SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE American Gastroenterological Association dedicated its official journal, *Gastroenterology,* for July to Dr. Anton J. Carlson, professor of physiology emeritus of the University of Chicago. Dr. Carlson was presented on June 12 with the Friedenwald Medal of the association for 1944.

DR. EDWARD ROBINSON BALDWIN, who recently retired as director of the Trudeau Foundation, Saranac Lake, N. Y., celebrated his eightieth birthday on September 8. He continues active as chairman of the Executive Committee of the Trudeau Sanatorium.

DR. MAXIMILIAN TOCH, paint technologist, president of Toch Brothers, Inc., and vice-president of Standard Varnish Works, Inc., has been elected an honorary member of the American Institute of Chemists, of which he is a charter member and a former president.

DR. NORMAN A. SHEPARD, chemical director of the American Cyanamid Company at Stamford, Conn., has been elected chairman of the American Section of the Society of Chemical Industry.

THE Royal College of Physicians has appointed Dr. John Parkinson, consulting geologist, Harveian Orator for 1945, and Dr. W. Russell Brain, of London, neurologist, Bradshaw Lecturer for 1945. Sir Edmund Spriggs, of Wales, physician, will deliver on October 18 the Harveian Oration for 1944.

DR. SIDNEY J. FRENCH, professor of chemistry at Colgate University, has been appointed acting dean of the faculty.

WILLIAM GOODMAN, consulting engineer for the Trane Company at LaCrosse, Wis., has been appointed research professor of refrigeration and air conditioning at the Illinois Institute of Technology.

A. A. HALL, of the Royal Aircraft Establishment, has been appointed Zaharoff professor of aviation and head of the department of aeronautics at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, to succeed Professor Leonard Bairstow.

PROFESSOR FRANK GOLDBY, professor of anatomy and histology at the University of Adelaide, has accepted appointment to the chair of anatomy at the University of London, tenable at the St. Mary's Hospital Medical School.

DR. DENIS M. ROBINSON, of the Tele-communication Research Establishment of the British Air Ministry, has been appointed professor of electrical engineering at the University of Birmingham.

EDWARD MACKAY, since 1914 in charge of the Laboratory of Fruit and Vegetable Chemistry of the U. S. Department of Agriculture at Los Angeles, has retired after forty-two years in government service.

IT is reported in *Chemical and Engineering News* that E. F. Kelly, for nearly twenty years executive secretary of the American Pharmaceutical Association, Washington, D. C., plans to retire. He has asked that a successor be appointed not later than the 1945 meeting of the association. A committee is being appointed to select candidates to be presented to the council.

DR. GUSTAV EGLOFF, director of research of the Universal Oil Products Company, has been elected a director of the Chicago Technical Societies Council, which represents forty scientific and technical organizations in the Chicago area, with a membership of fifteen thousand. He has also been elected a trustee of the Western Society of Engineers, which is one of the organizations represented in the Chicago Technical Societies Council.

DR. LAWRENCE W. BASS, director of the New England Industrial Research Foundation, Boston, formerly assistant director of the Mellon Institute, has become associate director of chemical research jointly for the U. S. Industrial Chemicals, Inc., and the Air Reduction Company, Inc. He is responsible for the development of plans for the coordination and expansion of research of the two companies.

DR. MELVILLE SAHYUN has been appointed divisional vice-president of the Frederick Stearns and Company Division of Sterling Drug, Inc. Dr. Sahyun has been associated with the firm since 1934, first as director of biochemical research and since 1943 as director of research.

DR. FREDERICK F. YONKMAN, professor of pharmacology and therapeutics and chairman of the department at the College of Medicine, Detroit, of Wayne University, has become chief pharmacologist in the research division of Ciba Pharmaceuticals, Inc., of Summit, N. J.

DR. NORMAN P. ALLEN, a member of the staff of the research laboratories of Mond Nickel Company, Ltd., has been appointed superintendent of the department of metallurgy of the British National Physical Laboratory in succession to Dr. C. Sykes.

