

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

MME. MARIE SKŁODOWSKA CURIE, professor of physics at the Sorbonne, University of Paris, died on July 4. She was sixty-six years of age.

INCIDENT to changes in organization which are being made in the U. S. Department of Agriculture the office of director of scientific work, which has been held since 1926 by Dr. A. F. Woods, formerly president of the University of Maryland, was discontinued on June 30. Dr. Woods has been transferred to the Bureau of Plant Industry to conduct investigations relative to plant patents and to consult with the head of the division of fruit and vegetable crops and diseases on research problems in plant physiology and pathology. The Graduate School of the department, which was attached to the office of the director of scientific work, will be continued under the direction of Dr. Woods.

DR. GEORGE F. KAY has resigned from the positions of head of the department of geology, the University of Iowa, and state geologist of Iowa. These positions he has held for twenty-three years, since the death of Dr. Samuel Calvin. He will retain his administrative duties as dean of the College of Liberal Arts, member of the staff of the Geological Survey and professor of geology in the university. Dr. A. C. Trowbridge has been appointed to succeed Dean Kay in the two vacant positions. Dr. A. C. Tester has been appointed assistant state geologist to succeed Dr. James H. Lees, who resigned recently on account of ill health.

ON the retirement of Captain William J. Peters after continuous service with the Department of Terrestrial Magnetism of the Carnegie Institution of Washington since January 1, 1906, a replica of the ship's clock formerly carried on the *Carnegie*, of which he was the first commander, was presented to him by members of the staff of the department in token of their esteem and friendship. At the presentation held on the grounds of the department on the afternoon of June 29, several of those who had served at sea with Captain Peters recounted some of their experiences on board.

AT the commencement exercises at Colgate University the degree of doctor of science was conferred on Dr. William F. Langworthy, who is retiring from the chair of botany at the university.

AT the seventy-fifth anniversary of Lake Erie College the degree of doctor of laws was conferred on Dr. Robert Sessions Woodworth, professor of psychology at Columbia University, son of Lydia Ames Sessions, the first president of Lake Erie College.

THE degree of doctor of laws was conferred on Dr.

Frederick Webb Hodge, director of the Southwest Museum, Los Angeles, by the University of New Mexico at Albuquerque on June 4.

PROFESSOR RALPH E. SMITH, of the department of plant pathology of the University of California, received the honorary degree of doctor of science on the occasion of the commencement of the Massachusetts State College at Amherst.

AT the recent commencement exercises at DePauw University, the honorary degree of doctor of science was conferred upon Dr. Paul Merica, adviser to the president of the International Nickel Company, known for his researches on nickel and its alloys.

THE University of Arizona conferred upon Henry A. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture, the honorary degree of doctor of science at the thirty-ninth annual commencement "in recognition of his scientific contributions and fearless leadership in the cause of agriculture." The same honorary degree of doctor of science was conferred upon his father, Henry Cantwell Wallace, by the University of Arizona at a special faculty convocation on March 31, 1923.

NATHANIEL KESSLER, of Newark, a member of the advisory committee of the New Jersey College of Pharmacy of Rutgers University and a special lecturer on pharmaceutical jurisprudence, has received the Rutgers University award, a bronze medal, for "generous and able service to pharmaceutical education."

THE 1934 James E. Stacy Award, consisting of a medal and a sum of money, given by the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Cincinnati for significant contribution to the theory of focal infection in theory or practice, has been bestowed upon Dr. E. R. LeCount, professor of pathology in Rush Medical College, for "his experimental studies on the isolation of streptococci from sore throats and the experimental induction, through their injection, of acute, healing and scarring types of nephritis, identical with the chronic nephritides observed in man."

SIR ARTHUR SMITH WOODWARD was elected president of the British Paleontographical Society at the eighty-seventh annual meeting.

PROFESSOR ANDREW BOSS, vice-director of the Agricultural Experiment Station at University Farm, University of Minnesota, has been elected president of the university chapter of Sigma Xi to succeed Dr. Samuel C. Lind, director of the School of Chemistry.

