

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE seventy-sixth anniversary of the birth of Dr. Frank Leverett was celebrated in Ann Arbor, Michigan, on March 10. On this occasion a dinner was tendered by the faculties of the departments of geology, mineralogy and geography of the University of Michigan, the State Geological Survey at Lansing, and the Geological Department of the State College at East Lansing. Dr. Leverett was for forty-three years glacial geologist on the staff of the U. S. Geological Survey and for twenty years lecturer in glacial geology at the University of Michigan.

PROFESSOR P. A. M. DIRAC, of the University of Cambridge, will be visiting professor of mathematical physics at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, New Jersey, in the academic year 1934-1935.

SIR JAMES JEANS, who has been visiting Florida, sailed for England on March 16. Sir James was recently elected president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

THE following have been selected by the Council for election to the fellowship of the Royal Society, London: Mr. A. S. Besicovitch, Caley lecturer in mathematics, University of Cambridge; Professor W. E. Curtis, professor of physics, Armstrong College; Dr. L. L. Fermor, director of the Geological Survey of India; Dr. P. Fildes, research bacteriologist, London Hospital; Dr. R. T. Grant, lecturer in cardiac pathology, University College Hospital Medical School; Mr. M. A. C. Hinton, deputy keeper of zoology, British Museum (Natural History); Dr. E. L. Hirst, senior lecturer in organic chemistry, Birmingham University; Dr. E. L. Kennaway, director of research laboratory, Cancer Hospital; Mr. A. G. M. Michell, consulting engineer, Melbourne; Professor W. A. Parks, professor of geology and head of the department of geology, University of Toronto; Professor H. Raistrick, professor of biochemistry, University of London; Professor A. O. Rankine, professor of physics, Imperial College of Science; Lieutenant-Colonel R. B. S. Sewell, director of the Zoological Survey of India and chairman of Indian Museum, Calcutta; Professor S. Sugden, professor of physical chemistry, Birkbeck College; Mr. W. Taylor, mechanical engineer and managing director, Messrs. Taylor, Taylor and Hobson, Limited, Leicester; Dr. H. H. Thomas, university lecturer in botany, University of Cambridge; The Rev. A. Young, mathematician, rector of Birdbrook, Essex.

THE Francqui Foundation of Belgium has awarded the "Francqui Prize" to Abbé Georges Lemaître, professor of the theory of relativity and the history of physical and mathematical sciences of the University of Louvain. The Francqui Prize has an annual value

of 500,000 Belgian francs (about \$23,300 at present exchange rates). This prize is given annually to a Belgian who has made an important contribution to science in such a way as to increase the international prestige of Belgium. Abbé Lemaître has been lecturing in the United States.

*Nature* reports that the British Institution of Naval Architects has awarded its gold medal for the year 1933 to Eng.-Capt. S. R. Dight, for his paper on "Naval Water-Tube Boilers—Experiments and Shop Trials"; and the premium to Dr. George Hughes, of the William Froude Laboratory, for his paper on "The Effect of Wind on Ship Performance."

ARTHUR CUTTS WILLARD, acting dean of the College of Engineering of the University of Illinois, has been elected president of the university. He succeeds Dr. Harry Woodburn Chase, who resigned a year ago to become chancellor of New York University. Arthur H. Daniels, professor of philosophy and dean of the Graduate School, has been acting president.

DR. JOHN JAY KEEGAN was recently appointed chairman of the department of surgery at the University of Nebraska School of Medicine, Omaha, to succeed the late Dr. Byron B. Davis, and Dr. Rodney W. Bliss, acting chairman of the department of internal medicine, to succeed Dr. Edson L. Bridges.

DR. RAYMOND S. CRISPELL has been appointed associate professor of neuropsychiatry at the Duke University School of Medicine and psychiatrist at the hospital.

DR. KENNETH TOMPKINS BAINBRIDGE, Guggenheim fellow at the University of Cambridge, has been appointed assistant professor of physics at the Harvard Medical School. Dr. John Herbert Waite has been made clinical professor of ophthalmology.

DR. R. STONELEY, St. John's College, and Dr. H. M. Taylor, Clare College, have been appointed university lecturers in the faculty of mathematics of the University of Cambridge for three years from October 1 next.

DR. BERTHOLD KLATT, of Halle, has been appointed professor of zoology at the University of Hamburg.

THE British Privy Council, in pursuance of the pharmacy and poisons act, 1933, has nominated Sir Humphry D. Rolleston, Sir Malcolm Delevingne and James Andrew Gunn, professor of pharmacology at the University of Oxford, additional members of the council of the Pharmaceutical Society.