DR. THOMAS RENTON ELLIOTT has retired from the honorary secretaryship of the Advisory Board to the Beit Memorial trustees after serving for fourteen years. Dr. A. N. Drury, director of the Lister Institute, London, has been appointed his successor.

DR. H. J. T. ELLINGHAM, of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, South Kensington, has

been appointed secretary of the Royal Institute of Chemistry.

DR. RALPH L. MILLER, of the department of geology of Columbia University, is completing a survey of the manganese deposits of Aroostook County, Me., for the U. S. Geological Survey. He will return shortly to Lee County, Virginia, where an investigation of the petroleum resources of southwest Virginia is going forward under his direction.

DR. H. H. BENNETT, of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, has arrived in Johannesburg, South Africa, where he will make a two-months study of the soil-erosion problem.

DR. J. ALLEN SCOTT, associate professor of epidemiology and medical statistics at the School of Medicine of the University of Texas, who is participating in the organization and work of a parasitological survey in the Amazon area at Belem, Brazil, under the auspices of the Rockefeller Foundation and the Office of Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, will return to the School of Medicine in November.

DR. SALVADOR MASSIP, who has been visiting professor of geology and geography at Smith College during 1943–44, has returned to the University of Havana.

DR. ANTON J. CARLSON, professor emeritus of physiology of the University of Chicago, will be on October 2 the first guest lecturer of the newly established lectureship of the Alpha Omega Alpha fraternity of Tulane University.

THE Instrument Society of Washington will hold its first autumn meeting in the Auditorium of the Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C., on September 26 at 8:00 P.M. At that meeting J. C. Peters, of the Leeds and Northrup Company, will deliver an address on "Automatic Control—Fundamentals and Instruments." Admission is open to the public.

DR. MARK R. EVERETT, professor of biochemistry at the School of Medicine of the University of Oklahoma, lectured recently at the Medical Branch at Galveston of the University of Texas. He spoke on "Metabolic Factors in Clinical Medicine."

AT the dinner meeting on Friday, November 15, of the Chicago Section of the American Chemical Society, the main speaker will be Dr. C. F. Kettering, of the General Motors Corporation. The meeting is being held in connection with the third biennial National Chemical Exposition and National Industrial Conference.

THE annual convention of the American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists will be held in Atlantic City from October 12 to 14.

A POSTGRADUATE Assembly on Nervous and Mental Diseases and War will be held by the Institute of Medicine of Chicago on November 1 and 2 in the Palmer House. It will be devoted to phases of neurology, psychiatry and neurosurgery that are of particular importance at this time to clinicians, to specialists and to lay workers. The program will include five addresses on each of the two mornings and on one afternoon. There will be a "Neuropsychiatric Information Please" program on the first evening and panel discussions on the afternoon of the second day. The seventeenth Pasteur Lecture will be given on that evening by Dr. Edward A. Strecker, president of the American Psychiatric Association.

AT a recent meeting at the Medical Branch at Galveston of the University of Texas, a Southwest Section of the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine was organized. Meetings are planned to be held three times a year in rotation at Southwestern Medical College, Dallas; at the Medical College at Houston of Baylor University; at the University of Texas, Austin, and occasionally at the University of Oklahoma Medical School, Oklahoma City.

THE British Institution of Electrical Engineers has offered to endow for a limited period (probably five years) a professorship of electrical engineering at the University of Cambridge. Although perpetual endowment is customary, it is reported that the university authorities appear to be willing to make the necessary provision for the continuance of the professorship if external aid is not forthcoming.

A LEO HENDRIK BAEKELAND AWARD has been established by the New Jersey Section of the American Chemical Society. It will consist of $1,000 and a gold medal suitably inscribed, and may be presented biennially to an American chemist who has not yet reached his fortieth year in recognition of accomplishments in pure or industrial chemistry. Nominations will be received by the chairman of the section in October of the calendar year preceding the date on which the award will be made and not later than December 1. The recipient will be announced each year at the regular February meeting of the society and the presentation will be made in May. The award was established with the cooperation of the Bakelite Corporation, New York City. Dr. Baekeland, who died on February 23 at the age of eighty years, was best known for the invention of the first commercial synthetic resin.

