U. S. News and Notes

Capt. R. D. Conrad, USN, director of the Planning Division, Office of Research and Inventions, has been awarded the Legion of Merit. The award was made to Capt. Conrad for exceptionally meritorious services to the country in guiding research during the war years as planning head for the Office of the Coordinator of Research and Development. Rear Adm. H. G. Bowen, chief of Research and Inventions, made the award on behalf of Secretary Forrestal.

Dr. Merle A. Tuve, since 1938 chief physicist of the Department of Terrestrial Magnetism of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, has been appointed director of the Department of Terrestrial Magnetism, to succeed Dr. John A. Fleming. Announcement of the appointment was made on 26 March by Dr. Vannevar Bush, president of the Carnegie Institution. Dr. Fleming, a member of the Carnegie Institution's scientific staff since 1904 and director of the Department of Terrestrial Magnetism since 1935, will retire.

Dr. J. Allen Scott, of the University of Texas Medical School, who spent last summer in Brazil on a government health mission, recently addressed the Kansas State College Chapter of Sigma Xi on "Health Problems in the Amazon Valley."

Dr. D. H. Wenrich, of the University of Pennsylvania, will serve as acting editor of the *Journal of Morphology,* published by the Wistar Institute, until a new editor is appointed by the American Society of Zoologists. The vacancy was caused by the death, on 17 January 1946, of Dr. C. E. McClung, who served as managing editor for 25 years.

Lt. Col. Charles H. Greenall, director of research at Frankford Arsenal, has been named executive director of the Franklin Institute Laboratories, Philadelphia. Dr. Henry Butler Allen is secretary and director of the Institute.

Senior consultants to Dr. Allen will be Dr. Rupen Eksergain, of Media, chief consulting engineer for the Edward G. Budd Manufacturing Company, and Dr. W. F. G. Swann, of Swarthmore, director of the Bartol Research Foundation of the Franklin Institute on the campus of Swarthmore College.

Three other members of the administrative personnel named for the laboratories are Dr. Nicol H. Smith, director of the Division of Chemical Engineering and Physics, and Ralph H. McClarren, Division of Electronics and Instruments, both of whom are associate directors of the Institute museum; and George S. Heoll, Division of Mechanical Engineering.

Dr. J. Wyatt Durham has been made associate professor of invertebrate paleontology at California Institute of Technology. He will join the staff in August 1946.

Dr. Lee A. DuBridge, director of the NDRC Radiation Laboratory, Cambridge, returned to the University of Rochester on 15 February to resume his headship of the Department of Physics. At Cambridge Dr. DuBridge supervised the work of 3,900 people on a budget of some $4,000,000 a month.

Dr. Richard H. Jahns has been made assistant professor of geology at the California Institute of Technology.

Dr. Harold C. Urey, returned to his Alma Mater, Montana State University, as the principal speaker at a Charter Day celebration of the completion of 50 years existence of that institution. Dr. Urey spoke also at the Missoula County High School, at the annual meeting of the Missoula Chamber of Commerce, and before the University Sigma Xi Club.

Dr. Jackson W. Foster has resigned as head of the Microbiological Research and Development Department at Merck and Company, Inc., to accept an appointment as associate professor of bacteriology at the University of Texas, Austin.

Dr. Paul B. Sears, professor of botany and head of the Department of Botany at Oberlin College, has recently been appointed a member of the State Commission on Conservation and Natural Resources for the State of Ohio by Governor Frank J. Lausche.

Dr. Laurence H. Snyder, of the Ohio State University, addressed the New York Academy of Science on 11 February on the topic: "Recent Advances in Human Heredity."

Dr. Julius Ashkin, who was at Los Alamos for three years, has been appointed assistant professor of physics at the University of Rochester.

Cecil W. Mann has been promoted to a full professorship in psychology at the Tulane University of Louisiana.

G. W. Bergren, instructor in mechanical engineering at Purdue University, has returned to the University after four and a half years of service with the Navy.

Announcements

Dr. Arthur H. Compton, chancellor of Washington University, spoke at the luncheon at which the medals and scrolls were presented to 13 science writers as part of the George Westinghouse Science Writing Awards on Wednesday, 27 March, at St. Louis.

