

years of service of the College of Agriculture, was given on June 13 by the staff of the Division of Plant Pathology of the University of California at Berkeley, some former students and long-time faculty associates. There were forty-two persons present. Dr. J. T. Barrett was toast master. After the dinner short talks were made by Professors R. L. Adams and E. B. Babcock, and by Stanley Rogers, who assisted Professor Smith during his early pioneer years of work in plant pathology in California. Professor E. O. Essig paid tribute to him for his contributions in the field of entomology and Dr. S. C.

Brooks recalled the surroundings at Massachusetts State College, where Professor Smith graduated in 1894. A number of letters from former students were read. Dean C. B. Hutchison voiced the appreciation of the state and college for the valuable and able service rendered during the forty-one years that he had served the university. Professor Smith instituted in 1903 what is believed to be the first distinct Division of Plant Pathology in America. Dr. Max Gardner presented a billfold and wallet on behalf of his friends, to which Professor Smith responded.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

FOREIGN members of the Royal Society, London, have been elected as follows: Dr. Oswald T. Avery, bacteriologist, member emeritus of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, New York; Maurice Lugeon, professor of geology and director of the Geological Laboratory of the University of Lausanne; Dr. The Svedberg, professor of physical chemistry, and Dr. N. E. Svedelius, professor of botany at the University of Uppsala; and Dr. S. Timoshenko, professor of engineering mechanics at Stanford University.

THE King of England's birthday honors list includes the Order of Merit conferred on Sir Henry Dale, president of the Royal Society, and knighthood conferred on Dr. Alexander Fleming, professor of bacteriology at the University of London, and on Dr. H. W. Florey, professor of pathology at the University of Oxford, in recognition of their work on penicillin; and on Dr. Percival Hartley, director of Biological Standards of the British National Institute for Medical Research.

THE Albert Gold Medal "for distinguished merit in promoting arts, manufactures and commerce" of the Royal Society of Arts, London, has been conferred on Sir Henry Tizard, F.R.S., president of Magdalen College, Oxford, since 1933 chairman of the British Aeronautical Research Committee, who has been responsible for the scientific work in the development of aircraft in Great Britain.

THE Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science recently founded a gold medal in memory of Dr. Bimala Churn Law, "to be bestowed on a person who has made conspicuously important contributions to science including medicine." The first award of the medal has been made to Sir Henry Dale, president of the Royal Society.

THE Hickman Medal of the Royal Society of Medicine, London, has been awarded to Dr. Ralph M.

Waters, since 1927 professor of anesthesia and director of the department of anesthesia of the Wisconsin General Hospital.

THE College of Physicians of Philadelphia has awarded the Alvarenga Prize to Dr. Gervase J. Connor, of the School of Medicine, Yale University, for his study entitled, "Anterior Cerebellar Function, an Analytical Study in Functional Localization in the Cerebellum in Dog and Monkey." This will be published in December in the *Transactions and Studies of the College of Physicians*. The Alvarenga Prize was established by the will of Pedro Francisco daCosta Alvarenga of Lisbon, Portugal, an associate fellow of the College of Physicians, "to be awarded annually by the College of Physicians on each anniversary of the death of the testator, July 14, 1883, to the author of the best memorial upon any branch of medicine which may be deemed worthy of the prize."

PHYSICISTS of Harvard University and of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on July 9 joined in greeting Dr. Peter Kapitza, director of the Institute for Physics of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R., whose fiftieth birthday was being celebrated by the academy in Moscow. Their message offered "heartily congratulations from their American colleagues and sincere wishes for many years of continued fruitful work." Dr. Kapitza has been awarded the Order of Lenin "for outstanding scientific achievements in the sphere of physics."

COLONEL WILLIAM S. MIDDLETON, dean of the Medical School of the University of Wisconsin, who is on leave for the duration and who now is serving as chief consultant of medicine for the U. S. troops in the western theater of war, has been elected a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, London.

CORNELL COLLEGE at its commencement conferred the doctorate of science on Dr. Harry Fletcher Lewis,

professor of organic chemistry at the Institute of Paper Chemistry of Lawrence College, Appleton, Wis. Dr. Lewis was from 1921 to 1928 professor of chemistry at Cornell College.

