

Tomás Navarro Tomás, professor of Spanish philology, Columbia.

The following officers were elected for the year 1945-1946:

President: Howard Mumford Jones.

Vice-Presidents: George R. Harrison, Alfred C. Lane, Ralph E. Flanders, Fred N. Robinson.

Corresponding Secretary: Abbott Payson Usher.

Recording Secretary: Hudson Hoagland.

Treasurer: Horace S. Ford.

Librarian: Frederick H. Pratt.

Editor: Robert P. Blake.

Dean Joseph Hudnut and Professor Carl J. Friedrich spoke on "The Boston Contest."

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. FRANK C. WHITMORE, since 1929 dean of the School of Chemistry and Physics of the Pennsylvania State College, has been awarded the thirty-fourth Willard Gibbs Medal of the Chicago Section of the American Chemical Society in recognition of his "outstanding contribution as an organic chemist and his vigorous leadership in many organizations devoted to the advancement of chemistry for national benefit." The award is made annually "to any one who, because of his eminent work in, and original contributions to, pure and applied chemistry, is deemed worthy of special recognition."

THE Legion of Merit of the War Department has been conferred on Colonel Cornelius Packard Rhoads, director of the Memorial Hospital for the Treatment of Cancer and Allied Diseases of New York City and for nearly two years chief of the Medical Division of the Chemical Warfare Service. The award is in recognition of the development of methods for combating poison gas and other advances in chemical warfare.

THE Howard Taylor Ricketts prize for "outstanding research on viruses" has been awarded to Dr. Maurice R. Hilleman, of New Brunswick, N. J., in recognition of his work in developing a way of making an anti-serum of value in identifying a recently discovered group of viral agents, carried out in the department of bacteriology and parasitology of the University of Chicago. The award was presented on the thirty-fifth anniversary of the death of Dr. Ricketts, who fell a victim to typhus fever while working on that disease in Mexico. The investigation was supported in part by the Commission on Influenza, the Board for the Investigation and Control of Influenza and other Epidemic Diseases, the United States Army and the John Rockefeller McCormick Memorial Fund of the University of Chicago. Dr. Hilleman is now engaged in research in the field of filterable viruses in the laboratories of E. R. Squibb and Sons.

DR. IRWIN W. SIZER, associate professor of physiology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has been awarded a grant of \$5,000 by the Eli Lilly pharmaceutical company for the continuation of his studies on the action of enzymes on the irritant principles of poison ivy and related plants.

It was stated in the issue of SCIENCE for April 10 that the Nobel Prize for physics had been presented on April 11 to Professor I. I. Rabi. The formal presentation by the Minister to the United States of Sweden had been made on December 10, 1944. The presentation of the gold medal, the diploma and the check was made the occasion of a reception at Columbia University on April 11.

DR. JAMES L. PETERS, curator of birds of the Museum of Comparative Zoology of Harvard University and assistant secretary of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, has been elected vice-president of the commission in succession to the late Dr. C. W. Stiles, of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington.

THE annual initiation and banquet of the Kappa Chapter of Sigma Xi at Columbia University was held on May 1. Following the reception and dinner, Dr. Harlow Shapley, national president of the society, addressed the chapter on "Infinite Dissipation." Officers elected for 1945-46 were: *President*, Dr. S. R. Detwiler, professor of anatomy, College of Physicians and Surgeons; *Vice-president*, Dr. Walter Rautenstrauch, professor of industrial engineering; *Secretary-Treasurer*, Dr. John S. Karling, professor of botany.

AT Columbia University, Dr. Abraham Wald has been promoted to a professorship of mathematical statistics. P. L. Hsu, of Kunming, China, has been appointed visiting professor of statistics for the semester beginning on January 31, 1946. He will lecture on advanced multivariate analysis and on other fields in mathematical statistics to which he has contributed.

DR. HARRY MOORE, director of the research laboratories of Pilkinton Brothers, England, has been appointed to the chair of glass technology at the University of Sheffield to succeed Professor W. E. S. Turner, whose retirement was recently announced.

DR. WILLIAM W. PETER, associate professor of public health and chief of sanitary inspection of the department of health of Yale University, has resigned to become director of the training division of the Institute of Inter-American Affairs in Washington.

