

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Egleston Medal for 1945 of the Alumni Association of the Engineering Schools of Columbia University has been awarded to Dr. Richard Erwin Dougherty, vice-president of the New York Central Railroad System.

THE Charles V. Chapin Memorial Award was presented at the February meeting of the Rhode Island Medical Society to Dr. Reginald Fitz, Boston. In 1944 the Providence City Council passed an ordinance creating a standing committee of the council to be known as the Dr. Charles V. Chapin Memorial Award Committee. The award consists of a medal to be presented to the speaker who delivers the Chapin Memorial Oration during the annual meeting.

DR. ZAY JEFFRIES, of the General Electric Company, Pittsfield, Mass., was presented on March 7 with the newly established annual powder metallurgy medal of the Stevens Institute of Technology. The medal, which was presented for the first time by President Harvey N. Davis, on behalf of the trustees, is made entirely from powdered metals. It is awarded for "outstanding work in the field of powder metallurgy" to the person selected to deliver the annual powder metallurgy lecture.

DUE to the cancellation of the annual meeting of the American Association of Cereal Chemists, which was originally planned to be held at Toronto, the New York Section of the association will sponsor a dinner meeting at the Hotel New Yorker on May 15 when the Thomas Burr Osborne Medal will be presented to Dr. John C. Baker, of Wallace and Tiernan Company, Inc.

CAMERON Prizes for 1945 "for a highly important and valuable addition to practical therapeutics" have been awarded by the Senate of the University of Edinburgh to Sir Alexander Fleming in recognition of his discovery of penicillin, and to Sir Howard Florey in recognition of his work in making possible the clinical application of penicillin.

A RECEPTION and dinner in honor of Dr. Karl F. Stahl, chairman emeritus of the Pittsburgh Section of the American Chemical Society, preceding its meeting in Pittsburgh, was given on March 15. Dr. Stahl, who celebrated his ninetieth birthday on March 14, was chairman of the Pittsburgh Section in 1916; since 1932 he has been chairman emeritus. He has been a member of the American Chemical Society since 1896. About sixty-five members of the section and friends of Dr. Stahl attended the birthday dinner at the University Club, where he was presented with a birthday cake, a box of cigars and the best wishes of the section by Dr. H. K. Work, chairman.

THE Portuguese Government and its Premier Salazar have conferred on Dr. J. C. Geiger, director of public health of San Francisco, the Cavaleiro da Orden de Cristo with the following citation: "For great personal and professional merit in public health, and for important services to the Portuguese people of Portugal and of California."

DR. HUGH CABOT, formerly dean of the Medical School of the University of Michigan, was the principal speaker at a dinner given on April 21 at the Hotel Commodore, sponsored by the medical profession division of the Spanish Refugee Appeal. Dr. Harlow Shapley, director of the Harvard College Observatory, was among the speakers. The dinner was originally to have been in honor of Dr. Walter B. Cannon, professor emeritus of physiology at Harvard University and honorary chairman of the Boston committee of the Spanish Refugee Appeal. Dr. Cannon, who is now in Mexico City, cabled that illness would prevent him from going to New York. The proceeds of the dinner will be used to provide medical care for Spanish Republican refugees in France.

DR. ROBERT K. BURNS, JR., research associate in experimental embryology at the Carnegie Institution of Washington, has been appointed honorary professor of zoology in the department of biology of the Johns Hopkins University.

DR. WILLIAM A. DREYER has been promoted to an associate professorship of zoology at the University of Cincinnati.

MARTHA E. STAHR, now holding the Alice Freeman Palmer fellowship from Wellesley College and engaged in research at the Lick Observatory, has been appointed instructor in astronomy at Wellesley College.

DR. A. P. LORZ has recently joined the staff of the Agricultural Experiment Station of Purdue University. He will devote the major portion of his time to problems concerned with the breeding of vegetable crops suitable for the Indiana canning industry.

DR. OSCAR ZARISKI, professor of mathematics at the Johns Hopkins University, and Dr. Kenneth E. Caster, of the department of geology of the University of Cincinnati, have been appointed exchange professors to the Escola Politecnica of São Paulo, Brazil.

DR. ARTHUR R. COLMER, of the University of Texas, has been appointed associate bacteriologist at the College of Agriculture of West Virginia University.

