

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. ROBERT A. COOKE was presented with a gold medal for "outstanding contributions to clinical allergy" at the sixth annual forum on allergy which was held at St. Louis on January 22 and 23. He delivered the fourth annual forum lecture entitled "Observations on Allergic Reaction."

THE General William E. Mitchell Memorial Award for 1943, sponsored by the *Aero Digest*, has been made to Igor I. Sikorsky, for "making the outstanding individual contribution to aviation progress" during the year 1943 in his development of the helicopter.

THE American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers presented at the fiftieth annual meeting of the society the F. Paul Anderson Medal to Lieutenant Commander F. C. Houghton, USNR, at a dinner on February 2 at the Hotel Pennsylvania, New York City. The award is in recognition of "outstanding research in heating, ventilating and air conditioning."

DR. JOHN ALEXANDER, professor of surgery at the University of Michigan, an authority on thoracic surgery, has been awarded the Henry Russel Lectureship. This award is given annually to the university faculty member adjudged by the Research Club of the university to have gained highest distinction in the field of scholarship. Dr. Alexander is the first faculty member to receive both the lectureship and the Henry Russel Award, the latter being given annually to a promising instructor or assistant professor. He was a recipient of the award in 1930, ten years after becoming instructor in surgery at the university.

THE officers elected for 1944 by the Union of American Biological Societies are: *President*, Dr. E. G. Butler, Princeton University; *Secretary*, Dr. F. A. Brown, Jr., Northwestern University; *Treasurer*, Dr. D. H. Wenrich, University of Pennsylvania. *Executive Committee*: Dr. A. P. Hitchens, University of Pennsylvania; Dr. J. F. Griggs, National Research Council, Washington, D. C.; Dr. M. Demerec, Carnegie Institution, Cold Spring Harbor.

DR. MORRIS A. STEWART, associate professor of entomology at the University of California at Berkeley, has been elected president of the Pacific Coast Entomological Society.

DR. H. W. RICKETT, of the New York Botanical Garden, who returned on November 1 from a four months' visit to Mexico, has been elected an honorary member of the Sociedad Botánica de Mexico, of which Professor Maximino Martínez, of the Instituto Politécnico in Mexico City, is president.

DR. HARLOW SHAPLEY, director of the Harvard College Observatory, has been elected a member of

the board of trustees of the Kosciuszko Foundation of New York City. During the coming months the foundation will formulate plans to aid in the educational reconstruction of post-war Poland and in Polish-American relationship.

AT a meeting of the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society of England on December 15, Sir George Courthope, M.P., was elected president for 1944 in succession to Lord Mildmay of Flete, who has held office since 1941. The council decided to approach other agricultural bodies that had prepared reports on post-war policy with a view to common action in pressing the government for the earliest possible production of its post-war agricultural policy.

EDGAR H. BOLES, president of the General Reinsurance Corporation, has been elected president of the New York Post-Graduate Medical School and Hospital to succeed Dr. Arthur F. Chace. Dr. Chace, president of the New York Academy of Medicine, has served as president of the medical school and hospital for fourteen years.

DR. GEORGE LYNN CROSS, acting dean of the Graduate College of the University of Oklahoma, head of the departments of botany and bacteriology, has been named acting president of the university. He takes the place of Joseph A. Brandt, who became director of the University of Chicago Press on January 1.

DR. EARL B. SMITH, of the department of mechanical engineering of the College of the City of New York, and Dr. Alexander Marcus, of the department of physics, have been promoted to full professorships. Dr. Emil L. Post has been appointed associate professor of mathematics.

CHARLES HENRY SCHUMANN, of New York City, has been appointed to succeed the late William Griswold Smith as professor in engineering drawing and descriptive geometry for the Navy V-12 College Training Unit at Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pa. Since 1940 he has been head of the drafting department of the Defense Training Institute of the Engineering Colleges of Greater New York. Previously he had been head of the drafting department of Columbia University.

DR. L. F. THOMEN has been appointed Undersecretary of State for Health and Public Welfare of the Dominican Republic.

DR. H. D. DAWSON, for the past fourteen years head of the department of chemistry of Bethany College, W. Va., has resigned to accept a position with the Goodyear Rubber Company in the field of synthetic rubber. Dr. George W. Bennett, formerly head

of the department of chemistry at Washington and Jefferson College, has been made acting head of the department.

