NEWS and Notes

President Truman's Thanksgiving Day Proclamation—"As the traditional day of Thanksgiving approaches, our thoughts incline, as in previous years, to the richness of our blessings. The spiritual endowments of our country are undiminished; we may, as always, walk as free men unafraid. Our harvests have been bountiful, our production of goods abundant. Our resources have permitted us to aid the needy and helpless of other lands.

"We are privileged to participate in international efforts to advance human welfare. We are profoundly grateful for the existence of an international forum where differences among nations may be submitted to world opinion with a view to harmonious adjustment.

"We pray this year not only in the spirit of thanksgiving but also as suppliants for wisdom in our approach to the problems confronting this nation. Believing in the dignity of man and his right to live in freedom and peace, we ask divine guidance in helping to safeguard these gifts for ourselves and other peoples of the earth.

Now, therefore I, Harry S. Truman, President of the United States of America, in consonance with the joint resolution of Congress approved December 26, 1941, designating the fourth Thursday of November in each year as Thanksgiving Day, do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 25, 1948, as a day of national thanksgiving; and I call upon our citizens to observe that day by giving thanks to Almighty God for the bounties which have been bestowed upon our nation and by resolving to render generous assistance to the hungry and homeless in other lands, thus renewing our devotion to the cause of good-will among men."

About People

Frans Verdoorn, managing editor of *Chronica Botanica,* has assumed his new duties as director of the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum at Arcadia, California. The 117-acre Arboretum is operated by the California Arboretum Foundation, Inc., a nonprofit organization which is planning the development of a modern arboretum and botanical garden with various research and educational departments. Dr. Verdoorn will continue to edit *Chronica Botanica* and related serials.

Arthur F. Hooper, formerly of Northwestern University, and **William Hovanitz,** formerly of the University of Michigan staff, were recently appointed assistant professors in the Biology Department at Wayne University.

Albert F. Blakeslee, of the Genetics Experiment Station, Smith College, is also serving as visiting lecturer at Harvard University during the current semester. Dr. Blakeslee is giving the course in genetics.

Paul C. Cross, chairman of the Department of Chemistry, Brown University, has been appointed head of the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering at the University of Washington, Seattle. His appointment will become effective July 1, 1949.

Edward H. Berger, chemist and authority on asphalts, tars, and pitches, has been awarded the honorary D.Sc. degree by Franklin and Marshall College. The industrial scientist is an honor graduate of the College, Class of 1915.

Arthur F. Coca, editor of the *Journal of Immunology* since it was founded in 1916, has resigned and will now serve as associate editor. His successor is **Geoffrey Edsall,** director of the Antitoxin and Vaccine Laboratory of the State of Massachusetts.

Edwin A. Lawrence has been named professor of surgery (oncology) and director of the Cancer Teaching Program in the College of Medicine, University of Utah. Dr. Lawrence, who has been in private practice in Salt Lake City, was formerly director of the Tumor Clinic at Yale University.

John A. Toomey, director of the Contagious Disease Department, Cleveland City Hospital, and professor of clinical pediatrics and contagious diseases at Western Reserve University School of Medicine, is on sabbatical leave. He is replaced by **Morris Schaeffer,** who is acting director of the Department and assistant professor of pediatrics at Western Reserve.

Paul J. Flory, who has been in charge of fundamental research at the Goodyear Research Laboratory in Akron, Ohio, since 1943, has joined the Cornell University staff as professor of chemistry.

Russell S. Poor, dean of the Graduate School of Alabama Polytechnic Institute, will join the Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies about January 1 as chairman of the University Relations Division. In this post Dean Poor will be in charge of the graduate training and research participation programs, two of the Institute's most important activities.

O. Wilford Olsen, formerly parasitologist with the U. S. Bureau of Animal Investigations, has been appointed professor and head of the new Department of Zoology, Colorado A & M College, Fort Collins. Joining Dr. Olsen on the staff are **Tylar A. Woolley,** formerly of Ohio State University, and **Richard G. Beidleman,** formerly of the University of Colorado, both of whom have been made assistant professors.