AN Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences has been established to encourage and advance the development of the agricultural sciences in the American republics through research, teaching and extension activities. The establishment of the institute has been approved by the U. S. Senate.

AN Associated Press dispatch from Stockholm reports that six Nobel prizes will be awarded for 1944. There will be two prizes in physics, two in chemistry, one in letters and one in medicine.

IT is reported that the Society for Visiting Scientists, with premises at 5, Old Burlington Street, W.1, London, has been founded on the initiative of the British Council, in consultation with the Royal Society, to provide a meeting place and information center where scientists can be given advice and information about scientific institutions in Great Britain. In many other countries houses and organizations have been established for the use of visiting scientists and scholars. One of the best known of these is the Fondation Universitaire, Brussels, and there is another center in Leningrad, which occupies one of the palaces next to the Winter Palace beside the River Neva. London hitherto has had no center of the same kind, even on a modest scale, for it is not part of the ordinary work of scientific societies to look after the more general needs of visiting scientists. The information center now will be at their disposal, and any scientist arriving in Britain can go at once to the house, use the facilities offered and find out how he may apply for membership. The president of the society is Professor F. G. Donnan, who is also the acting chairman, and the chairman of the honorary council is General Smuts. The honorary presidents of the society are Sir Malcolm Robertson, M.P., and Sir Henry Dale.

DISCUSSION

THE OBLIGATIONS OF A SCIENTIST

THE criticism has frequently been raised that scientists are as much responsible for the evils of civilization and the horrors of war as they are for the good arising from their contribution to our present technical advancement. The implication of the criticism is that scientists should either limit the breadth of their activities or else guide the application of their work so that their results could not possibly be misused. The object of this note is to make two points: one, there is no valid basis for such criticisms of science; two, a scientist has certain obligations which, if met, discharge his responsibilites to society.

The fallacy of a scientist being able to predetermine all the ultimate uses to which the results of his efforts might be put is self-evident. In addition, it could be argued extensively and successfully that the good arising from the results of scientific effort has far exceeded the evil. But in a larger sense science is responsible for neither. The principal concern of science is to add to our knowledge. It should not be considered primarily responsible for the use society makes of that knowledge. In the final analysis it is the option of society to approve or reject the utilization of these additions. Many cases are on record in which society has permitted the withholding of technical advancements, even though they were of obvious benefit. Is it not then equally the option and obligation of society to reject such applications of knowledge as would appear to be detrimental to the common good?

The duty of the scientist is to search for truth disinterestedly and to present his findings without prejudice. One of the principal duties of students of social problems should be to examine and recommend the best utilization of the advancements of science.

Such a division of responsibility is inherent with the complexities of our civilization. The achievement of an advance of real worth may require the undivided attention of one or more scientists for an extended period. Fortunately, the results of years of work can often be summarized concisely, even into a single word such as "penicillin." Although many scientists can suggest applications for their findings, it requires also the full cooperation of those concerned with social problems to achieve the maximum benefit from even such an obviously desirable discovery as penicillin. The final responsibility of the utilization of knowledge rests upon this group and not upon the scientists who discover it.

Does this mean then that the scientist is free to become a recluse and ignore the world about him in the pursuit of his scientific interests? No, a scientist has obligations to his calling and to society which can not be ignored.

First, and most important, is his obligation to the scientific method. Too often does one meet workers in scientific fields whose fine training has been lost through subjugation of scientific principles to personal whimsey. A scientist must constantly reexamine himself and his work and keep both in line with the most rigorous scientific precepts. Only by so doing can he be sure that his efforts will be a real and lasting contribution to society.

Second, a scientist must conscientiously instruct those who come under his tutelage, whether they be students or associates. He must instruct them both in the scientific method and in knowledge which has been established. It is as essential to pass on the scientific method to future generations as it is to practise it. Courses which are alleged to emphasize training in the scientific method should not ignore it