

meeting was "Organization for Research," in which he developed the idea of scientific research as a public service, not only in time of war but in time of peace as well, using the University of Wisconsin as an example of a state university functioning as a great public service institution through research work for the public good. He further showed how the modern state university is distinguished from the academy, the earlier type of educational institution, from the college, the modern institution which has replaced the academy in the matter of instruction, and from the modern endowed university, by the enlarged program of research for the public good which distinguishes the state university. Dr. Jones suggested as a means of fulfilling this public trust at state institutions the organization of "research committees" and "faculty subject groups" which are formed without regard to collegiate divisions. These are definite means of promulgating throughout the institution the relative importance of research as compared with other lines of activity and of emphasizing research as a much needed form of public service.

At the meeting it was voted by the members to petition the national council for a charter to form a local branch to be known as the Pennsylvania State College Branch of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The purpose of the organization is to promote and stimulate research in the institution.

SIGMA XI LECTURES AT YALE UNIVERSITY

At a meeting on November 8 of the Yale Chapter of the Society of Sigma Xi, which was addressed by President James R. Angell of the University, announcement was made of a series of lectures to be given under the auspices of the Yale Chapter on the general topic of "The evolution of man." The lecturers and their subjects are considered of such general interest that it has been decided to hold the series this year in Lampson Lyceum, and to invite the public to attend the lectures without charge.

The first lecture of the series will be given on the evening of December 2, on "The antiquity of man," by Professor Richard S. Lull of the university faculty. The following are the subjects of the succeeding four lectures, which will continue through the month of March:

The natural history of man—Professor H. B. Ferris.

The evolution of the nervous system of man—Professor G. H. Parker.

Societal evolution—Professor A. G. Keller.

The direction of evolution—Professor Edwin G. Conklin.

It is expected that the 1921-22 lectures under the auspices of the Society of Sigma Xi will, as in the past, be published by the Yale University Press.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

As a memorial to the late Edward C. Pickering, for forty-two years director of the Harvard College Observatory, it is proposed to erect near Cambridge an astronomical observatory, whose work will be largely concerned with the study of variable stars.

DR. HARVEY CUSHING, of Harvard University and the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, was elected president of the American College of Surgeons at its recent meeting in Philadelphia.

THE Franklin Institute of Pennsylvania has awarded its Howard N. Potts gold medal to Dr. E. V. McCollum, professor of chemical hygiene in the School of Hygiene and Public Health of the Johns Hopkins University. The medal is awarded "for distinguished work in science or the mechanic arts," and was presented by the institute in recognition of a lecture on "Nutrition and physical efficiency," delivered before its members in 1920.

SIR J. J. THOMSON succeeds Sir Richard Glazebrook as president of the Institute of Physics, London.

THE Royal Society of Edinburgh has elected as president Professor F. O. Bower. The vice-presidents are Sir G. A. Berry, Professor W. Peddie, Sir J. A. Ewing, Professor J. W.