MAJOR GENERAL FOLLETT BRADLEY, U.S.A. (retired), formerly in command of the First Air Force at Mitchel Field and air inspector at the headquarters of the Army Air Forces at Washington, has been named assistant to the president of the Sperry Gyroscope Company.

ARTHUR T. PIENKOWSKY, until his retirement on January 1 physicist in charge of the testing of balances and weights at the National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C., has joined the staff of the Torsion Balance Company and Christian Becker, in direct charge of research and control. Mr. Pienkowski has been associated with the bureau for forty years.

FRANK C. WONDER, assistant taxidermist of the Chicago Museum of Natural History, has leave of absence, to work on the investigations of the Illinois State Natural History Survey on the migrations of ducks on the Illinois River.

W. H. CAMP, assistant curator at the New York Botanical Garden, who has been on leave of absence for two months in Central America and a year in Haiti, has returned.

DR. FRANK K. SCHOENFELD, technical superintendent of the division of chemistry of the B. F. Goodrich Company, Akron, Ohio; has become director of the division of technical research and development.

J. MORGAN JONES, registrar of the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, who has been closely connected with the food production campaign in Wales, has been appointed Welsh secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture in succession to Dr. C. Bryner Jones.

It is reported in *Nature* that the British Secretary of State for the Colonies has appointed N. F. Hall, director of the National Institute for Economic and Social Research, to be development adviser for West Africa. He will be on the staff of the resident minister and will act in close consultation with the Governments of Nigeria, the Gold Coast, Sierra Leone and the Gambia, which have been working for some time on plans for post-war development. Mr. Hall has been on leave of absence from the National Institute since 1938 for war work, and has served as joint-director of the Ministry of Economic Warfare. More recently he has been in charge of economic warfare work at the British Embassy, Washington, where he held the rank of minister in the diplomatic service.

AFTER an interval of four years the Royal Institu-

tion Christmas lectures, "adapted to a juvenile auditory," have been revived. The Christmas season's course of six lectures, which opened on December 28, as reported in *The Times*, London, had been unbroken until the present war broke out. The lecturer was Dr. E. N. da C. Andrade, Quain professor of physics in the University of London, and his subject was "Vibrations and Waves."

DR. S. A. WAKSMAN, microbiologist of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, will give at Syracuse University on February 18 an address before a joint meeting of Sigma Xi and the Syracuse section of the American Chemical Society entitled "The Production and Nature of Antibiotic Substances."

DR. RAYMOND JOHN SEEGER, associate professor of physics at the George Washington University, delivered on January 15 the address of the retiring president of the Philosophical Society of Washington. His subject was "Understanding Electric Breakdown in Solids."

THE twentieth Ludvig Hektoen Lecture of the Frank Billings Foundation, under the auspices of the Institute of Medicine of Chicago, will be given on March 24 by Dr. Shields Warren, of Boston. He will speak on "The Effects of Radiation on the Human Body."

THE Distinguished Service Award has been conferred by the Ordnance Department on the Society of Automotive Engineers "in recognition of outstanding and meritorious engineering advisory services in war and peace; in design, manufacture and maintenance of ordnance matériel."

APPLICATIONS to the Committee for Research in Problems of Sex of the National Research Council for financial aid during the fiscal year beginning on July 1, in support of work on fundamental problems of sex and reproduction, should be received before April 1. They may be addressed to the chairman, Dr. Robert M. Yerkes, Yale School of Medicine, New Haven 11, Conn. Although hormonal investigations continue to command the interest and support of the committee, preference, in accordance with current policy, will ordinarily be given to proposals for the investigation of neurological, psychobiological and behavioral problems of sex and reproduction.

THE American Society for Clinical Investigation will hold its annual meeting on May 8 at the Claridge Hotel, Atlantic City, N. J. This will be the thirty-sixth annual meeting.

A CONFERENCE of the Section of Physics and Chemistry of the New York Academy of Sciences will be held at the American Museum of Natural History on

Friday, February 11, and on Saturday, February 12, on "Energy Relationships in Enzyme Reactions." In addition to members of the academy, attendance is limited to those invited to participate.

LORD DE LA WARR, chairman of the British Agricultural Research Council and director of home flax production at the Ministry of Supply, is visiting Canada to speak throughout the Dominion on the war-time agricultural effort of the United Kingdom.

