

hundred and four local sections located in all parts of the country.

### CIVILIAN MEDICAL CONSULTANTS OF THE ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

THE War Department announced on June 5 the appointment of nineteen civilian physicians as advisers to the Army Medical Department on problems of internal medicine. The advice of these consultants will supplement that afforded by the special consultants selected from officers in the Medical Corps of the Army and will be carried on through the chief consultant of the department of medicine, Brigadier General Hugh J. Morgan. The consultants appointed, in eight special fields of internal medicine, are:

Dr. Robert Cooke, assistant professor of clinical medicine, Cornell University (allergy).

Dr. Francis Rackemann, physician, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston (allergy).

Dr. Robert Levy, professor of clinical medicine, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University (cardiovascular disease).

Dr. Paul White, chief of Cardiac Clinics and Laboratory, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston (cardiovascular diseases).

Dr. Chester Keefer, professor of medicine, Boston University School of Medicine (chemotherapy).

Dr. Chester Jones, clinical professor of medicine, Harvard Medical School (gastro-enterology).

Dr. Walter L. Palmer, professor of medicine, School of Medicine, of the University of Chicago (gastro-enterology).

Dr. Colin MacLeod, professor of bacteriology, College of Medicine of New York University (infectious diseases).

Dr. Charles E. Smith, professor of public health and preventive medicine, School of Medicine, San Francisco, Stanford University (infectious diseases).

Dr. Carol B. Thomas, associate in medicine, the Johns Hopkins University (infectious diseases).

Dr. Barry Wood, professor of medicine, Washington University, St. Louis (infectious diseases).

Dr. J. Gardner Hopkins, professor of dermatology, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University (skin diseases).

Dr. John Stokes, director, Institute for Control of Syphilis, University of Pennsylvania (skin diseases).

Dr. Mark F. Boyd, director of the Station for Malaria Research, Tallahassee, Fla. (tropical diseases).

Dr. Harold W. Brown, professor of parasitology, Columbia University (tropical diseases).

Dr. James A. Shannon, assistant professor of medicine, New York University College of Medicine (tropical diseases).

Dr. Robert B. Watson, principal malariologist, Tennessee Valley Authority, Chattanooga (tropical diseases).

Dr. J. Burns Amberson, professor of medicine, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University (tuberculosis).

Dr. James J. Warning, professor of medicine, School of Medicine at Denver of the University of Colorado (tuberculosis).

### THE WORK OF DR. GEORGE HARRISON SHULL

IN an address to the House of Representatives on May 15, the Honorable George A. Dondero called attention to the work of Dr. George Harrison Shull, professor emeritus of botany and genetics of Princeton University, in which he spoke in part as follows:

Dr. George Harrison Shull has contributed much toward the production of food and has made very important contributions to the Nation and perhaps the world in his creation and propagation of hybrid corn. He may be one of the unsung heroes of the Nation. He deserves a high place in the history of food production.

In recognizing hybrid vigor, as it was displayed to him in his corn-breeding cultures following crosses between his highly inbred related lines, and in devising a practical method or agricultural technique for obtaining and utilizing hybrid vigor to the utmost through the use of hybridized seed corn, he demonstrated with striking clarity how research in pure science may lead to results of tremendous practical value.

The procedure which he devised for the practical production of hybrid corn and which he presented in 1909 before the American Breeders Association is in all essentials the basis of methods now used in producing seed of crossed corn for planting upward of 50,000,000 acres of field corn and sweet corn annually in the United States, including almost all of the Iowa corn acreage. The superiority and dependability of hybrid corn is demonstrated most markedly under adverse growing conditions. The trends in corn growing indicate that hybrid corn may soon replace ordinary corn almost completely for planting our annual acreage of upward of 90,000,000 acres. We have reason to believe that general use of hybridized corn seed may enable a somewhat reduced national acreage to produce an annual crop upward of 1,000,000,000 bushels in excess of the best national yields we enjoyed before we had hybrid corn.

Dr. Shull has not profited a penny through devising the agricultural technique which is basic to hybrid corn production. He derives much comfort from the fact that his hybrid corn research has come to be recognized as a classic example of work in pure science which has led directly to economic results of tremendous importance and which has proved of incalculable value in these war years and which may exert an even more benign influence in the coming years of world recovery and reconstruction.

