

successive monthly meetings, culminating at the April meeting when the constitution and by-laws were adopted.

The organizing committee was headed by George C. Grow, Jr., who has also been selected as president of the society for the year 1945-1946. Other first-year officers are Raymond E. Birch, *vice-president*; W. B. Robinson, *secretary*; and Dr. Shailer S. Philbrick, *treasurer*. These officers, together with the following, comprise the council: Robert E. Bayles, Hugh R. Brankstone, C. H. Feldmiller, Dr. Richard M. Foose, John T. Galey, David K. Kirk and Dr. J. H. C. Martens.

Speakers at the first six meetings and their subjects follow: Major Raymond C. Moore, State Geologist of Kansas, now on leave in the Army, "Geology and Geomachy"; Dr. Kirk Bryan, Harvard University, "The Geological Antiquity of Man in America"; Dr. Carey Croneis, president, Beloit College, "Science and the Future"; Dr. Philip S. Smith, chief Alaskan geologist of the U. S. Geological Survey, "Alaska's Potential Oil Resources"; Dr. W. C. Krumbein, senior geologist, Beach Erosion Board, "Sedimentation and Its Relation to Oil Finding"; and Dr. Walter H. Bucher, professor of geology, Columbia University, "The Deformation of the Earth's Crust."

Except for Major Moore and Drs. Croneis and Bucher, these speakers were obtained through the Distinguished Lecturers Committee of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

Attendance at the first six meetings, each held in Pittsburgh, has averaged slightly more than a hundred persons. As has been hoped for by the organizers, the drawing range extends into Ohio and West Virginia as well as throughout western Pennsylvania. The cooperation of personnel of the U. S. Geological Survey and of the Pennsylvania and West Virginia geological survey groups has been of much assistance. It is planned to hold monthly meetings except for the summer months, these to be in Pittsburgh. Field conferences may be held when transportation facilities are improved.

The diverse geologic interests represented in this area include petroleum and gas, coal, iron and steel, refractories and other ceramic industries, as well as academic groups and amateur geologists.

The next meeting is scheduled for 7:30 P.M., May 28, in the club rooms of the Engineers Society of Western Pennsylvania in the Hotel William Penn. This will be a symposium on the wartime activity of the U. S. Geological Survey in the Ohio-West Virginia-Pennsylvania area, particularly concerned with detailed study of the Berea sandstone. The discussion will be led by Dr. James F. Pepper, David F. Demarest and Dr. Gordon Rittenhouse.

Further information concerning the society and its

activities may be obtained by addressing W. B. Robinson, Gulf Research and Development Company, Box 2038, Pittsburgh 30, Pa.

THE EFFECT OF NUTRITION ON THE COURSE OF TUBERCULOSIS

THE Hastings Foundation has purchased a tract of land from the La Vina Sanatorium and is converting a former preventorium building into the Charles Cook Hastings Home. The site is just north of Pasadena, Calif. Construction is nearing completion, and Dr. Edward Kupka, medical director of both institutions, has announced that the opening day will be about August 1. The Hastings Home is being established pursuant to the will of Charles H. Hastings, who left approximately three million dollars for the study and treatment of tuberculosis. The institution is to be a research type hospital in memory of his father, who died of the disease.

Agreement has been made with the Veterans' Facility, San Fernando, to treat twenty veterans of this war who have developed tuberculosis. The entire cost of their care will be paid by the Hastings Foundation.

Dr. Horace R. Getz, research associate of the Henry Phipps Institute of Philadelphia, will be director of the laboratories. He will continue the research on nutrition hitherto carried on by him in Philadelphia.

An attempt will be made to learn the effect of nutrition on the course of tuberculosis. It is planned to study minimal cases only at first. Objective nutrition tests on the blood and biomicroscopic examination of the eyes, tongue and gums will be a part of the routine examination of the subjects, all of whom will receive a good standard sanatorium diet with one half being given food supplements. Progress of the disease in both groups will then be carefully compared.

AFFILIATION OF SIGMA ALPHA WITH ALPHA EPSILON DELTA

SIGMA ALPHA, premedical fraternity of the University of Louisville, on April 29 became affiliated with Alpha Epsilon Delta, national honorary premedical fraternity, upon their installation as the Kentucky Alpha chapter. The initiation of eighteen active and three honorary members was conducted by Dr. Hugh E. Setterfield, associate professor of anatomy at the School of Medicine of the Ohio State University and national president of Alpha Epsilon Delta. Sigma Alpha was organized on March 29, 1933, at Louisville, under the auspices of Dr. A. W. Homberger, head of the department of chemistry and premedical adviser. Their affiliation marks another step in the activities of Alpha Epsilon Delta.

