

which you, Mr. Weber, and the writer had when you were last here, on February 28th, that we would let you know before the 21st of this month our conclusion as to availing ourselves of the American Chemical Society's good offices in connection with the administration of our proposed award for outstanding accomplishment in the field of chemistry, first called to your attention a year ago last September.

As you know, we have had in mind from the outset that, in view of the society's mutual interest with us in the encouragement and reward of unusual technical achievement in the science of chemistry, the society's active cooperation in connection with our contribution to that end would be helpful. We face the fact, however, that, in the rather long course of our approaches toward such cooperation, your own splendidly earnest and understanding work as the society's representative has, unfortunately, not resulted, as we had hoped, in the society's formulation of a plan of administration which could appropriately be put into effect; and, being anxious to have the award made effective as promptly as practicable, we have concluded that, under the circumstances, this can best be accomplished by withdrawing our original suggestion to you that the society share with us the responsibility of creating the method of procedure and organization for administration thereof.

Please, therefore, accept this letter as such withdrawal, and at the same time rest well assured of our thorough appreciation of your most generous and conscientious efforts in the matter.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) WM. H. NICHOLS, *Chairman*

DR. EDGAR F. SMITH, PRESIDENT,  
American Chemical Society,  
Care of University of Pennsylvania,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

TO THE PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL OF THE  
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY:

Your committee appointed last September to consider the status of the prize offered to the American Chemical Society by the Allied Chemical and Dye Corporation begs to submit the following recommendation:

In consultation with the officials of the Allied Chemical and Dye Corporation, we have found that this corporation no longer desires the cooperation of the American Chemical Society in the administration of the prize which they have recently announced. That being the case, we suggest that the American Chemical Society should pass a vote relinquishing the acceptance of the administration of this prize. At the same time we hope that the society will express deep appreciation of the purpose of the corporation in establishing a prize intended to redound to the good of chemistry in America and to the welfare of American chemists.

CHARLES F. CHANDLER,  
IRA REMSEN,  
THEODORE W. RICHARDS,  
FRANCIS P. VENABLE,  
EDGAR F. SMITH, *Chairman*

April 19, 1924

THE SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES OF THE UNITED STATES

THE Seventeenth Annual Conference on the Weights and Measures of the United States was held at the Bureau of Standards May 26, 27, 28 and 29. The attendance numbered about 175, of whom 100 were weights and measures officials, and the remainder manufacturers, railroad officials and others interested in weights and measures work. A number of matters were considered, among them that of the uniform marking and filling of milk bottles, specifications and tolerances for vehicle tanks used for measuring such materials as gasoline, and standards for bread loaves.

Resolutions of appreciation and a gold medallion were presented to Dr. S. W. Stratton, former director of the Bureau of Standards, and president of the conference, and now its honorary president.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: *President*, George K. Burgess, of the Bureau of Standards; *first vice-president*, I. L. Miller, of Indiana; *second vice-president*, Thomas F. Egan, of Connecticut; *secretary*, F. S. Holbrook, of the Bureau of Standards; *treasurer*, George F. Austin, of Detroit, Michigan.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

SIR WILLIAM J. POPE, professor of chemistry in the University of Cambridge, has been elected a corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences of the Institut de France.

THE Royal Academy of Sciences, of Bologne, has awarded the international prize in physiology to Professor Otto Loewi, of the University of Graz, for his work on the innervation of the heart.

THE gold medal of the Royal Astronomical Society has been awarded by the council to Professor A. S. Eddington and was presented at the meeting of the society on June 13.

PROFESSOR R. A. MILLIKAN, of the California Institute of Technology, delivered the Faraday lecture given in connection with the chemical societies, London, on June 12, his subject being "Atomism in modern physics." Afterward Dr. Millikan was presented with a medal bearing the effigy of Faraday which had been especially made to commemorate the occasion.

DR. SHIRO TASHIRO, an associate professor of biochemistry in the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, will leave soon for Japan to receive the Gakushiin prize from the Imperial Academy of Arts and Sciences. The bestowal of this prize in Japan is considered a national event.