Dr. Compton pointed out that the rapid changes going on in the world are largely a result of scientific insight and technology based on scientific achievement. He paid tribute to the profession of science writing because it helps to keep people aware that it is science that is causing the day to day changes in the world. He observed that science writing for the general public is a steadying influence in a changing world because it helps people to anticipate changes in their lives before these changes are really upon them. This helps to make people feel at home in what would otherwise be a strange world. Dr. Compton also pointed out that science writers ". . . would do well to call more attention to the fact that a society which is based upon science is a society of specialists, and that specialists form a strong society only when cooperation is effective. This means that the growth of science implies a need for greater attention to understanding, tolerance, and coordination of effort between the various components that make up our society. We have found that science does not advance without dividing into specialties; society needs these specialties. Here, then, in a new sense is a need for cooperation if our society is to function. Prejudices and intolerances, whether between professions, or races, or economic groups, become a supreme social hazard. The desire to work together for the common good becomes the supreme virtue in a society of scientific specialists."

Ralph Coghlan, editor of the editorial page, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch,* also spoke in a humorous and intimate fashion, pointing out that although the press has so often mutilated scientific theory, misrepresented it, and often unduly raised the hopes of people by prematurely announcing cures of deadly diseases, scientists themselves are responsible for this state of affairs, having lived too long in ivory towers and enjoyed to the full their intellectual snobbery.

Dr. Anton Carlson presented the medals, saying that, however good science writing is now, much remains to be done, as witnessed by scientifically stupid, ignorant actions on the part of the public.

A Microbiological Section of the Botanical Society of America, Inc., was established at the St. Louis meeting of the Society. The Microbiological Section will be comprehensive in scope and organization and includes mycologists, plant physiologists and biochemists interested in microorganisms, pathologists, algologists, protozoologists, bacteriologists, medical mycologists, and students of antibiotics. It will, accordingly, provide the organization and outlet for publication for research workers on microorganisms.

Following organization of the Microbiological Section at St. Louis, a program on microbiology was presented on the afternoon of 28 March. Dr. Paul R. Burkholder, of Yale University, and Dr. Kenneth B. Raper, of the Northern Regional Research Laboratory, Peoria, Illinois, were elected chairman and secretary, respectively, of the Microbiological Section. The new Section was organized in view of the growing importance of microorganisms in the production of antibiotics and in general botanical, bacteriological, and industrial research.

The Editorial Board of the American Journal of Botany announces the election of Prof. Bernard S. Meyer as editor-in-chief to succeed Dr. Ralph E. Cleland. Dr. Meyer assumed his duties on 22 March. All manuscripts and correspondence relating to editorial matters should be addressed to Prof. Bernard S. Meyer, Botany Department, Ohio State University, Columbus 10, Ohio.

The Central Institute for the Deaf in St. Louis and the Harvard University Psycho-Acoustic and Electro-Acoustic Laboratories, operating under OSRD, have devised new methods of testing the degree of deafness of returning veterans with impaired hearing. All of the currently approved commercial hearing aids, 14 in number, were tested.

With the assistance of conscientious objectors and of volunteers who are themselves hard of hearing, tests were conducted over a period of two years to find out more about how the partially deafened ear really works and to measure the loudest sound which both the normal and deafened subject can tolerate with comfort.

Differences in the performance among hearing aids proved to be much less than had been anticipated, but since hearing aids are devices to which persons become accustomed, individual preferences do have to be reckoned with.

The scientific program, known as the Hearing-Aid Project, was established with the assistance of Col. M. R. Mobley, later awarded the Legion of Merit, in close liaison with military hospitals where soldiers and sailors with impaired hearing were diagnosed and fitted with hearing aids.

The Central Institute for the Deaf planned and assembled equipment for military hospitals, suitable for testing impairment of hearing and selection of the hearing aid best suited to each patient.

Apparatus for the tests were installed at the Deshon General Hospital, Butler, Pennsylvania; the Borden General Hospital, Chickasha, Oklahoma; the Hoff General Hospital, Santa Barbara, California; and the U. S. Naval Hospital, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

New methods of testing developed at Harvard's Psycho-Acoustic Laboratory under direction of Hallowell Davis, associate professor of physiology, who now has become the new research director of the Central Institute for the Deaf, are based on the ability to hear and understand speech. They supplement the familiar test of hearing by the audiometer, which employs relatively pure tones.