MISS EFFIE ISABEL RAITT, for twenty-two years director of home economics at the University of Wash-

ington, was elected president at the twenty-seventh annual conference in New York City of the American Home Economics Association in succession to Dr. Frances Zuill. Miss Mabel V. Campbell, of the University of Missouri, was elected vice-president.

PROFESSOR SOLOMON C. HOLLISTER, professor of structural engineering at Purdue University, has been appointed director of the School of Civil Engineering of Cornell University. Since the resignation three years ago of Professor Fred Asa Barnes as director, the school has been governed by a committee of which during the past year Professor Paul H. Underwood has been chairman.

DR. EDNA FRANCES HEIDBREDER, associate professor of psychology at the University of Minnesota, will become professor of psychology at Wellesley College.

PROFESSOR RICHARD COURANT, formerly director of the Mathematical Institute of the University of Göttingen, has been appointed visiting professor of mathematics at New York University. The appointment was made possible by grants from the Emergency Committee in Aid of Displaced German Scholars and the Rockefeller Foundation.

DR. F. M. MACFARLAND, of Stanford University, was elected by the council of the California Academy of Sciences on June 18 to serve as acting director of the academy and of the Steinhart Aquarium until a permanent director may be chosen. He succeeds Dr. C. E. Grunsky, who died on June 6. Dr. MacFarland retired at the close of the academic year with the title of professor emeritus of histology after serving for forty-two years.

DR. LAURENCE H. SNYDER, of the Ohio State University, has been elected chairman of the committee on human heredity of the National Research Council, succeeding Dr. Charles B. Davenport, of the Carnegie Institution.

UNDER a special appropriation made by the New York State Legislature, research on the Dutch elm disease is under way at the Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station. The work in plant pathology will be under the direction of Dr. D. S. Welch and in entomology of Dr. P. A. Readio, who has recently terminated his appointment at the University of Kansas to accept an assistant professorship at Cornell University.

DR. HERBERT R. EDWARDS, acting health officer of New Haven since the resignation in January of Dr. John L. Rice to become health commissioner of New York City, has resigned to direct the tuberculosis program in New York. For the present a committee of the board of health will manage the activities of the department at New Haven.

DR. G. CANBY ROBINSON, director of the New York Hospital-Cornell Medical College Association, has been granted a year's leave of absence by the two institutions forming the association. During the past six years, Dr. Robinson has carried out a large undertaking of building and equipping the plant along the East River and has also directed the problems of reorganization of the New York Hospital and of the Cornell University Medical College which were necessary in bringing the two institutions into organic association.

AFTER spending a year in North Africa under a research grant from the Geological Society of America, Mr. Robert van Vleck Anderson recently returned to the United States. He has spent some weeks at the National Museum in Washington, where he has completed a memoir on the geology of some of the coastal ranges of western Algeria.

DR. B. YOUNGBLOOD, specialist in economics and sociology in the Office of Experiment Stations, U. S. Department of Agriculture, has, on request of the Secretary of the Interior, been assigned to make a study of economic and living conditions among the Navajo Indians, with a view to finding means of improving these conditions. Dr. Youngblood will devote particular attention to the trade relations of the Navajos.

DR. M. F. BARRUS, professor of plant pathology at Cornell University, sailed for Puerto Rico on June 28. He has been given two years' leave of absence to take charge of the reorganization of agricultural extension work at the Insular Experiment Station, Rio Piedras. Dr. P. P. Pirone, formerly in charge of Dutch elm disease eradication in Nassau County, Long Island, has been appointed acting extension assistant professor of plant pathology during the absence of Dr. Barrus.

DR. CHARLES H. BEST, professor of physiology and assistant professor of hygiene and preventive medicine in the University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine, gave a course of three lectures at University College, London, recently, on "Rôle of the Liver in the Metabolism of Carbohydrate and Fat."

DR. WILLIAM ALLEN PUSEY, Chicago, delivered the Prosser White Oration before the St. John's Hospital Dermatological Society, on June 27, at the Royal Society of Medicine, London. His subject was "Disease, Gadfly of the Mind, especially the Stimulus of Disease in the Development of the Mind."