DR. REGINALD FITZ, lecturer on the history of medicine at the Harvard Medical School, has been chosen president-elect of the Massachusetts Medical Society.

DR. JOHN R. SCHENKEN, professor and head of the department of pathology and bacteriology of the School of Medicine of the Louisiana State University, has been elected president of the Louisiana Association of Pathologists. Dr. Emma S. Moss, assistant professor of pathology and bacteriology, has been elected secretary-treasurer.

THE retirement is announced of Dr. William F. Steve, professor of physics at the University of Wisconsin, with which he has been connected for thirty-seven years.

AT Cornell University Dr. C. H. Myers, professor of plant breeding, who has been associated with the university since 1912, has retired.

PROFESSOR T. Y. THOMAS, of the University of California at Los Angeles, has been appointed professor of mathematics and chairman of the department of Indiana University. As chairman he succeeds Professor K. P. Williams, who had served in that capacity since 1937. Professor Agnes E. Wells, who had been connected since 1919 with the university, since 1937 as professor of mathematics, retired on July 1.

DR. CHARLES A. McDONALD, assistant professor of health, and Dr. Alex M. Burgess, assistant professor of biology, have been appointed professors of health and hygiene in the newly established department of medical sciences at Brown University.

AT the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva, Dr. Charles L. Hamner, plant physiologist with the United States Department of Agriculture at Beltsville, Md., has been appointed assistant professor of pomology. He will engage in research on the maturity, storage and handling of nursery stocks. Robert F. Carlson, a recent graduate of the University of Minnesota, has been appointed investigator in pomology and will engage in plant propagation and nursery problems. Professor Arthur W. Clark, in charge of the inspection of commercial fertilizers and feedings stuffs in the division of chemistry, has leave of absence for six months.

LAWFORD H. FRY, railway engineer, has been appointed director of research of the Locomotive Institute.

DR. W. J. HALL, entomologist and director of the Citrus Estate of Mazoë of the Mazoë Citrus Experi-

mental Station and superintendent of the British South Africa Company, has been appointed assistant director of the Imperial Institute of Entomology.

J. C. F. FRYER, director of the Plant Pathological Laboratory of the British Ministry of Agriculture at Harpenden, has been appointed to succeed the late Professor W. W. C. Topley as secretary of the Agricultural Research Council.

DR. S. LIVINGSTON SMITH, superintendent of the engineering department at the British National Physical Laboratory at Teddington, has been appointed director of research of the British Shipbuilding Research Association recently formed by the Shipbuilding Conference in close cooperation with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

SIR STANLEY WOODWARK has been appointed president of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene, London.

DR. CHARLES P. BERKEY, professor emeritus of geology of Columbia University, is spending the summer in the western United States. Studies connected with projects of the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation illustrating the bearing of geological conditions on the design and construction of major engineering works are being reviewed for possible publication.

DR. HENRY S. SHARP, assistant professor of geology at Barnard College, Columbia University, is studying erosional surfaces in the Rocky Mountain region this summer.

DR. G. LOMBARD KELLY, who has been secretary of the Council on Medical Service and Public Relations of the American Medical Association under a six months leave granted by the School of Medicine at Augusta of the University of Georgia, returned on July 1 to the medical school as dean and professor of anatomy.

THE Desert Museum at Palm Springs, California, opened on October 16, 1943, and closed on May 7, 1944, for the summer. It will open again next October. Professor T. D. A. Cockerell and Mrs. Cockerell will spend the summer in Colorado. The museum had over 13,000 visitors from October to May, a large proportion of them soldiers.

THE Pacific Division of the American Association of Economic Entomologists held its twenty-ninth annual meeting at the University of California at Berkeley on June 27 and 28.