Founded at the University of Alabama in 1926 by a group of premedical students, Alpha Epsilon Delta has expanded its membership to include thirty-four

chapters, all at institutions recognized by the Council on Medical Education and Hospitals of the American Medical Association. The object of the fraternity is to encourage excellence in premedical scholarship, to stimulate an appreciation of the importance of premedical education in the study of medicine, to promote cooperation and contacts between medical men and premedical students and educators in developing an adequate program of premedical education and to bridge the gap between the premedical and medical schools.

In addition to an extensive program of chapter activities, the fraternity is actively engaged in a number of projects pertaining to premedical education. It sponsored a symposium on premedical education at the September, 1944, meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science which led to plans for further meetings with other national and regional organizations interested in medical and premedical education. At the present time, it is conducting a survey of opinion among medical and premedical educators to determine the requirements for an improved postwar program of premedical education.

Honorary members of the charter group are Dr.

Alfred Wm. Homberger, professor of physiological chemistry, School of Medicine; Dr. Harvey B. Lovell, acting head of the department of biology, and Dr. Clarence C. Vernon, acting head of the department of chemistry, who will serve as faculty adviser for the chapter.

Dr. Setterfield gave the main address at the installation banquet, entitled "What Kind of Doctor?" He stressed that a broad liberal college education is the best preparation for the study of medicine and said that the technical training afforded by specialized courses is needed, but that these should be kept to a minimum consistent with successful accomplishment in the medical school. The importance of a wide understanding of the social problems of individuals and communities in relation to medicine was emphasized, and he urged that these problems be recognized as some of the most basic needs in the medical profession of the future.

A number of guests and speakers were in attendance at the installation banquet, including Dr. E. W. Jackson, president of the University of Louisville, and Dr. J. J. Oppenheimer, dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE presentation of the third annual chemurgy award of the United States Chamber of Commerce was made recently at a special luncheon in Omaha, Nebr. The award this year was given to the University of Nebraska as a result of research by a group of scientific men headed by Dr. Eric Kneen, associate agricultural chemist at the university, who accepted it on behalf of his associates and himself. Also receiving special mention was Dr. R. M. Sandstedt, professor of agricultural chemistry.

THE King of Norway has conferred the Order of St. Olaf, First Class, on Dr. J. C. Geiger, director of Public Health of the City and County of San Francisco. The decoration carries with it an honorary knighthood and the following citation: "For valuable and distinguished service to Norway in World War II, and for unswerving devotion and intelligent administration of public health in order that human lives be preserved and the world made a better and happier place to live." The order was established in 1847 by Oscar I in honor of St. Olaf, the founder of Christianity in Norway.

DR. AARON J. SHARP, associate professor of botany at the University of Tennessee, has been elected a member of the Sociedad Mexicana de Historia Natural and of the Sociedad Botanica de México. Under a Guggenheim fellowship, Dr. Sharp is studying the

relationships between the vegetation of the Southern Appalachians and the highlands of Mexico and Central America.

THE Finney-Howell Research Foundation, Inc., has awarded fellowships as follows: Muriel Virginia Bradley, Ph.D. (California), to work in the Radiation Laboratory of the University of California, second award; Margaret Aston Kelsall, Ph.D. (Colorado), to work at the Jackson Memorial Laboratory, Bar Harbor, Maine, second award; Nelicia Maier, Ph.D., M.D., the Sorbonne, Paris, and Medical School, Paris, to work with Dr. Rhoads at the Memorial Hospital of New York City, third award; Elizabeth Cavert Miller, M.S. (Wisconsin), to work in the department of biochemistry of the University of Wisconsin, first award.

DR. ROSS ALLEN BAKER, professor of chemistry in the School of Business and Civic Administration of the College of the City of New York, was elected chairman of the New York Section of the American Chemical Society at the annual meeting of the section, on May 12. He succeeds Dr. Beverley L. Clarke, head of the analytical department of the Bell Telephone Laboratories.

BECAUSE of restrictions due to the war emergency, the membership of the Association of Southeastern Biologists has voted not to hold the annual meeting