A SPECIAL program of entertainment is being planned for the Sunday which is included in the dates for the winter meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science which will be held in

Pittsburgh from December 27 to January 2. On Sunday afternoon, December 30, Dr. Phillips Thomas, of the research department of the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company, has consented to give his lecture on "Ramblings in Research." This address is being continually revised and kept up to date so as to be illustrative of the latest developments in commercial electrical research. In the evening of the same day Dr. Marshall Bidwell, organist at the Carnegie Music Hall, will give a special recital for guests at the meeting. He will be assisted by the symphony orchestra from the department of music at the Carnegie Institute of Technology. The orchestra, consisting of some eighty musicians, will be directed by Professor J. Vick O'Brien, head of the department of music.

THE fourth Annual Economic Conference of Engineers will open on August 11 at the Stevens Institute of Technology and will continue through Sunday, August 19, during which period there will be twenty-five scheduled meetings having as their general theme "An Economic Appraisal of the New Deal." As in previous years, the conference will be held at the Stevens Engineering Camp at Johnsonburg, in northern New Jersey. This annual conference, initiated in 1931, has had as its sponsors the engineering alumni associations of Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Harvard, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Princeton, Rensselaer, Stevens and Yale; also the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and the American Association for Adult Education. Approximately one hundred graduates of twenty-eight colleges of engineering attended the conference of 1933. At the final session on Sunday evening, August 19, General Hugh S. Johnson, NRA Administrator, will speak.

THE Tri-State Field Conference of the geologists of Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin will be held on Saturday and Sunday, October 20 and 21. The participants will assemble in Madison on the morning of October 20 and proceed from Madison to the Baraboo region. The night of October 20 will be spent in Baraboo and the party will disband at noon on October 21. The geologic section examined will extend from early pre-Cambrian to Silurian.

THE International Geographic Congress, under the auspices of the International Geographic Union, will be held in Warsaw from August 23 to 31. A series of field excursions is planned from Warsaw, both before and after the sessions. Under the direction of well-known geographers these parties will go into the field on trips of from five days to a week to study the geographical features of the country, including the Carpathian Mountains, the Vistula valley and Silesia.

The executive committee of the congress has made arrangements for special fare reductions on the Polish railways and in other countries for the benefit of the delegates, free visas for entering Poland and for the entertainment of the visitors during their stay in Warsaw.

DR. J. ALLEN JOHNSON, chief electrical engineer of the Buffalo, Niagara & Eastern Power Corporation at Buffalo, N. Y., was elected president of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers for the year beginning August 1, at the annual meeting at Hot Springs, Va. The other officers elected were: *Vice-presidents*, W. H. Timbie, Cambridge, Mass.; R. H. Tapscott, New York, N. Y.; G. G. Post, Milwaukee, Wis.; F. J. Meyer, Oklahoma City, Okla.; F. O. McMillan, Corvallis, Ore.; *Directors*, F. Malcolm Farmer, New York, N. Y.; N. E. Funk, Philadelphia, Pa.; H. B. Gear, Chicago, Ill.; *National Treasurer*, W. I. Slichter (re-elected), New York, N. Y. The annual report of the Board of Directors, presented at the meeting, showed a total membership of 15,230. In addition to two national conventions and one district meeting, 1,487 meetings were held during the year by the local organizations in the principal cities and educational institutions in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

THE newly established 500-acre arboretum at Madison near the University of Wisconsin was formally dedicated recently at an early morning breakfast service held on the arboretum grounds. More than 150 citizens of the state attended. Eight speakers represented the state and the university. These were Aldo Leopold, professor of wild life management and research director of the arboretum; Professor G. W. Longenecker, executive director; Professor E. M. Gilbert, chairman of the arboretum committee; Gen. Ralph M. Immel, of the State Conservation Department; John Callahan, who read a message from President Glenn Frank; George Mead, Wisconsin Rapids, who spoke for the university regents; John Nolen, city planner, and Chief Yellow Thunder, Wisconsin Winnebago Indian.

THE Bass Biological Laboratory in Englewood, Florida, was closed on May 15 for the 1933-34 season. Two members of its staff, John F. Bass, Jr., and Donald J. Zinn, left for Denmark on June 12, to make a general survey of the commercial fisheries, to secure information for Dr. Elmer Higgins, of the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries, on the forecasting of the Danish mackerel catch, and also to verify reports of the spreading of a fatal intestinal parasite of the edible shrimp. The laboratories will reopen on October 1.