Grants and Awards

The Sterling-Winthrop Research Institute, together with Winthrop-Stearns, Inc., has awarded a total of 52 grants-in-aid, valued at $159,644, so far this year. According to a joint announcement by Maurice L. Tainter, director of the Institute, and Justus B. Rice, vice-president in charge of medical research, Winthrop-Stearns, 24 of the grants were awarded to universities, medical schools, and colleges, with the balance going to clinics, hospitals, institutes, research foundations, and individuals. The general grants are supporting investigations and training in therapeutics, pharmacology, neurosurgery, internal medicine, organic chemistry, and related fields. Specific grants were awarded for research in such subjects as antisepsis, anesthesia, chemotherapy, metabolism, antimalarials, asthma, treatment of heart conditions, etc.

Illinois Institute of Technology has received two research grants from the Research Corporation of New York. Samuel Siegel, assistant professor of chemistry, was granted $4,000 for his research on stereochemistry of displacement reaction, and August J. Durelli, research engineer of the Armour Research Foundation, $2,500 for his research on brittle material method of experimental stress analysis.

Kenneth M. Watson, engineering consultant and professor of chemical engineering at the University of Wisconsin, is the recipient of the 1948 William H. Walker Award of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. The award was made to Dr. Watson during the recent annual meeting of the Institute for his many important publications in the chemical engineering field.

The new betatron project at the University of Illinois College of Medicine (see *Science,* June 25, p. 676) will be implemented by a grant of $20,000 just awarded by the American Cancer Society, Inc., to the College. The grant is to be used for the purchase and manufacture of accessory instruments required for accurate operation of the 20,000,000-volt betatron. Its delivery to the University this month will mark the world's first installation of this type of machine for cancer treatment and research.

Nine grants totaling $82,688 in support of laboratory and clinical research in cancer have just been approved by the U S. Public Health Service. These go to: the University of San Francisco, $3,272 for the synthesis and microbiological evaluation of amino acid analogues; Michael Reese Hospital, Chicago, $12,000 for study of nutritional factors in the origin and growth of tumors; the University of Illinois, $11,448 for study of the formation of jaw tumors in a known strain of rats; Indiana University, $7,560 for a study of factors influencing abnormal development in mammals; Tulane University, $18,576 for a study of the relationship of hormones to neoplasia; Smith College, $4,752 for studies of tumors in plant embryos; the University of Missouri, $10,000 for work in skin cancer in mice and men; the University of Virginia, $11,880 for studies of blood in cancer patients; and the University of Wyoming, $3,200 for work on the effect of deuteron bombardment on the chemical composition and carcinogenicity of organic compounds.

The Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, announced on November 10 the awarding of the third Mary Soper Pope Medal to William Vogt, chief of the Conservation Section, Pan American Union, for his important studies of populations and natural resources of Latin-American countries and for his best-selling book, *Road to survival.* The Medal is given for noteworthy and distinguished accomplishment in plant science without restriction as to field of plant science and without limitation as to the geographic position, nationality, race, creed, or position of the recipient. In awarding the Medal for distinguished accomplishment in plant science to an ecologist who is most widely known as an ornithologist, the Institute has announced that it is in no manner violating the purposes of the donor of the Medal. It is, rather, "recognizing Mr. Vogt's own thesis, that the renewable natural resources—the forests and the grasslands, the soils, the waters on the land, wildlife, and human well-being—are inextricable strands of one whole natural fabric."

Colleges and Universities

The Laboratory for Nuclear Science and Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has begun construction of a 12,000,000-volt electrostatic generator to bombard the nuclei of atoms at voltages several times higher than those produced by existing machines of its type. According to Dean George R. Harrison, atomic particles accelerated in the new generator will have sufficient energy to penetrate and break up even the heaviest atomic nuclei. A unique feature of the machine is that the energy of these fast-moving electrified particles will be readily variable from zero to maximum voltage to cover a wide range of experimental requirements. An outgrowth of the original generator designed in 1933 by Robert J. Van de Graaff, of the Institute's Department of Physics, the new machine has been developed largely through the researches of John G. Trump and his associates in the Department of Electrical Engineering.