THE degree of doctor of science has been conferred on Maximilian Toch, of New York, by the Peking University, at the instance of the Chinese government. This is the second time Dr. Toch has been honored by that government, at whose invitation Dr. Toch is lecturing in China.

THE University of Maine conferred the honorary degree of doctor of science on Dr. Francis G. Benedict, director of the Nutrition Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution, where he made the commencement address in June.

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY has conferred the degree of LL.D. on Professor Michael Pupin, of Columbia University.

THE Case School of Applied Science has conferred on Dr. George K. Burgess, director of the Bureau of Standards, the honorary degree of doctor of engineering.

It is announced that next week Oxford University will confer the honorary degree of D.Sc. on Sir Humphry D. Rolleston, M.D., president of the Royal College of Physicians of London.

THE Buenos Aires Spanish Culture Institution, a society organized to further scientific research through granting awards, has granted to Ramón y Cajal its first prize this year. The money awarded included interest on funds collected in Argentina on Cajal's retirement and amounted to 32,759 pesetas (about \$4,400). The University of Paris has also appointed Dr. Cajal an honorary physician.

WILSON POPENOE, agricultural explorer of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, has been awarded the silver medal of the Société Nationale d'Acclimatation de France, in recognition of his work on the botany and culture of tropical economic plants.

DR. ADOLF LORENZ, the noted Austrian surgeon, celebrated his seventieth birthday on June 8. A life-sized plaque was unveiled in the general hospital in Vienna, to commemorate his achievements.

DR. WILLIAM H. BROWN, professor and head of the department of botany of the University of the Philippines, has been appointed director of the Bureau of Science at Manila, to succeed E. D. Merrill, who is now dean of the college of agriculture of the University of California.

DR. CHARLES SHEARD has accepted the position of chief of the section of physics and biophysical research at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn. He was the first professor and director of the work in applied optics at the Ohio State University.

THOMAS A. JAMES, curator of the State of Maine Museum and state ornithologist, has been appointed

assistant in ornithology and preparator in the Peabody Museum for the next academic year.

THE governor of New York state has announced the appointment of Dr. Frederick Fuller Russell, of Brooklyn, as a member of the Public Health Council to take the place of the late Dr. T. Mitchell Prudden.

ALEXANDER JAY WURTS, research professor of electrical engineering at the Carnegie Institute of Technology, is retiring from active duty at Carnegie at the end of this year.

ARTHUR T. UPSON, chief of the section of industrial investigations of the U. S. Forest Products Laboratory at Madison, Wis., has tendered his resignation, effective on June 30, to join the staff of the National Lumber Manufacturers Association.

PROFESSOR D. DIXON, head of the department of anthropology at Harvard University, will sail for the South Sea Islands and Australia, with the idea of doing research work and excavations on some of the reported ruins in those islands. Professor Dixon will be gone until next January.

DR. H. A. GLEASON, of the New York Botanical Garden, left for England on May 3, with the expectation of devoting three months to the study of South American plants in the herbaria of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew and of the Museum of Natural History in Paris. He will attend the British Botanical Congress, to be held in London in July.

JOSEPH M. VALENTINE, assistant in the zoological department of the Peabody Museum, has just returned from a collecting trip to the mountains of western Panama in company with members of the staff of the American Museum of Natural History. The purpose of the expedition was to secure specimens of the bird life of this region, which has been but little explored ornithologically. The bird skins obtained are for the American Museum, but Mr. Valentine brought back a considerable variety of other groups of animals to add to the collections of the Peabody Museum.

DR. C. W. ANDREWS, F.R.S., of the British Museum of Natural History, died on May 25, aged fifty-eight years.

SIR ASUTOSH MOOKERJEE, formerly vice-chancellor of the University of Calcutta, founder-president of the Calcutta Mathematical Society, and twice president of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, died on May 25, aged fifty-nine years.

THE death of Dr. Henry Parent, former president of the Ophthalmologic Society of Paris, at the age of seventy-five, has been announced.

DR. JOSEPH HENRY O'CONNELL, associate professor of diseases of the ear at the New York Post-Gradu-

ate Medical School, died on May 19, aged fifty-one years.