By these new methods, carefully chosen lists of words or sentences are delivered by earphones or loudspeaker in an acoustically treated, sound-proof room. Loudness is measured and regulated electrically. Tests have been standardized by the use of phonographic recordings or by training technicians to speak in standard manner into a microphone. A standard noise can be added electrically if desired.

To provide basic information for the design of hearing aids, the Central Institute for the Deaf determined the limits of tolerance for normal and for hard-of-hearing ears.

It has been suggested in recent years that a hearing aid should fit, *i.e.* compensate in detail for each patient's individual hearing loss, much as a pair of eyeglasses is prepared by individual prescription. In these experiments, however, for all types of hearing loss, better results were obtained with an instrument which provided high fidelity amplification over an adequate range of frequencies rather than selective amplification. The ideal hearing aid should deliver speech at the maximum necessary loudness with a minimum of distortion.

Six graduate teaching and research assistantships are offered by the Department of Zoology of the Graduate School and the College of Liberal Arts of Syracuse University. The duties consist of half-time work largely in undergraduate teaching, and in some cases in assisting in experimental research projects. It is expected that the remaining portion of the student's time will be spent in graduate study in the Department of Zoology and allied departments leading to the M.A. degree (two years) or Ph.D. Thesis work leading to advanced degrees may be taken in the following fields: invertebrate zoology, vertebrate zoology, general physiology, vertebrate physiology, endocrinology, cytology, protobiology, and parasitology.

These appointments, open to graduates with high scholastic records from any accredited university or college, are made for two terms during the year 1946–47. The assistantships carry a stipend of $1,000 each for the year except in the case of veterans qualifying under the G. I. Bill of Rights, who will receive $800, since tuition in these cases is provided by the Government. Assistance during the summer term or summer session carries an extra stipend.

Application blanks may be obtained from: Dr. R. D. Manwell, secretary, Department of Zoology, Lyman Hall, Syracuse University, Syrause 10, New York.

Formation of the Soil Conservation Society of America, a professional organization for workers in that and allied fields, is announced by J. H. Christ, of Portland, Oregon, national secretary-treasurer. Ralph H. Musser, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, is president of the society that enrolled 1,500 members in 1945, the year it began to function. A. E. McClymonds, of Lincoln, Nebraska, is vice-president.

The society was organized to "promote and advance all phases of the science of conservation of soil and water resources; to provide a medium for exchange of facts, experience, and thought; and to present, advance, and protect the standards of the science of soil and water conservation." Dr. Hugh H. Bennett, of Washington, D. C., chief of the Soil Conservation Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, is founder of the society.

Plans have been made to publish a quarterly journal, beginning in the last half of 1946. The annual dues are $3.00; the address of the secretary-treasurer, P. O. Box 671, Portland 7, Oregon.

The following statement was unanimously adopted at a membership meeting of the Philadelphia Branch of the American Association of Scientific Workers, 2303 Delancey Place, Philadelphia 3, Pennsylvania, on 28 February 1946:

The current spy scare confirms the repeated contention that surrounding atomic energy in a veil of secrecy hampers freedom of research and even threatens world peace.

Scientists have repeatedly emphasized that atomic research cannot be kept secret. However, the illusion of secrecy that prevails at this time inevitably produces an atmosphere of intrigue, rumor-mongering, and distrust among nations. Thus, the Canadian accusations, magnified by the press, have alarmingly strained normal relations between Canada and the Soviet Union. Critical incidents of this sort will continue until all the facts about the making of atom bombs are in the hands of the Security Council of the UNO, where this knowledge can be used by all nations harmoniously, in the interest of peace.

Scientists particularly should note the fact that members of the National Research Council of Canada were among those accused in the spy episode. One is made aware that no laboratory will be inviolate if hysteria about "atomic secrets" is allowed free rein. This

danger was dramatically brought home to us in America when General Groves made the outrageous charge that "atomic secrets" had leaked out through the testimony of scientists favoring the McMahon Bill, which provides for civilian control of atomic research. Scientists resent this slur on their integrity and will fight any attempt to intimidate them and prevent them from taking their rightful place in the discussion on control of atomic energy.