DR. NORMAN J. VOLK, head of the Department of Agronomy of Purdue University, has become associate director of the Agricultural Experiment Station. He succeeds Dr. W. V. Lambert, who resigned recently to accept a position as assistant administrator of the Agricultural Research Administration of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Dr. Volk will continue to serve as head of the department of agronomy. Professor Claude Harper, acting head of the department, succeeds Professor Frank G. King, who asked to be relieved of his administrative responsibilities because of ill health. Professor King will continue as a member of the staff.

DR. WILLIAM HENRY HOLLINSHEAD, associate professor of anatomy at the School of Medicine of Duke University, during the summer quarter will be visiting associate of anatomy at the School of Medicine of the University of Tennessee, not at the University of Utah, as incorrectly announced.

DR. F. C. STEWARD, reader in plant physiology in Birkbeck College of the University of London, has a leave of absence and is visiting the United States to take up a temporary appointment as research associate in the University of Chicago. It is stated in *Nature* that the appointment is a sequel to the destruction in an air raid of the research laboratory in plant physiology at Birkbeck College, which had been largely equipped by the Rockefeller Foundation.

DR. G. E. MILLER, organic chemist and technical assistant to the Commanding General, Technical Command, at Edgewood Arsenal, has become actively associated with W. A. Taylor and Company, of Baltimore, of which he was one of the founders.

At the invitation of the Swedish Medical Society, Sir Howard Florey, F.R.S., professor of pathology at the University of Oxford, is lecturing in Sweden on subjects connected with penicillin.

DR. ANTONIO PEÑA CHAVARRÍA, director of the San Juan de Dios Hospital, San José, Costa Rica, is visiting the United States for a period of two months to make a study of medical education. This visit is made under a fellowship from the Association of American Medical Colleges and the John and Mary R. Markle Foundation in recognition of his valuable contribution to the program for giving instructors from medical schools of the United States and Canada practical experience in tropical medicine in Central America.

DR. FRANCIS G. BLAKE, Sterling professor of medicine and dean of the School of Medicine of Yale University, will deliver the Charles V. Chapin Oration. His subject will be "Some Recent Advances in the Control of Infectious Diseases."

THE second William Hamlin Wilder Memorial Lec-

ture of the Institute of Medicine of Chicago will be delivered on May 25 by Dr. Karl Paul Link, professor of biochemistry at the Agricultural Experiment Station of the University of Wisconsin. His subject will be "The Anticoagulant Dicumarol."

DR. DONALD D. VAN SLYKE, chief research chemist at the Hospital of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, New York, gave on May 4 at the Medical College of Virginia, Richmond, the annual lecture of the Brown-Séquard chapter of the Alpha Omega Alpha. He spoke on "The Physiology of the Kidney."

DR. EDMUND VINCENT COWDRY, professor of anatomy at the School of Medicine of Washington University, gave on April 23 the Adam M. Miller Memorial Lecture at the Long Island College of Medicine. His subject was "Microscopic and Chemical Properties of Precancerous Lesions."

At the March commencement of the University of Tennessee College of Medicine the address to the graduates was given by Lieutenant Colonel James Barrett Brown, M.C., A.U.S., chief of plastic surgery at the Valley Forge General Hospital, formerly associate professor of surgery at Washington University, St. Louis. The address was entitled "Investment in Personality."

DR. LLOYD L. SMITH, research supervisor of the Division of Game and Fish of the Conservation Commission of Minnesota, spoke at Iowa State College on May 2 on "The Present Status and Trends of Fisheries Biology and Management."

It is reported in *Nature* that the British Secretary of State for the Colonies and the Medical Research Council have jointly created a Colonial Medical Research Committee to advise them on medical research for the benefit of Colonial territories. It is constituted as follows: Sir Edward Mellanby, secretary of the Medical Research Council, *chairman*; Colonel J. S. K. Boyd; Professor P. A. Buxton, professor of entomology, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; Dr. A. N. Drury, director of the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine; Brigadier N. Hamilton Fairley; Dr. W. H. Kauntze, chief medical adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies; Professor B. G. Magraith, professor of tropical medicine at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine; Dr. B. S. Platt, director of the Human Nutrition Research Unit, Medical Research Council, and Major-General Sir John Taylor. The secretary of the committee is Dr. F. Hawking, of the National Institute for Medical Research, London, N.W.3.

The Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research reports that the Government of India has constituted a Scientific Consultative Committee with the following

personnel, under the chairmanship of the Honorable Member for Planning and Development: Sir C. V. Raman, Sir Jnan Ghosh, Professor Megnad Saha, Dr. Nazir Ahmad, Colonel Sir Ramnath Chopra, the Master-General of Ordnance, the vice-chairman of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research or the Agricultural Commissioner to the Government of India, the Director-General, I.M.S., the director of the Geological Survey and the director of Scientific and Industrial Research. The functions of the committee will be to advise the Government of India on all general questions of policy relating to research which may be specifically referred to it.

THE thirtieth annual meeting of the Optical Society of America will be held at the Hotel Pennsylvania, New York, on October 18, 19 and 20. Should the present Federal restrictions be still in force in October, the meeting would be of local character, and New York City was selected because of the large number of members who reside within the ordinary commuting zone. Attendance from outside the regular commuting zone will be limited to fifty members, in conformity with the definition of a local meeting established by the War Committee on Conventions. In preparation for a meeting of this type, it is proposed to establish a "priority list," giving preference in turn to officers of the society, invited speakers, authors of abstracts submitted for the Cleveland meeting, which was cancelled, authors of abstracts for the October meeting and the membership at large.

THE Pittsburgh section of the Electrochemical Society will sponsor a symposium to be held on May 25 at the Mellon Institute. The subject will be "Polarization and Passivity." The speakers will be Dr. A. Langer, Dr. R. T. Phelps and Dr. E. A. Gulbransen, Westinghouse Research Laboratories; Dr. K. Graham, Graham and Crowley and Association, Inc.; Dr. P. T. Stroup and Dr. R. B. Mears, Aluminum Company of America, and Dr. H. Uhlig, General Electric Company. The meeting will be open to Pittsburgh members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

UNDER the joint auspices of the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, the Society of Rheology and the Metropolitan Section of the American Physical Society, a one-day conference will be held at the Polytechnic Institute on June 2 on "The Ultracentrifuge in Highpolymer Research." James Burton Nichols, head of the Section of Physics and research chemist of the Experimental Station of the du Pont Company, will preside at the conference. The speakers will be Professor J. W. Williams, of the department of chemistry of the University of Wisconsin; Professor Charles Beckman, of the department of chemistry of Columbia University, and Dr. Kurt G. Stern, of the Highpolymer Research Bureau of the Polytechnic Institute.

Nature states that owing to the generosity of the Rockefeller Foundation of New York, which has for a fifth year in succession provided a grant for the purpose, the Royal Society is in a position to give assistance to scientific societies and associations which, as a result of war conditions, are experiencing financial difficulties in the publication of scientific journals.

SIR WILLIAM HENRY COLLINS, chairman of the Cerebos Salt Company, has made a gift of £100,000 to the Royal College of Surgeons for the endowment of the department of anatomy and for the establishment of a chair of human and comparative anatomy. Last year Sir William gave £100,000 to endow a chair of pathology. The museum and research departments have been damaged during the war. Their maintenance, however, is now assured by the gift, and the college can proceed with its rebuilding plans.

THE International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation has announced the formation of a new organization with an initial capital investment of \$2,000,000 to coordinate more closely its electronic research, including advancements in radio, television and related fields of communication and aerial navigation. The company has been incorporated under the laws of Delaware, with headquarters at Nutley, N. J. E. M. Deloraine, director of the Federal Telephone and Radio Laboratories, has been made president.

DISCUSSION

COMPARATIVE SCIENTIFIC STRENGTH OF UNIVERSITIES

THE recent note by Visher¹ on comparative university strength in scientists starred in "American Men of Science" properly defines its procedures and includes a faint note of caution. It is probable, nevertheless, that many readers will take the data of that note as indicative of the relative scientific faculty

strength of the listed institutions. Visher's wording does encourage this interpretation, and this would seem to be the principal reason for making such a tabulation. In fact, such an interpretation is highly unreliable and leads to serious errors in rating of scientific faculties and consequent grave injustice to some of the universities involved.

In the first place, the basic but unstated postulate that starring in "American Men of Science" is a reliable criterion of scientific ability or eminence is

¹ Stephen S. Visher, *SCIENCE*, 101: 272-273, 1945.