DR. COLLINS VEATCH, formerly senior agronomist with the Food Production Mission of the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, has become associate professor of agronomy and associate agronomist at the Agricultural Experiment Station of West Virginia University. He took up his new work on April 1.

G. E. BLACKMAN, who since 1935 has been lecturer in plant ecology at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, has been appointed Sibtthorpe professor of rural economy at the University of Oxford.

DR. NORMAN FEATHER, F.R.S., of the Cavendish Laboratory of the University of Cambridge, has been appointed professor of natural philosophy at the University of Edinburgh, in succession to the late Professor C. G. Barkla.

THE title of professor of chemical pathology in the University of London has been conferred on Dr. E. J. King in respect of the post held by him at the British Postgraduate Medical School.

THE American-Swedish News Exchange reports under date of April 4 that, "thanks to the Swedish Legation in Budapest, the life of the Hungarian Nobel Prize winner, Szent-Gyorgyi, has been spared."

DR. WILLIAM WEBER COBLENTZ, chief of the radiometry section of the National Bureau of Standards and known for his work in radiometry and related fields, retired on December 1, 1944.

THE retirement is announced of Dr. Addams S. McAllister, assistant director of the National Bureau of Standards, in charge of commercial standardization.

DR. DAVID I. MACHT has resigned his position as director of pharmacological research for the drug firm Hynson Westcott and Dunning, Inc. He will become consultant and research pharmacologist in the Sinai Hospital, Baltimore.

ON reaching the age limit, Thomas Rowatt has recently retired from the directorship of the Royal Scottish Museum, which he has held since 1934. He has been succeeded by Dr. Douglas A. Allan, formerly director of the Liverpool Public Museums.

DR. CHARLES-EDWARD AMORY WINSLOW, director of the School of Public Health of Yale University, will make a survey of health and hospital facilities in the Washington metropolitan area for the Metropolitan Health Council of Washington.

DR. VELMER B. FISH has resigned from the West Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station to become associated with the Baker Chemical Company at Phillipsburg.

THE newly appointed Chemistry Advisory Council of the University of Pittsburgh met on April 5. Members of the council are Francis C. Frary, director of research of the Aluminum Company of America; Paul D. Foote, executive vice-president, Gulf Research and Development Company; Herbert N. Riley, vice-president and director of research, H. J. Heinz Company; H. H. Schrenk, chief chemist, Pittsburgh Station, U. S. Bureau of Mines, and Leonard H. Cretcher, assistant director of the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research. The council met with Hurd W. Safford, executive assistant; Bernard F. Daubert, executive research assistant, and Alexander Silverman, head of the department of chemistry in the university.

DR. OTTO KLINEBERG, professor of social psychology at Columbia University, will go next August to Brazil as exchange professor to teach graduate students and to establish a department of psychology at the Escola Politecnica of São Paulo. He will receive a supplementary grant for this work from the U. S. Department of State, as part of its program for facilitating such exchanges.

DR. DEREK DENNY-BROWN, professor of neurology in the Harvard Medical School and director of the Neurological Unit, Boston City Hospital, has been granted leave of absence. He will return to active military duty as a Brigadier-General with the British forces in India and Southeast Asia. In 1941, after two years of service in the field, he was temporarily released by the British Army to carry on research and teaching in the United States. He plans to resume his work in Boston at some later date.

DR. CHARLES E. FRILEY, president of Iowa State College, and Dr. I. E. Melhus, head of the department of botany and plant pathology, have left for Mexico, Guatemala and Costa Rica. They will spend a month in these countries studying the research work with corn and other economic plants which was initiated last year by the college, and will confer with the ministers of education and agriculture on problems of mutual interest in education and in agricultural activities. In addition, possibilities of centralizing and expanding work in research and education that falls within the scope of activities of Iowa State College will be considered.

THE tenth annual Hughlings Jackson Memorial Lecture of the Montreal Neurological Institute will be delivered on May 9 by Dr. Stanley Cobb Bullard, professor of neuropathology at the Harvard Medical School and psychiatrist-in-chief of the Massachusetts General Hospital. The subject will be "Some Observations on Neurocirculatory Asthenia." Following the address, a specially bound volume of the "Selected

Writings of John Hughlings Jackson," edited by James Taylor, will be presented to the lecturer.