In addition to nuclear research, the new generator will be used for studying the biological effects of high-energy radiation on living and non-living matter. These studies may include the effects of radiations in inactivating bacteria, viruses, and enzymes, as well as their use in treating malignancies.

A new publication of the Division of Science at Iowa State College made its appearance early this month. *The Iowa State Scientist,* which is edited and produced by students in the Division, presents a popularized version of science.

The Detroit Institute for Cancer Research has become formally affiliated with the College of Medicine, Wayne University, according to a recent joint announcement. Appointments to the scientific staff of the Institute will be made upon recommendation of its scientific director, together with the endorsement of the University faculty. The dean of the College, or his representative, will be a member of the executive committee of the board of trustees of the Institute; and the scientific director of the Institute, or his representative, will be a member of the administrative committee of the College. Officials of the two institutions hope that the new affiliation will bring national support on a wider basis than was before possible. Each agency will, in addition, have greater resources in terms of personnel and equipment on which to draw.

Meetings and Elections

The Sixth Annual Plains Archaeological Conference will be held November 25–27 in the University of Nebraska Laboratory of Anthropology. The November 25 program will include a roundup of archaeological investigations in the Central Plains during the past year, a report on the activities of the Missouri Valley River Basin Survey of the Smithsonian Institution by W. R. Wedel, and a report of the Committee on Pottery Typology by A. C. Spaulding, University of Michigan,

and J. D. Jennings, University of Utah. The session on the 26th will be devoted to aspects of evidences of climatic change during postglacial times, with W. D. Strong, Columbia University, acting as chairman. Ernst Antevs, Carnegie Institution, Paul B. Sears, Oberlin College, and Fred Eggan, University of Chicago, will present papers. The November 27 morning sesison with discussions of climate, environment, and culture will be under the chairmanship of Dr. Wedel. G. F. Will, of Bismarck, North Dakota, H. E. Weakly, of the U. S. Field Station, Newell, South Dakota, and H. M. Wormington, of the Colorado Museum of Natural History, Denver, will present papers. The afternoon session will feature a special round-table discussion on climate and the age of various Plains culture horizons, with F. H. H. Roberts, Jr., Bureau of American Ethnology, Smithsonian Institution, acting as chairman.

At the meeting of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, to be held in New York City November 28–December 5 (see *Science*, October 29, p. 469), Section M (Engineering) of the AAAS will sponsor jointly with the ASME the following programs: November 29, 8: 15 P. M., Applied Mechanics III; November 30, 9: 30 A. M., Heat Transfer IV and 2: 30 P. M., Heat Transfer V; December 1, 9: 30 A. M., Heat Transfer VI and 2: 30 P. M., Applied Mechanics VIII; December 2, 9: 30 A. M., Applied Mechanics IX and 2: 30 P. M., Aviation III; December 3, 9: 30 A. M., Properties of Gases I.

Stanley S. Ballard, chairman of the Department of Physics at Tufts College, was elected a vice-president of the International Commission of Optics (an affiliate of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics) at the ICO meeting held in Delft, Holland, in July.

The 16th annual meeting of the ACFAS (Association canadienne-française pour l'Avancement des Sciences) was held October 10–11, in Quebec City, Canada. Lionel Lemay, general secretary, reports that papers were presented in the Physics, Chemistry, Geology, General Biology, Ecology, Botany, Agronomy, Entomology, Psychology, Geography, and History Sections. A symposium was held on the coordination of the scientific training between French-Canadian colleges and universities, a report of which will be published shortly. Léon Lortie, professor of chemistry and of the history of science, University of Montreal, was elected president; Lionel Daviault, director of the Provincial Laboratory of Entomology, Quebec, and Ignace Brouillet, director of the Ecole Polytechnique, Montreal, 1st and 2nd vice-presidents, respectively; and Lionel Lemay, professor of chemistry, University of Montreal, general secretary.

The Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences on October 21 elected its officers for the year 1948–49. They are: E. R. Goodenough, president; G. H. Hamilton, V. L. Loosanoff, anr H. Margenau, vice-presidents; Dorothea Rudnick, secretary; L. G. Tighe, treasurer; and J. T. Babb, librarian. Offices of the Academy are at 701 Sterling Tower, Yale University.

NRC News

Fellowships in the Medical Sciences, similar to those which have been administered by the Medical Fellowship Board of the National Research Council since 1922, will again be available for the year 1949–50. Supported by grants from the Rockefeller Foundation to the NRC, they are designed to provide opportunities for training and experience in research in all branches of medical science. They are open to citizens of the United States or Canada who possess an M.D. or a Ph.D. degree and are intended for recent graduates who are not yet professionally established.

In addition, the Medical Fellowship Board administers two groups of research fellowships, made available through a grant from the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, Inc. The first group, open to applicants who hold either the Ph.D. or M.D. degree, is for the purpose of providing opportunities for special training and experience in the study of virus diseases. The second group, open only to graduates in medicine who have completed one or more years of hospital experience in clinical surgery and are planning a career in orthopedic surgery, is designed to provide opportunities for training and research in those basic medical sciences which will be of particular value in furthering progress in the field of orthopedic surgery.

A series of fellowships in anesthesiology, established through a grant from the American Society of Anesthesiologists, are offered with a view to fostering a closer union between the clinical practice of anesthesiology and the fundamental disciplines on which anesthesia rests. Applicants must hold the M.D. degree and must have completed one or more years of hospital experience as intern or resident.

The Medical Fellowship Board has also under its jurisdiction a number of fellowships of senior grade in internal medicine (Welch Fellowships), epidemiology, clinical neurology, orthopedic surgery, pediatrics, and virus diseases, for individuals of proven research ability.

Fellows will be appointed at a meeting of the Medical Fellowship Board early in March 1949. Applications to receive consideration at this meeting must be filed on or before December 1, 1948. Appointments may begin on any date determined by the Board.

For further particulars concerning these fellowships, address the Secretary of the Medical Fellowship Board, National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington 25, D. C.

AEC Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in the Medical Sciences will also be available for the year 1949–50. These fellowships, administered for the Atomic Energy Commission by the National Research Council, are designed to provide advanced basic training and research experience for men and women entering upon careers in fields related to atomic energy. Any field of the medical sciences in which nuclear phenomena are involved is open to applicants.

A fellow must be a citizen of the United States and under 35 years of age at the time of appointment. He or she must have had training in some branch of the biological or medical sciences equivalent to that represented by the M.D. or Ph.D. degree and must have demonstrated ability for research. To be eligible for these awards, physi-

cians must have completed at least one year of internship. In exceptional cases, work equivalent, in the opinion of the Board, to that of an internship may be accepted as fulfilling this requirement.

Fellows will be appointed at a meeting of the AEC Postdoctoral Fellowship Board in the Medical Sciences in March 1949. Applications to receive consideration at this meeting must be filed on or before December 1, 1948. Appointments may begin on any date determined by the Board.

Further particulars may be obtained from the AEC Postdoctoral Fellowship Board in the Medical Sciences, National Research Council.

Deaths

William Gerard Beckers, 74, manufacturing chemist, died in his New York City home November 3. Dr. Beckers founded the Beckers' Aniline and Chemical Works, a forerunner of the National Aniline and Chemical Company, Inc. Later National Aniline became a division of the Allied Chemical and Dye Corporation, for which Dr. Beckers acted as a director until his death.

William Harvey Emmons, 71, professor emeritus of geology and mineralogy at the University of Minnesota, died November 5 at his home in Minneapolis. Dr. Emmons served as head of the Department as well as director of the Minnesota Geological Survey from 1911 until his retirement in 1944. In addition, he had served as associate editor for the *Journal of Geology.*

E. W. Lindstrom, 57, head of the Genetics Department of Iowa State College as well as of the Genetics Section of the Agricultural Experiment Station, died November 8 in Ames.