MORE than 150 delegates from Europe, including 18 leading mathematicians of French universities, already have agreed to attend the seventh International Mathematical Congress to be held in Toronto next August, concurrently with the meetings of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. The Canadian and Provincial governments have appropriated \$50,000 toward expenses of the congress.

THIS year, for the first time, French and German men of science (in addition to lecturers from Great Britain and almost all the European countries) will meet on a common platform in Vienna under the auspices of the Vienna International Summer School. The lectures will be delivered in English, French and German, and the committee are providing for conducted tours through Vienna and its environment. The school will be held during the period September 2 to 20.

DURING April and May the following lectures were given at the Royal Institution in London: Professor Barcroft gave a course of four lectures on "The effect of altitude on man." The Tyndall lectures were delivered this year by Major M. S. Tucker, director of sound ranging in the army, on "Acoustical problems." Mr. F. Balfour Browne gave two lectures on "Social life among insects"; Dr. E. V. Appleton delivered two lectures on "Atmospheric interference on wireless telegraphy," and Dr. C. G. Seligman two lectures on "Divine kings and rain-makers of the Sudan" and "The veddas of Ceylon."

A CONFERENCE on science and labor was held at the British Empire Exhibition on May 30 and 31. The conference, which was arranged by the British Science Guild in cooperation with the National Joint Council of the Trades' Union Congress and Labor Party, was opened by the prime minister. There were five sessions, the subjects of discussion being: (1) The place of science in government; (2) Scientific research in relation to industry (3) Cooperation of science and labor in production; (4) Science and the human factor; (5) Science in educational organization.

THE first plant breeder's conference in India met on April 14, in the botanical laboratory of the college of agriculture, Poona, Bombay, under the presidency of Dr. W. Burns. It was decided to hold the conference annually and to meet next year in Surat.

DR. FRIEDRICH DANNEMANN will deliver this summer at the Universities of Bonn and Cologne a series of lectures on the history of science which, though primarily designed for students of physics and chemistry, will be open to others who are interested in the development of science and the scientific arts

and in the broader aspects of their relation to more general human affairs. These lectures will cover the entire historical period, and will emphasize the historical and actual interrelation of the sciences and their influence on the progress of civilization.

It is planned to build and endow at Princeton University new chemical laboratories at a cost of two million dollars.

THE British Empire Cancer Campaign is appealing through the British Red Cross Society's organization for funds to endow and subsidize research on the causes and treatment of cancer. Grants amounting to £2,500 each have already been made to the research department of the Cancer Hospital and the cancer research department of the Middlesex Hospital.

THE late William Prescott has bequeathed £20,000 to the University of Liverpool to found a chair of agriculture or a chair for the furtherance of one or more of the following subjects: The chemistry of agriculture; the cultivation of land; the care, breeding and raising of crops; the diseases of crops; or any other subject connected with agriculture.

THE Eunice Rockwood Oberly Memorial Fund Committee of the American Library Association announces the foundation of a prize in memory of Eunice Rockwood Oberly, formerly librarian of the Bureau of Plant Industry of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

THE centenary of the birth of Lord Kelvin occurs on June 26 of this year. *Nature* states that on that date the Institution of Electrical Engineers, of which Lord Kelvin was thrice president, will hold a centenary conversazione. At the University of Glasgow, the Kelvin centenary will be celebrated on June 25, which is commemoration day. The honorary degree of doctor of laws will be conferred on Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, the prime minister, whose wife was a grandniece of Lord Kelvin. It will also be conferred on Sir James Bell, who as lord provost was chairman at the jubilee banquet to Lord Kelvin in June, 1896, and on Dr. Alexander Russell, president of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, who is to give the Kelvin oration. The official celebrations, in which practically every scientific and engineering society and institution in Great Britain will participate, will be held on July 10 and 11. This late date was decided on so as to allow the many hundreds of foreign men of science and engineers who will then be in London the opportunity of participating. On July 10 Sir J. J. Thomson will deliver a memorial oration of Kelvin before the world power conference. On the evening of the same day, the president of the Royal Society will give an official reception. On July 11 Lord Balfour will take the chair at the Kelvin centenary banquet.

