

Lake Superior iron and copper districts, each of about ten days' duration—and two transcontinental trips, each of about thirty-five days.

A circular is now being prepared giving more detailed information. This will be sent to all those who received the first circular and to others interested who request it from the Secretary, Sixteenth International Geological Congress, U. S. Geological Survey, Washington, D. C.

THE AMERICAN SCHOOL OF PREHISTORIC RESEARCH

THE American School of Prehistoric Research, of which Dr. George Grant MacCurdy, of Yale University, is director, has been carrying on excavations in Palestine for three seasons jointly with the British School of Archaeology at Jerusalem. At present (May, 1931) they are digging in caves near Athlit, at the foot of Mount Carmel, with very gratifying results.

The sites include Mugharet-el-Wad, Mugharet-es-Schrool, Mugharet-et-Tabon and Mugharet-el-Kebara. The last is at Ziekron Yacob and is proving to be exceptionally rich. It was opened this season, so that its complete sequence of cultures has not yet been uncovered. In the deposits containing a culture known as Mesolithic—older than the Neolithic and younger than the Paleolithic they have already found a mass burial of eight or ten interments. These duplicate in many respects the one found at Mugharet-el-Wad last season. Near the skeletons was a cache of 150 bone beads. Mesolithic microliths are very abundant. Objects of bone are also abundant and well preserved. Many harpoons have also been found.

The prize specimen is a complete haft in bone of a knife or sickle twelve inches in length. The animal represented in the round and terminating the handle is probably a goat. The longitudinal groove for insetting the microliths is too narrow for any but very small ones. The decorated portion of a similar haft in bone was found at Mugharet-el-Wad two years ago.

Most important of all is the skull of a Neandertal child found embedded in breccia of a Mousterian deposit. The find was made by Mr. Theodore D. McCown, representing the American School. This is the third skull of a Neandertal child discovered to date: the first by Henri Martin at La Quina (Charente) during the war; the second by Miss Dorothy Garrod in the rock shelter of Devil's Tower at Gibraltar in 1926. Miss Garrod is in charge of the joint excavations near Athlit. Mr. McCown is a graduate of the University of California and was with Dr. MacCurdy in Europe last summer as a student of the American School of Prehistoric Research.

SUMMER MEETING AND TOUR OF THE AMERICAN PHYTOPATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

THE American Phytopathological Society will hold its third annual summer tour and conference from July 28 to 31, under the immediate direction of Drs. H. W. Anderson, Leslie Pierce, M. W. Gardner and C. T. Gregory.

Assembling on July 28 at Cairo, Illinois, the party will move early on the twenty-ninth along U. S. Route No. 1, visiting the Ozark fruit and vegetable districts where the control of plant diseases will be noted, as well as the nut industry of the region. Original chestnut varieties, the Latham red raspberry in a southern habitat, and the peach harvest will be among the interesting features of the first day's trip, ending at Carbondale, Illinois.

From Carbondale, the party on the second day will proceed to Vincennes, Indiana. *En route*, the famous Johnson County fruit region, the new wilt-resistant water-melon varieties developed by the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station, and the old Rappite settlement of New Harmony will be visited.

The third and last day will be spent in and around Vincennes, where the federal government's experimental control of the oriental fruit moth and bacterial spot of peaches will be the center of attraction.

Among the special features of interest to scientists, aside from the regular diseases of the region, will be the unusual effects of the extremely low temperatures of the winter of 1929-1930 and those attributable to the 1930 drought.

Besides periodic discussions and conferences on the various exhibitions seen by the travelers, specialists on the soils, entomology and horticulture of the visited region, associated with the Illinois and Indiana Agricultural Experiment Stations, will accompany the party to explain those phases of the work more strictly allied to their respective fields.

For those not driving cars will be furnished. Dr. H. W. Anderson, of the Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station, Urbana, should be addressed for further particulars and arrangements.

IN HONOR OF PROFESSOR R. W. WOOD

AS has been stated in *SCIENCE* the honorary doctorate of philosophy has been conferred by the University of Berlin on Professor R. W. Wood, chairman of the department of physics of the Johns Hopkins University. The diploma was presented to Professor Wood at the German Embassy in Washington, with addresses by the German ambassador and Professor Henning, of the Reichsanstalt for Physics and Technology. Professor Henning said;

Owing to a fortunate circumstance I have been assigned by the Faculty of Philosophy of Friedrich Wil-

helm University in Berlin to hand you, Professor Wood, the diploma of doctor of philosophy *honoris causa*. I am very happy indeed that through the kindness of Ambassador von Prittwitz I am enabled to execute my mission thus solemnly on German territory, and I should therefore at the same time like to thank the ambassador on behalf of Berlin University.