MEMBERS of an Advisory Council to the Medical Section which is being established at British Indus-

tries House have been appointed as follows: Dr. Alfred Cox, Sir Crisp English, Mr. A. R. Melhuish and Dr. E. P. Poulton.

*Nature* reports the following appointments in the British Colonial Agricultural Service: C. A. North-Coombes, to be agronomist, Department of Agriculture, Mauritius; C. J. Lewin, chief agriculturist, to be director of agriculture, Northern Rhodesia; Captain J. P. A. Morris, deputy director of animal health, to be director of animal health, Northern Rhodesia.

L. E. CALL, dean and director of Kansas State College and Experiment Station, has been granted leave of absence until June 30 to serve as head of the Federal Land Bank of Wichita. Dr. W. E. Grimes, head of the department of agricultural economics, will serve as acting dean and director during his absence, and Harold Howe, associate professor of agricultural economics, as acting head of the department of agricultural economics.

B. A. KRUKOFF has returned from his fourth expedition into Brazilian Amazonia after an absence of about nine months, bringing with him a collection of more than fifteen thousand herbarium specimens and several thousand samples of Brazilian woods. The herbarium material will be distributed by the New York Botanical Garden, while the woods will be studied and distributed by the New York State College of Forestry. Mr. Krukoff made collections principally along the tributaries of the Purus and Jurura Rivers, near the boundary between Amazonas state and Acre territory, largely in regions never before visited by a botanist.

DR. S. F. HILDEBRAND, senior ichthyologist of the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries, is in Puerto Rico engaged in conducting a survey of the fish cultural possibilities of the island. On the occasion of his recent visit to the United States R. Menendez Ramos, commissioner of the department of agriculture and commerce of Puerto Rico, requested the assistance of the Bureau of Fisheries in assessing the possibilities of developing trout culture in the high mountain streams and in several reservoirs of the northern watershed on the island, as well as the possibility of propagating and stocking the lower reaches of the streams with other food and game fishes. The Puerto Rican Government is cooperating in the survey by defraying the field expense of the investigation, and the bureau is furnishing the services of the investigator. Dr. Hildebrand has had experience with similar work in Venezuela, Costa Rica and Panama.

HENRY FIELD, assistant curator of physical anthropology at the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, plans to lead an anthropological expedition to the Near East for the museum. Mr. Field, who has

been in England, left recently for Bagdad. He will make brief stops on the ways in Egypt and Jerusalem for certain preliminary work. The expedition will collect anthropological material for addition to the collections of the museum, and will make an anthropometric survey of the Kurd, Arab and Beduin populations of Iraq and Persia. From Bagdad the expedition will proceed to the region near Mosul, thence to Rowanduz to study reported caves with prehistoric rock drawings and inscriptions, and afterwards will go on to work at Tiflis, Teheran and Rhages. In June a visit may be made to the Caucasus region. Mr. Field plans to return to the Field Museum about the end of July or early in August.

A GRANT of \$25,000 for the establishment of a laboratory for research in experimental physics at the Carnegie Institute of Technology, to be presided over by Professor Otto Stern, formerly professor of theoretical physics at Hamburg, and his co-worker, Professor I. Estermann, has been made by the Buhl Foundation. Professor Stern plans to make further studies of the structure of the atom by the use of molecular beams.

DR. LAY MARTIN, of Baltimore, has received a grant from the Committee on Scientific Research of the American Medical Association to aid in the continuation of his work on the proteins and enzymes of the gastric juice.

DR. CHARLES CARPENTER, a graduate of Syracuse University and the Technische Hochschule, Darmstadt, Germany, has been awarded a du Pont industrial grant at the Carnegie Institute of Technology, where he will work with Dr. Ernst Berl, research professor of chemistry and formerly professor at Darmstadt, on an investigation of cellulose and its derivatives.

DR. HUGH STOTT TAYLOR, David B. Jones professor of chemistry at Princeton University, gave on March 21 a lecture on "Heavy Hydrogen—a New Research Tool," at the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia.

DR. RICHARD P. STRONG, professor of tropical medicine at Harvard University, delivered the guest lecture in medicine at the meeting of the Johns Hopkins Medical Association in Baltimore on February 23. He spoke on "The Clinical and Public Health Aspects of American Onchocerciasis."

THE Thomas W. Salmon Memorial Lectures will be delivered this year by Dr. Charles Macfie Campbell, professor of psychiatry at the Harvard Medical School, Harvard University, and medical director of the Boston Psychopathic Hospital. The lectures will be given before the New York Academy of Medicine on April 13, 20 and 27. The subject will be "Trends in Psychiatry."