ON May 19 the advisory committee, appointed by the secretary of agriculture to guide the activities of the Lake States Forest Experiment Station, met in Duluth to consider the problems confronting timberland owners in the three Lake States and to pass upon the program of investigations proposed for the coming year.

As a part of a comprehensive plan to improve the industries of Cincinnati, the Commercial Club of Cincinnati is financing a scientific study of raw materials in Ohio and other states which may be commercially tributary. The work is to be done in the University of Cincinnati, largely by the staff of the department of geology and geography, suitably increased for this purpose. After collecting available data, supplementary field work will be necessary. Provision is also made for technological work. The work will continue several years and will cost at least \$50,000.

## UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

HARVARD UNIVERSITY has been given \$200,000 for the construction of a new administration building, by Arthur Lehman, a New York banker. In addition it is announced that a large part of the new endowment fund has been raised. Of the \$3,000,000 allotted to the division of chemistry, \$2,080,000 has been specifically donated, and of the \$2,000,000 desired for the division of fine arts, \$1,145,000 has already been obtained.

THE Rockefeller Foundation has made a grant of \$500,000 to the Medical Faculty of McGill University. Dr. Jonathan C. Meakins, Christison professor of therapeutics and professor of clinical medicine at Edinburgh University, has been appointed director of the medical clinic to be established in the Royal Victoria Hospital and he will also be professor of medicine and director of the department of medicine of McGill University.

DEAN EDWARD MORGAN LEWIS has been elected acting president of Massachusetts Agricultural College to take the place of Kenyon L. Butterfield, who has resigned to become president of the Michigan Agricultural College.

PROFESSOR G. D. BIRKHOFF, of Harvard University, will be exchange professor at Pomona, Colorado and Grinnell Colleges during the first half of the academic year 1924-25.

DR. HERBERT W. ROGERS, at present engaged in research work for the National Research Council at the University of Minnesota, has been appointed associate professor of psychology at the University of Vermont.

DR. THOMAS B. HOLLOWAY has been elected professor of ophthalmology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, to succeed Dr. George E. de Schweinitz.

AT the University of Arizona Dr. Paul S. Burgess, formerly with the Rhode Island Experiment Station, has been appointed professor of agricultural chemistry, and John B. Cunningham, formerly professor of metallurgy and head of the department of metallurgy at the Michigan School of Mines, has been appointed professor of metallurgy.

DR. ALBERT H. BYFIELD has resigned from the position of professor of pediatrics in the school of medicine of the University of Iowa, and is planning to spend the coming year in study abroad.

THE University of Cincinnati announces the appointment of Charles H. Behre, Jr., formerly instructor in geology at Lehigh University, to the position of assistant professor in the department of geology and geography. His duties will include much of the work in connection with the recently instituted survey of raw materials in the region commercially tributary to Cincinnati, together with some teaching in the university. Dr. Geoffrey Gilbert, formerly assistant in the department of geology at Harvard University, has been appointed to fill the position at Lehigh University vacated by Mr. Behre.

## DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

### THE BONES OF RAFINESQUE

THE name of Constantine Rafinesque is well known to all students of natural history in America. He was born in Constantinople in 1785, of a French father and German mother (Schmaltz). He wrote on the fishes and plants of Sicily. Coming to America in 1802, he wandered widely on foot in Kentucky and neighboring states, loading his "pack under which a pedlar might groan" with plants and shells, and his notebooks with records of fishes and birds, accompanied by execrable drawings, from which he too often drew up his descriptions. A man of great industry, rare insight, wide-ranging knowledge and interest, and distressingly careless as to details. One of the early apostles of evolution, he found no one to listen to his arguments, profound in fact, but often most casually stated. For thirteen years (1813 to 1826) Rafinesque was professor in the then new, but now old, Transylvania University at Lexington, Kentucky, where he found a friend and defender in John Clifford, one of the very few who could know him at his best, in a community which mostly doubted his sanity.

He died in Philadelphia in 1840, in abject poverty