THE British Medical Research Council announces the inauguration of new arrangements for further

combined chemical and bacteriological investigations into the conditions which govern the life and multiplication of microorganisms causing disease. These have been made possible by the cooperation of the Middlesex Hospital Medical School, the trustees of the late Lord Leverhulme and the Sir Halley Stewart Trust. Accommodations and facilities are being provided at the Middlesex Hospital in the Bland-Sutton Institute of Pathology and the adjoining Courtauld Institute of

Biochemistry. The investigations will be directed by Dr. Paul Fildes, who has been appointed a member of the scientific staff of the council. The other workers are Mr. B. C. J. G. Knight, with a Halley Stewart Research Fellowship, and Dr. G. P. Gladstone and Dr. G. Maxwell Richardson, holding Leverhulme Research Fellowships. The arrangements took effect on June 1, and the support given by the cooperating bodies is sufficient for an initial period of five years.

DISCUSSION

THE CRISIS AT BUITENZORG

THERE are a host of reasons that something ought to be done to prevent one of the most important institutions of learning in the Orient, the Botanical Gardens and Biological Laboratories at Buitenzorg, Java, from falling into decay as a result of lack of governmental means of support.

This institution represents a collection of information regarding tropical botany and zoology reaching back well over one hundred years.

The herbaria and the collections of living plants contain great numbers of type specimens and much data of the utmost importance, because, due to the swift changes which have taken place in the forests of Java in the last century, they have become practically irreplaceable. In them are assembled the collections of Valliton, Boerlage, Treub, Hasskarl, Kohrdes, Backer, Teyssman and many others, gathered from the whole Malay archipelago, and representing species, many of which have become exceedingly rare or even extinct.

The Museum of Economic Plant Products, created by Heine, during a lifetime of extraordinary industry, is probably not equalled by any other museum in the Tropics. The data which Heine was able to get together, respecting the uses of a multitude of tropical plants by the forty or more races of people who occupy the vast archipelago, possess a value almost impossible to estimate. The collections upon which these observations were based are unique and irreplaceable.

Not only is there the superb Botanic Garden, certainly the finest in the whole world, with its many and useful laboratories, but the gorgeous Mountain Garden as well. This is situated at the very edge of the Rain Forest on the slope of the Volcano Gedeh. It has been a source of inspiration to many famous investigators of the past. Shimper, Haberlandt, Weisner, Haeckel, Zimmerman, Douglas Campbell, Goebel, De Vries and many other Europeans and Americans have felt its inspiration and have reflected

it in their subsequent writings. Out of the studies of these men have come papers and books and lectures and conferences which have enlightened thousands of students as to the real nature of tropical life and its bearing upon the problems of life or peoples inhabiting the temperate zone.

It was the privilege of one of us (D. F.) to visit Java in 1895, accompanying there Melchior Treub, to whose initiative much of what now stands in the way of equipment in Buitenzorg is due, and of the other writer of this appeal to spend months in the laboratory in the garden while it was still in Treub's hands in 1906-07. The senior author has visited it twice since. If there has ever been any one period of our lives more than another that has impressed our whole outlook on science it was the period of our first stay in the Botanic Gardens of Buitenzorg.

The strictly scientific standing of the garden and all connected with it is an example to the rest of the tropical world. It was much more than a tropical botanical garden. It was then and has remained to this day one of the most remarkable scientific institutions in the world.

It is impossible to look with equanimity upon the threatening disintegration of such an institution, more than ever when certain problems of the tropics are pressing for solution. The growth of our knowledge of the science of genetics, and the bearing of that science upon the whole intricate problem of evolution, make it of the greatest importance that there be maintained such accumulations of actual observations and specimens as are represented by the Buitenzorg collections. It is worth recalling that it was while collecting in the Malay archipelago that Alfred Russell Wallace thought out his theories of natural selection and communicated them to Darwin. It does not seem unfair to attribute to the stimulating environment of the Aru islands and their birds of paradise a share in this great biological conception.

It was in Java, we believe, that the rubber tree was first successfully propagated by budding instead of