A PERMANENT collection of chemical compounds isolated from the tubercle bacillus, the only such collection in existence, was presented to Yale University by the National Tuberculosis Association on February 3. The collection, which is the result of seventeen years of research by Professor R. J. Anderson, of Yale, and his associates, will be presented by Dr. Lewis J. Moorman, president of the National Tuberculosis Association, and will be received by President Charles Seymour, of the university. The ceremony will be held in the Sterling Laboratory of Chemistry. Dr. William Charles White, chairman of the Committee on Medical Research of the National Tuberculosis Association, will speak on the work of his committee, which initiated the research in 1926 and which has supported the work since that time.

THIRTEEN bound volumes of the research bulletins of the Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station, with inscription on the outside front cover, "A token of friendship to our Russian allies from the citizens of Columbia, Missouri, U. S. A.," have been received by the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship

from Dr. Henry E. Dent, dean of the Graduate School of the University of Missouri. These volumes have been handed over to the Soviet Embassy in Washington which will forward them to the chief of the Agricultural Library of the Lenin Academy of Agricultural Science, Moscow.

THE University of Rochester in cooperation with the Bausch and Lomb Optical Company, is offering a new scholarship plan designed to bring "outstanding science students to the university." Five scholarships, sponsored by the company, of the value of \$500 each year for a term of three years, will be made available for competition beginning this year.

A DIAGNOSTIC and guidance clinic for inebriates will be opened at Yale University this month under the joint sponsorship of the Yale Laboratory of Applied Physiology and the Connecticut Prison Association. A similar clinic will also be opened in Hartford in the near future. Dr. Ralph Banay, psychiatric consultant of the New York State Parole Board, formerly chief psychiatrist of Sing-Sing Prison, will be the medical director and will supervise both the New Haven and Hartford clinics, with Dr. Clements C. Fry, psychiatrist, of the department of health of Yale University, as adviser. Dr. Banay will also participate in the routine clinical work. Dr. Anna Roe will be in charge of psychological testing, and Raymond G. McCarthy of social work. Dr. Howard W. Haggard, director of the Laboratory of Applied Physiology at the university, will have general charge of the clinic program.

DISCUSSION

AMORPHA FRUTICOSA CONTAINS NO ROTENONE

ROTENONE and related insecticidal compounds have been reported to occur in more than 70 species of plants,^{1,2} all of which are members of the family Leguminosae. In some cases rotenone or one of the rotenoids³ has been isolated and characterized. In others a color test has been applied which has been taken as indicating the presence of this group of compounds. The test most frequently used is that of Durham.⁴ The Gross-Smith test as modified by Goodhue⁵ and the Rogers-Calamari test⁶ also have been applied. Until recently these tests have been accepted as spe-

cific for rotenone and the rotenoids, especially when applied to leguminous plants. In 1942 Harper⁷ showed that some synthetic furanoisoflavones also give a positive Durham test. These compounds, prepared from some of the rotenone derivatives, are insecticidally inert.

In 1937 Moore⁸ concluded that rotenone was present in the roots, stem bark and seed of *Amorpha fruticosa* from Nebraska, because they gave a positive Durham test. In 1942 Featherly,⁹ of the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, suggested that, inasmuch as this plant is widely distributed throughout the Mississippi River Valley, its seed might serve as a source of rotenone during the war emergency. At his request seed from widely different locations were examined in the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quar-

¹ H. A. Jones, *U. S. Bur. Ent. and Plant Quar.*, E-571, 14 pp., 1942. [Processed.]

² R. C. Roark, *Jour. Econ. Ent.*, 26: 587, 1933.

³ R. C. Roark, *Jour. Econ. Ent.*, 33: 416, 1940.

⁴ H. A. Jones and C. M. Smith, *Ind. Eng. Chem., Anal. Ed.*, 5: 75, 1933.

⁵ L. D. Goodhue, *Jour. Assoc. Off. Agr. Chem.*, 19: 118, 1936.

⁶ H. D. Rogers and J. A. Calamari, *Ind. Eng. Chem., Anal. Ed.*, 8: 135, 1936.

⁷ S. H. Harper, *Jour. Chem. Soc.*, 1942, 595.

⁸ R. H. Moore, *Puerto Rico Agr. Expt. Sta. Rept.*, 1937, 115 pp.

⁹ *Agricultural Insecticide and Fungicide Assoc. Bul.* No. D-23, 2 pp., Oct. 7, 1942.