THE fiftieth summer meeting and twenty-sixth colloquium of the American Mathematical Society will be held on August 13 and 14 at Wellesley College, in conjunction with the summer meeting of the Mathematical Association of America and the Institute of Mathematical Statistics. Sessions of the society will

begin on Sunday morning, August 13, at nine o'clock and will continue through Monday. Sessions of the association will be held on Saturday. The twenty-sixth colloquium will consist of four lectures on selected topics in the theory of semi-groups by Professor Einar Hille, of Yale University. These lectures will be given at 9:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. on Sunday and Monday. At 3:15 P.M. on Sunday there will be an address "On the Composition of Algebraic Forms of Higher Degree" by Professor C. C. MacDuffee, of the University of Wisconsin. A joint session with the Institute of Mathematical Statistics will be held. The council will meet at 8:00 P.M. on Sunday. There will be a reception on Saturday evening and a dinner on Sunday evening, followed by a musical entertainment.

THE thirty-sixth annual meeting and war conference of the American Phytopathological Society will be held from December 9 to 11 at the Netherland-Plaza Hotel, Cincinnati. Dr. W. D. Valleau is chairman of the committee on general arrangements. Officers for 1944 are: *President*, J. J. Christensen, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.; *Vice-president*, J. B. Kendrick, University Farm, Davis, Calif.; *Secretary*, C. C. Allison, the Ohio State University; *Treasurer*, R. M. Caldwell, Purdue University.

THE large collection of literature on galls and gall insects accumulated by Dr. Mel T. Cook has been presented by him to the library of the Ohio State Univer-

sity and has been catalogued and deposited in the botanical and zoological library.

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association states that approval has been given to a contract between the Federal Office of Scientific Research and Development and Wayne University College of Medicine, Detroit, to conduct a study on the influence of the oral administration of sodium lactate solution. The Government will provide the sum of \$7,500 to cover the cost of the project, which will be carried out under the direction of Dr. John W. Hirshfeld, assistant professor of surgery at the College of Medicine.

A CHAIR of social medicine has been founded at the University of Chile with a view to facilitating the application of the law of preventive medicine now in force.

Erratum: In the article by Dr. Carl E. Duffy entitled, "Interference between St. Louis Encephalitis Virus and Equine Encephalomyelitis Virus (Western Type) in the Chick Embryo," printed in *SCIENCE* for June 23, p. 51, the lines of the fourth sentence of the first paragraph were misplaced. This sentence should read: "Data obtained from the experiments reported here indicate that the 'interference phenomenon' is not limited to those viruses which are closely related, but that interference may occur between such unrelated viruses as St. Louis encephalitis and equine encephalomyelitis."

DISCUSSION

NEW VOLCANOES AND A NEW MOUNTAIN RANGE

AN article by Professor William H. Hobbs, of the University of Michigan, published in the issue of *SCIENCE* for April 14 under the above title has been given considerable publicity by a review and abstract headed, "New Mountain Range Rising. Central American Volcanic Threat," in the Scripps-Howard newspapers. Inasmuch as the original article as well as the review contains various misstatements of fact and erroneous conclusions, it should not remain unanswered in the pages of a scientific publication.

Omitting consideration of Dr. Hobbs's geological theories, his description of Central American topography is inaccurate and his inferences misleading. He seems to make no distinction between the long periods of geological time and the shorter intervals which concern the human race. There is no continuous mountain range along the Pacific Ocean beginning with Mexico and extending to Panama behind which lies a

chain of volcanoes, nor is there any apparent evidence that there has been any material change of elevation along this coast for the last four centuries.

Sierra Madre del Sur is the name of a mountain range in Mexico and neither the name nor the range extends through Central America. The Central American volcanic chain consists mainly of isolated groups of volcanic cones situated not behind a rising mountain range but along the coastal hills fronting the Pacific shore. In Dr. Hobbs's list there are only two Central American volcanoes and of these only one, in El Salvador, shows signs of present activity. In addition to the break in the coastal range at Tehuantepec, there is a similar interval caused by the Gulf of Fonseca and again where the basin of Lake Nicaragua in a former geological age was a gulf with an outlet to the sea.

There are various high volcanic peaks in Guatemala. Santa Maria, near the Mexican frontier, opened a new vent some twenty years ago burying a neighboring town in a flow of hot mud. Fuego, twelve thousand