We suggest that scientists, and others who are concerned to see the discovery of atomic energy perverted into channels which hinder progress rather than furthering it, do the following:

1. Write President Truman and Secretary of State Byrnes urging that international tensions surrounding the question of the use of atomic power be ended by the *immediate* turning over of all information on the subject to the Security Council of the UNO.

2. Write Senator McMahon in support of his bill, S. 1717, because it would allow the freest expansion of research in nuclear physics.

The four hundred fourteenth meeting of the American Mathematical Society was held at Columbia University on Saturday, 23 February 1946.

The Association for Symbolic Logic also met on 23 February 1946 at Columbia University.

Meetings

The National Academy of Sciences will hold its annual meeting on 22, 23, and 24 April in Washington, D. C. Sessions for the presentation of invited scientific papers will be held in the auditorium of the New National Museum and will be open to the public. The program follows:

Monday, 10:00 A.M.–12:30 P.M.—"Establishment and Activities of USN Medical Research Unit No. 2 in the Pacific": T. M. Rivers, Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research; "Antimalaria Compounds": C. S. Marvel, University of Illinois; "The Study of the Antimalarial Activity in the Human": J. S. Shannon, Goldwater Memorial Hospital; "Antibiotics With Special Reference to Streptomycin": S. A. Waksman, Agricultural Experiment Station, New Brunswick; "Penicillin and Syphilis": J. E. Moore, Johns Hopkins University; "Insecticidal Action and Chemical Composition of Organic Compounds": A. L. Haller, U. S. Department of Agriculture; "Submarine Propagation of Sound Waves": M. E. Ewing, Columbia University.

Monday, 2:00 P.M.–5:00 P.M.—"Screening and Toxic Smokes": W. H. Rodebush, University of Illinois; "Catalytic Cracking of Petroleum Oils": W. K. Lewis, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; "Chemistry in Germany Today": Roger Adams, University of Illinois; "Explosives in World War II": C. B. Kistiakowsky, Harvard University; "The Mechanism of the Emulsion Polymerization of Rubber and Other Polymers": W. D. Harkins, University of Chicago; "Recent Developments in Meteorological Equipment": A. F. Spilhaus, New York University; "Waves and Vortices in the Atmosphere": J. Bjerknes, University of California, Los Angeles; "Progress in the AAF Toward the Development of a Science of the Use of Human Resources": Col. J. C. Flanagan, AAF; "Inequalities in Adult Capacity—From Military Data": W. V. Bingham, War Department.

Monday, 8:30 P.M.—"Science in the Framework of International Policy": Isaiah Bowman, president, Johns Hopkins University.

Tuesday, 10:00 A.M.–12:30 P.M.—"Jet Propulsion": J. C. Hunsaker, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; "Some Recent Advances in Aerodynamics": H. L. Dryden, National Bureau of Standards; "The Radio Proximity Fuse": M. A. Tuve, Carnegie Institution of Washington; "Microwave Radar": L. A. DuBridge, University of Rochester; "Physical Properties of Microwaves": I. I. Rabi, Columbia University; "Developments in Photogrammetry During World War II": Gerald Fitzgerald, U. S. Geological Survey; "Some War-accelerated Communication Developments": O. E. Buckley, Bell Telephone Laboratories.

The American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists will hold its Twenty-sixth Annual Meeting (the first since 1942) at Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 16–18 April 1946. The annual banquet will be held on Wednesday, 17 April, at which time Karl P. Schmidt, chief curator of zoology, Chicago Natural History Museum, will give a presidential address on "The New Systematics, the New Anatomy, and the New Natural History."

Three members of the Society have generously provided funds for prize awards for noteworthy papers read by junior members, at both the Annual and Western Division meetings of the Society. First and second prizes of $25 and $15 in both ichthyology (including fisheries biology) and herpetology are offered, the awards to be granted only if papers of suitably high quality are presented.

The thirteenth E. Starr Judd lecture will be given by Dr. Samuel C. Harvey, William H. Carmalt professor of surgery at Yale University, on Monday evening, 15 April at 8:15 in the Medical Science Amphitheater, University of Minnesota. Dr. Harvey's subject will be: "The Healing of the Wound."