### THE RETIREMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

THE retirement of Dr. C. G. Abbot as secretary of the Smithsonian Institution has already been announced in *SCIENCE*. His letter of resignation, dated June 20, addressed to the Board of Regents, reads:

Having occupied the post of secretary of the Smithsonian Institution since February, 1928, and of acting

secretary for one year prior to that, and having passed the age of seventy-two years, I wish to resign from the office, my resignation to take effect as of July 1, 1944.

I feel that it would be quite unfair to the Institution to continue in this responsible position when in the nature of things my capacity must gradually begin to decline. In tendering my resignation I wish to express my gratitude to the board for its kindly and helpful attitude and my desire to be of any service which the board or my successor may feel disposed to suggest.

Dr. Alexander Wetmore, assistant secretary, automatically becomes acting secretary. Dr. Abbot will remain on the staff under the title of research associate.

In resigning the secretaryship Dr. Abbot thanked the members of the staff for their unwavering support and their kindly attitude towards him. He bespoke for his successor and for the institution the continued loyalty and devoted service which had been given so generously during his administration.

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

A PORTRAIT of Dr. Anton J. Carlson, emeritus professor of physiology of the University of Chicago, president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, was presented to Augustana College, Rock Island, at a recent banquet of the alumni. Dr. Carlson graduated from the college in 1898.

DR. ELMER V. MCCOLLUM, professor of biochemistry at the School of Hygiene and Public Health of the Johns Hopkins University, has been elected a foreign member of the Swedish Academy of Sciences.

DR. HARLOW SHAPLEY, director of the Harvard Observatory, was presented by the Mexican Government with the Order of the Aztec Eagle, third class, at a reception given on July 22 by the Mexican ambassador and Senora de Castillo Najera, in recognition of his cooperation in arranging for the installation of the telescope of the National Astrophysical Observatory at Tonanzintla.

THE University of Oxford will confer an honorary doctorate of science on Dr. Isaiah Bowman, president of the Johns Hopkins University.

THE honorary degree of doctor of science was conferred by the University of Oregon at its sixty-seventh annual commencement on June 4 on Dr. Ralph Works Chaney, professor of paleontology at the University of California. The citation reads: "In recognition of his penetrating researches in paleobotany in general and of the Oregon area in particular; his unique understanding of the historical geology of Western America in relation to that of Asiatic countries; and his deep appreciation of the kinship of science in its broadest aspects and its contribution to the understanding of human values."

WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY at its commencement on June 25 conferred the honorary degree of doctor of science on Dr. Stanley D. Wilson, formerly professor of organic chemistry and dean of the College of Natural Sciences at Yenching University, Peking. Professor Wilson was repatriated on the *Gripsholm* and arrived

in New York in December, 1943. He has been engaged since in research at the California Institute of Technology, and now has been appointed visiting professor of chemistry at Pomona College, where he will take up work on September 1.

THE degree of doctor of laws was conferred at the commencement exercises of the University of Wyoming on Dr. James F. Wilson, professor of animal husbandry at the College of Agriculture at Davis of the University of California.

DR. LELAND W. PARR, professor of bacteriology and head of the department of the School of Medicine of George Washington University, has been elected secretary-treasurer of the Society of American Bacteriologists.

AT the annual general meeting of the British Physical Society held on May 24, the following officers were elected: *President*, Professor E. N. da C. Andrade; *Vice-president*, Sir Edward Appleton; *Honorary Secretaries*, J. H. Awbery (Papers) and Dr. W. Jevons (Business); *Honorary Treasurer*, Dr. C. C. Paterson; *New Members of Council*, Professor S. Chapman, C. H. Collie and Professor H. R. Robinson. At an extraordinary general meeting held on the same day A. F. Joffe was elected an honorary fellow.

THE title of emeritus has been conferred on Dr. Joseph C. Bock, professor of biochemistry at the School of Medicine of Marquette University. He retires after teaching for thirty-two years.

DR. RONALD A. SILOW, formerly assistant geneticist of the Cotton Research Station of the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation, Trinidad, British West Indies, has been appointed visiting professor for the coming year in connection with the Blandy Experimental Farm of the University of Virginia.

DR. WILLIAM WALTER GREULICH, professor of physical anthropology and anatomy and director of the Brush Foundation of the School of Medicine of Western Reserve University, has been appointed professor of anatomy at Stanford University.