The designation of doctor *honoris causa* is the highest distinction a German university can confer. I may add that the University of Berlin rarely confers this honor and that it is only made possible with the consent of all members of the faculty.

In conferring this diploma upon you, Professor Wood, the Berlin physicists desire to do homage to you. As a master of experimental science you have opened up new roads for science, undeterred by theoretical speculation, and through your investigations concerning the optical nature of matter, especially of gases and vapors, you have made important disclosures concerning the structure of molecules and atoms.

However, the diploma is not only intended to express our admiration for the fundamental researches you have made; it is also a token of thanks for the many inspirations you have given German physicists in their work. In this connection I should like to mention only such men as Franck, Pohl and Pringsheim, who are all closely allied with the Berlin Physical Institute. Moreover, you are also not unknown to other German physicists. Several of your numerous publications have appeared in German reviews and we have several times had the pleasure of seeing you in Berlin. We are proud to know that three and a half decades ago you received part of your scientific training in Berlin. What you had learned of German science you repaid later with high interest after having returned to America.

The doctor's diploma, which in the first place represents a personal honor, is also a greeting from Berlin University to the celebrated Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. I should be particularly happy if it might also be looked upon as a greeting from German natural scientists doing research work to their American colleagues. Exact research in natural science is a field of work which knows no political boundaries. Personal opinion on the historical development of the world around has no importance for it. I am convinced that this opinion is also fully shared in the United States. I have evidence of this daily in the fulfilment of my task

here in Washington, which is devoted to the collaboration of the Bureau of Standards with the "Physikalisch Technischen Reichsanstalt." Physics is truly international. Mankind honors and admires the great man who has shown new ways towards the knowledge of nature regardless of what his nationality may be.

You, Professor Wood, have experienced this often, for many honors have been bestowed upon you abroad. Permit me to add one more doctor diploma to the many you already possess and to ask you to accept from Berlin University the title of Doctor of Philosophy.

Permit me also, in handing you the diploma, to read to you the letter which the dean of the faculty of philosophy addresses to you.

The letter of transmittal from Professor Jaeger, dean of the faculty of philosophy of the University of Berlin, reads:

Die Philosophische Fakultät der Friedrich Wilhelms-Universität zu Berlin hat Ihnen den Titel eines Doktors der Philosophie *honoris causa* verliehen. Es ist mir eine angenehme Pflicht, Ihnen dies mitzuteilen und das Diplom darüber zuzustellen.

Ihre ausgezeichnete Experimentierkunst, verbunden mit scharfem, unvoreingenommenen Beobachtungsblick hat Sie zu so vielen überraschenden, zum Teil ganz ungeahnten Entdeckungen in allen Zweigen der physikalischen Optik geführt, dass ich auf eine Aufzählung verzichten muss. Nur die grösste und schönste sei erwähnt, die Ihren Namen für alle Zeiten in die Annalen Ihrer Wissenschaft eingetragen hat: Die Auffindung der Resonanzstrahlung bei Gasen und Dämpfen aller Art. Keine Atomtheorie der Gegenwart und Zukunft kann an den Tatsachen vorübergehen, welche Sie als Erster an dieser Strahlung, beobachtet und beschrieben haben.

Mit besonderer Freude erinnert sich die Fakultät bei dieser Gelegenheit, dass Sie einen Teil Ihrer physikalischen Ausbildung an ihr erhalten haben, dass Sie auch später mehrmals auf kürzere Zeit in das physikalische Institut unserer Universität zurückgekehrt sind. Sie ist stolz auf die Erfolge ihres ehemaligen Schülers.

Indem ich Ihnen, sehr geehrter Herr Doktor, zu der verleihenden Würde, der höchsten, welche die Fakultät zu vergeben hat, auf das herzlichste gratuliere, bitte ich Sie, den Ausdruck meiner ausgezeichneten Hochschätzung entgegen zu nehmen zu wollen.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

CAPETOWN UNIVERSITY conferred the honorary degree of doctor of science on General Smuts on May 19 in recognition of his scientific achievements and with special reference to his election as president of the British Association.

THE Technical Institute at Zurich, on the occasion of its seventy-fifth anniversary, conferred an honorary doctorate on Professor Ludwig Prandtl, of the University of Göttingen.

OGLETHORPE UNIVERSITY, Atlanta, Georgia, has conferred the doctorate of laws on Dr. Harlow Shapley, director of the Harvard College Observatory.

DR. WILLIAM HENRY WELCH, of the Johns Hopkins University, received on May 20 at the University of Frankfurt the Harben Medal, the highest honor awarded by the British Institute of Public Health. The institute meets on the continent every other year and Frankfurt was chosen this year in honor of the