

A MANAGING COMMITTEE FOR THE WESTINGHOUSE SCIENCE WRITING AWARD

THE Executive Committee of the American Association for the Advancement of Science has appointed a committee in management for the Westinghouse Science Writing Award. Thus far, the committee is as follows, with others to be added:

James A. Baubie, director of public relations, Westinghouse Electric Company.

Otis W. Caldwell, chairman, general secretary of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

G. Edward Pendray, counsellor in management of public relations and education.

Watson Davis, Science Service and National Science Writers Association.

Morris Meister, principal, Bronx High School of Science.

F. R. Moulton, permanent secretary of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Robert Potter, *American Weekly* and National Science Writers Association.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science thus plans to increase its efforts to advance popular knowledge, understanding and appreciation of science and of the scientific point of view. One principal function of the committee shall be to encourage and stimulate writers of science with the purpose of developing science writers for the public press. As a first step, it is proposed that one or more prizes be awarded annually by the association to newspaper and magazine writers who have made outstanding contributions during the year, the award or awards to be based upon criteria to be outlined later, but which should include such factors as imagination, understanding, skill in preparation, scientific accuracy, readability and wide influence in improving public understanding of science. A five-year period is planned for this experiment in encouraging science writing.

Further announcement will be made by the committee.

A. J. CARLSON,

*Chairman of the Executive Committee of
the American Association for the Advancement of Science*

THE HENRY NORRIS RUSSELL LECTURESHIP OF THE AMERICAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

At the business meeting of the American Astronomical Society on June 8, the council approved the establishment of the Henry Norris Russell Lectureship and appointed a committee to raise the supporting funds. This lecture, on astronomy or a related field of physical science, is intended to be a regular (probably annual) feature of meetings of the

society. It is to be of a technical and scholarly nature, and is expected to be an original contribution to science. The lecturer, who may be an American or a foreign scientist, is to be selected several months in advance by the council of the society.

Dr. Henry Norris Russell, professor of astronomy and director of the Observatory of Princeton University, has been a member of the Princeton faculty for forty years. He is a past president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, of the American Philosophical Society and of the American Astronomical Society. He has long been regarded as the dean of American astronomers, and his influence has been far-reaching in astronomy and in related fields in physics. For some time the question of how to honor him in some lasting way had been discussed among astronomers, until the establishment of this permanent lectureship in his name was proposed and adopted by the American Astronomical Society.

The committee for the soliciting of funds is composed as follows: Harlow Shapley, *chairman*, Walter S. Adams, Joseph C. Boyce, Theodore Dunham, Jr., Luther P. Eisenhart, Charles A. Federer, Jr., Alfred H. Joy, Dean B. McLaughlin, W. F. Meggers, Charlotte Moore Sitterly, Percy Witherell.

DEAN B. McLAUGHLIN, *Secretary*,

HARVARD COLLEGE OBSERVATORY,
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

NEWS FROM ABROAD

EDWARD F. WITSELL, Major General, Acting the Adjutant General, in a letter to Dr. Theodore Philipp Haas, of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, gives the following information concerning the condition of the Botanical Garden in Munich-Nymphenburg, Germany:

The following report has been received from the Commanding General, United States Forces, European Theater, concerning conditions at the Botanischen Staatsanstalten:

(a) *Greenhouses*: About one third of the hot-houses, and the plants therein, were destroyed by an air raid, July, '44. Because of the coal shortage last winter, another third of the tropical plants were destroyed through freezing. The remaining third of the hot-house plants is intact to date.

(b) *Gardens*: These show little effect either of neglect or war damage. Cultivation and maintenance were difficult during the war because of the lack of gardeners, and the frequency of air-raid alerts. However, the present condition is very satisfactory, remedial action having been taken to overcome the shortcomings imposed by the war.

(c) *Institute*: Damage slight and unimportant. Windows, doors and walls have sustained minor damage from blast and fragmentation. The museum specimens were transferred to the cellar, and have not yet been reinstalled. A considerable number of rooms were appropriated by the German Wehrmacht and are in need of gen-

eral cleaning. A great part of the herbarium as well as a portion of the library have been placed in repositories outside Munich. The date of their return will depend on Army priorities and transport facilities.