A new method of seismic exploration to aid in locating underground petroleum reserves has recently been announced by the Institute of Inventive Research, San Antonio, Texas. It is expected that the new method, now being developed under the Institute's sponsorship by T. C. Poulter, associate director of the Stanford Research Institute and widely known geophysicist, will speed up the search for oil deposits by eliminating drilled shot holes and at the same time greatly reduce exploration costs. In the Poulter procedure the charges in the explosive pattern are set on stakes in a hexagonal design close to the ground and exploded simultaneously, one of the charges being in the center. The shaped charges used are based on the "Munroe Effect," established by Prof. C. E. Munroe in 1888. Dr. Poulter first conceived the idea while conducting experiments in the Antarctic during the Byrd Expedition of 1933–35, on which he served as senior scientific adviser. The Poulter Method is reported to produce the same or, in many instances, better seismic records than present procedures and employs the identical seismic recording equipment now generally in use. This week's cover depicts a night explosion of a 13-charge detonation covering a 120-foot area.

The American Statistical Association, with offices at 1603 K Street, N.W., Washington, D. C., has announced the appointment of a Commission on Statistical Standards and Organization. The functions of the Commission will be to provide a tribunal to render opinions and recommendations on controversial issues relating to statistical procedure and presentation of statistical material, to develop a list of minimum standards for published statistical materials, and, upon request from governmental bodies, to review actual or proposed undertakings and make recommendations relative to standards.

Members of the new Commission include Lowell J. Reed, Johns Hopkins University, and Samuel S. Wilks, Princeton University (both for one-year terms); Isador Lubin, U. S. member of the Economic and Unemployment Commission, UN Economic and Social Council, and F. W. Notestein, Princeton University (two years); Frederick E. Croxton, Columbia University, and Walter A. Shewhart, Bell Telephone Laboratories (three years).

Excerpta Medica, the important new international abstracting service giving comprehensive coverage, in English, of the clinical and experimental medical fields, has announced that all sections of the service are now appearing regularly. At present, the service in undergoing a reorganization as a foundation, in cooperation with the original Dutch publishing houses. The Chief Editorial Board, which plans the general medical direction of *Excerpta Medica,* includes: M. W. Woerdeman, fellow and secretary of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Science as well as professor of anatomy and embryology; A. P. H. A. de Kleyn, professor of oto-rhino-laryngology and also a fellow of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Science; and W. P. C. Zeeman, professor of oto-rhino-laryngology. At present over 4,000 specialists are cooperating in the work. The Williams & Wilkins Company of Baltimore, Maryland, acts as sole agent for the service in the U. S., Canada, and Central America.

The National Registry of Rare Chemicals, 35 West 33rd Street, Chicago 16, Illinois, recently announced that it is currently interested in obtaining: cyanin chloride; ketipinic acid; gulose; fenchyl alcohol; protocatechualdehyde butyl ether; 2-fluoroethyl bromide; lactic dehydrogenase; acetyl thiocholine chloride, bromide, or iodide; 3,3,3-trichloropropionic acid; thiocarbonyl fluoride; sodium camphocarbonate; phosphorous trifluoride; dimethyl strontium; diethylbromo gold; cuprous fluoride; chlorotrifluorogermane; capsaicine; 1-camphor; 2-bromo-1,1,1-trifluoropropane; 1-naphthol-2,4-disulfonic acid; fluorogermane; and mesobilirubinogen.

Make Plans for—

American Mathématical Society, November 27, Los Angeles, California.

American Society of Mechanical Engineers, 69th annual meeting, November 28–December 3, Hotel Pennsylvania, New York City.

Conference on Electronic Instrumentation in Nucleonics and Medicine sponsored by the Institute of Radio Engineers and American Institute of Electrical Engineers, November 29–December 1, New York City.

American Medical Association, interim session, November 30–December 3, St. Louis, Missouri.

American Academy of Dental Medicine, annual midwinter meeting, December 5, Hotel Pennsylvania, New York City.