt, in charge of investigations into nutrition in the Colonial Empire under the Medical Research Council; J. R. Norman, deputy keeper, Department of Zoology, British Museum (Natural History); Dr. C. F. A. Pantin, reader in invertebrate zoology, University of Cambridge; R. S. Wimpenny, naturalist, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries; J. Thomson, chief inspector of fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries; Morley Neale, member of the firm of Neale and West, steam trawler owners, Cardiff; C. N. Hooper, clerk of the Fishmongers Company, and R. H. Burt, Colonial Office, *secretary*.

## DISCUSSION

### THE COLLEGE CURRICULUM IN WARTIME AND INTRODUCTORY COURSES IN BIOLOGY

REPORT Number 15, on "Adjustment of the College Curriculum to Wartime Conditions and Needs," recently issued by the U. S. Office of Education, is to me a most disturbing and puzzling document. Although the Office of Education assumes no responsibility for the statements in the report, attributing them to the committee named in it, publication by this

agency will, obviously, give the report a stamp of authority to which it is not entitled. Furthermore, it is hard for me to believe that all the statements in the report have the unanimous endorsement of the committee.

The committee concluded, quite wisely it will seem to most biologists, that it should "not recommend wartime modifications as such in the beginning college courses" (in the biological sciences). Wartime modifications actually have been made by some of us in con-