BRIGADIER HUGH W. B. CAIRNS, Nuffield professor of surgery at the University of Oxford and consultant in neurologic surgery to the Royal Army Medical Corps, delivered the Charles H. Mayo Lecture in Surgery of Northwestern University on April 20. His subject was "The Treatment of War Wounds of the Head."

THE Edward K. Dunham Lectures for the promotion of the medical sciences of Harvard University will be given by Dr. Vincent B. Wigglesworth, F.R.S., director of the Agricultural Research Council Unit of Insect Physiology of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. His subject will be "The Insect as a Medium for the Study of Physiology." The lectures will be given at five o'clock at the Harvard Medical School on May 7, 9 and 11.

PROFESSOR HARLEY J. VAN CLEAVE, of the University of Illinois, on April 14 addressed the Illinois Dietetics Association in Chicago on "Diseases which Might Become Abundant after the War."

THE Firestone Tire and Rubber Company, Akron, Ohio, plans to open soon its new laboratory, which has been built at a cost of \$2,000,000. A preview has been arranged for the American Institute of Chemists.

THE James F. Lincoln Arc Welding Foundation is offering awards amounting to \$20,000 to encourage the preparation and publication of text-books, one on modern machine design and a second on structural design by all processes, including welding, for the instruction and study of undergraduates in engineering. In each class there are offered first, second and third awards of \$5,000, \$3,000 and \$2,000, respectively. Manuscripts should be sent by registered mail or insured express not later than May 15, 1946, to the Secretary of The James F. Lincoln Arc Welding Foundation, Cleveland 1, Ohio, from whom further information can be obtained.

THE Westinghouse Educational Foundation has provided three fellowships in electron optics at the Ohio State University—one post-doctoral fellowship with a stipend of \$3,000 per year and two pre-doctoral fellowships with stipends of \$1,000 per year. These fellowships are open to graduates in physics, mathematics and electrical engineering. Application forms may be secured from the Dean of the Graduate School of The Ohio State University, Columbus.

THE Francis Shimer College, Mount Carroll, has received a bequest from the late Dr. Blanche M. Haines of \$20,000 to set up the George R. Moore Memorial Fund to be used to improve and promote the teaching of sciences.

DISCUSSION

FOURTH OUTBURST OF NOVA (T) PYXIDIS

DR. ALFRED H. JOY, astronomer at the Mount Wilson Observatory at Pasadena, Calif., has found that the recurrent nova, T Pyxidis, is again increasing in light. This makes the fourth rise to maximum in the past fifty-five years; in 1890, 1902, 1920 and 1945. On the first three occasions the nova attained the seventh magnitude, an increase of seven magnitudes from normal minimum brightness. Dr. Joy reports that by April 3 the nova had increased three magnitudes on the present rise to maximum.

There are not many recurrent novae known. Nova (RS) Ophiuchi has had two outbursts, in 1898 and 1933, while Nova (U) Scorpii has had three outbursts, in 1863, 1906 and 1936.

Dr. Joy finds the background (continuous) spectrum of Nova Pyxidis to be weak, with strong, bright bands and lines projected upon the background—a condition that generally prevails for novae.

Nova Pyxidis has been on the observing list of variable star observers for the past twenty years, in the hope that some observer might catch it on the rise to maximum. For northern observers, the star is

unfavorably placed for observation—thirty degrees below the celestial equator. It is of about magnitude fourteen at minimum and thus is a very difficult star to watch. Observers should now follow the nova closely, not only to study its light variations, but also its spectral changes.

LEON CAMPBELL

THE CONCEPT OF A "STRAIN" IN BACTERIOLOGY

IN most fields of biology "strain" refers to a genetically distinct group within a variety or within a larger biological group when that group has no subdivisions. The problem is more complex in bacteriology. Because of the strong dissociative tendency among many bacteria which tends to produce distinctly different daughter races from apparently homogeneous parent cultures, transplants of such colonies are frequently considered as separate "strains." However, they are more correctly "dissociants," using the term in its broader sense "having properties different from those of the parent culture" rather than in the earlier meaning, which was based on smooth-rough differences. When such dissociants