(d) *The over-all activities of the Botanischen Staatsanstalten*: Research, analysis and general administrative functioning is inhibited for the moment by the shortage of illuminating and fuel-gas and the impossibility of obtaining essential chemicals.

(e) *Personnel consulted*: Professor Dr. F. C. v. Faber.

On August 27 Dr. Haas writes: "To-day a serviceman, Dr. V. Rudolph, of Philadelphia, Pa., stationed in Burghausen, Bavaria-Germany, sends to me the following information about the situation of the University of Munich. Dr. Rudolph is a student of forestry. His letter is dated August 13, 1945. He talked with Dr. Gustav Krauss, a soil specialist in the Forest Department. His letter reads:

The Forest Department of the university is nearly completely destroyed. There are a few of the class rooms still intact. The upper rooms are utter shambles. The building to the rear of the one on the Amalien Strasse where the specimens of Dr. Münch and Dr. Escherich were kept are all destroyed. (Dr. Münch was the successor to Dr. v. Tübeuf whom I knew personally and who showed to me his forest-botanical collection. Dr. Escherich is one of the most famous experts in insects; he was commissary rector of the university when the Nazi came to power. Th. H. Haas). The insect collection, one of the most famous in the world, has been completely wiped out by fire.

The following well-known staff members of the department of forestry have been retired: Professor Münch, now in Lechbruck, near Kaufbeuren (Algäu); Professor Escherich in Munich 19, Prinzenstrasse 26 (this is near Nymphenburg), and Professor Fabricius in Grafrath, about 30 km S.W. of Munich.

Dr. Harry Grundfest writes that the national secretary of the American Association of Scientific Workers has received the following information, signed by Dorothy M. Needham, from the Sino-British Science Cooperation Office, 1, Victory Village, Liangfu Lu, Chungking, China:

The inaugural meeting of the Chinese Association of Scientific Workers was held on July 1 at the National Central University, Shapingba, Chungking. About fifty scientists were present. Since the difficulties of transport in China are so great, those present were practically all from Chungking and the neighboring academic centers of Shapingba, Koloshan and Beipei.

Dr. Rjen Hung-Chang was in the chair, and made a speech on behalf of the Science Society of China. Other speakers were Dr. Shen Chi-I, representing the Natural Science Society of China; Dr. Liang Hsi, a veteran of Chinese forestry, representing the Chinese Agricultural Association, and Dr. Ku Yuan-chuan, head of the National Institute of Industrial Research, representing interest in industry of the new association. I was invited as representative of the Sino-British Science Cooperation Office, and was asked to speak about the work of the Association of Scientific Workers in Great Britain. Dr. Tu Chang-wang, who has been very active in the founding of the Chinese Association, described the work of the preliminary stages.

The American association has sent greetings to this latest addition to the list of associations of scientific workers. At the present there are associations in Great Britain and in the following Commonwealths: Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. In France there has been founded the Association Française des Travailleurs Scientifiques.

Recent correspondence from abroad to Robert T. Hatt, of the Cranbrook Institute of Science, carries the following news of vertebrate zoologists: S. Frechkop, of the Royal Museum of Natural History, Brussels, is active at his post and continued publishing in 1944. Paul Rode, of the Museum of Natural History, Paris, reports that he is enjoying his first leave from Paris in two years; that they managed to keep up publication of *Mammalia* during the war despite the shortage of paper. Count Nils Gryldenstolpe, of the Royal Natural History Museum, Stockholm, is now in charge of the mammal collections there. He reports the death of Professor Einar Lonnberg.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Chemical Industry Medal for 1945 of the American Section of the Society of Chemical Industry has been awarded to Sidney D. Kirkpatrick, editor of *Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering*, in recognition of "his leadership and his contributions to the advancement of chemical engineering and research."

THE Joseph Sullivant Medal was awarded to Dr. Paul J. Flory by the Ohio State University at the

summer commencement exercises. The medal is given once every five years to a graduate of the university or to a faculty member who has completed a "really notable piece of work" in the arts or in pure or applied science in the preceding five-year period. Dr. Flory, now with the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, was awarded the medal in recognition of his work in the field of high polymers.

THE degree of doctor of science was conferred on