THE Smith-Reed-Russell Lecture for March at the School of Medicine, George Washington University, was recently given by Dr. John Wheeler, professor of ophthalmology at Columbia University and director of the Ophthalmological Institute.

DR. IRVING LANGMUIR will deliver the fourth lecture in a series sponsored by the Rensselaer Chapter of Sigma Xi this year. He will speak on "Some Recent Work with Oil Films." On April 10 the fifth lecture in the series will be given by Dr. William J. Crozier, professor of general physiology at Harvard University, on "Mechanism and Behavior." The May meeting will be held about the middle of the month and will be addressed by Dr. Arthur B. Lamb, professor of chemistry and director of the Chemical Laboratories, Harvard University.

THE Advisory Council of the Milbank Memorial Fund held its twelfth annual meeting at the New York Academy of Medicine on March 15. The principal event of the meeting was the presentation by Dr. James Alexander Miller, president of the Association of Tuberculosis Clinics in greater New York, of a report on the work of the staff of the Milbank Foundation based on the results of the National Committee on the Cost of Medical Care. The meeting concluded with a dinner, Dr. Livingston Farrand, chairman of the council, presiding as toastmaster. The speakers included Harry L. Hopkins, Federal Relief Administrator; Dr. C.-E. A. Winslow, professor of public health at Yale University, and Dr. Henry E. Sigerist, director of the Institute of the History of Medicine at the Johns Hopkins University.

A SUMMER meeting of the Botanical Society of America will be held at Berkeley, Calif., from June 18 to 23, 1934, in conjunction with the summer meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The program is being arranged by the secretary of the Pacific Section, Professor Richard M. Holman, and applications for places on the program, accompanied by titles of the papers to be pre-

sented, should be sent to him at the department of botany, University of California, Berkeley, in time to arrive by May 1. Applications for places on the program will be received from non-members sponsored by a member of the Botanical Society and from members of Section G of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Another summer meeting of the society will be held from June 18 to 20, with headquarters at Toronto, Canada. The program, which is being arranged by Professor R. B. Thomson, of the University of Toronto, will consist of a short field trip near Toronto, one formal session and a two-day field trip by auto to the Bruce Peninsula of the Georgian Bay region of Ontario.

THE eleventh symposium on colloid chemistry will be held at the University of Wisconsin from June 14 to 16. Plans are being carried forward by Professor J. Howard Mathews, the local general chairman. Entertainments will include an inspection trip through the new United States Forest Products Laboratory, a moonlight boat ride on Lake Mendota and a dinner in the Wisconsin Memorial Union.

THE North Texas Biological Society held its eleventh annual meeting at Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, on March 3. The presidential address by Dr. Hardy A. Kemp, of Baylor Medical College, Dallas, was upon "*Ornithodoros turicata* Duges: its Life History and its Rôle in Relapsing Fever." Professor A. O. Weese, of the University of Oklahoma, gave the guest address on "The Statistical Examination of Animal Populations." O. L. Killian, of the North Texas Agricultural College, was elected president for next year.

THE seventh congress of the German Society for Investigation of the Circulation will be held at Bad Kissingen on April 16 and 17, when the subject for discussion will be thrombosis and embolism, introduced by Professors L. Aschoff, of Freiburg; P. Morawitz, of Leipzig, and L. Nurnberger, of Halle. Professor E. Koch, Bad Nauheim, is secretary.

## DISCUSSION

### DO LIGHTNING RODS PREVENT LIGHTNING?

THE complete disagreement between Professor J. B. Whitehead<sup>1</sup> and Dr. M. G. Lloyd<sup>2</sup> as to the nature of the protection afforded by lightning rods revives a controversy of long standing. The former believes that the main function of lightning rods is to prevent lightning, and the latter that the sole purpose of lightning rods is to protect a building in case a stroke occurs. While the second view appears to have

been gaining ground in recent years the first view nevertheless continues to have many adherents, partly because pointed aerial terminals on lightning conductors have always been in general use, and, as the discharging action of points is a well-known property, it is natural to assume that the purpose of the points on the conductors is to dissipate quietly a part of a cloud's charge and thus to prevent a lightning stroke. Grave doubt as to the effectiveness of points in this regard has, however, been caused by quantitative laboratory studies of the magnitude of discharge currents from pointed conductors. It is a matter of

<sup>1</sup> SCIENCE, December 1, 1933, p. 507.

<sup>2</sup> SCIENCE, December 29, 1933, p. 603.