SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

AT ceremonies held on the occasion of the opening of the new library at the University of Cambridge on October 22, the honorary degree of doctor of science will be conferred on Dr. Lawrence J. Henderson, professor of biochemistry at Harvard University, and on Dr. Karl Landsteiner, of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research.

A LIFE-SIZE bas-relief of Dr. Harvey Cushing, Moseley professor of surgery at the Harvard Medical School from 1912 to 1932 and now Sterling professor of neurology at Yale University, will be hung in the administration building. The presentation to the university has been made by friends, pupils and associates of Dr. Cushing, for whom a number of small bronze medal replicas have been struck. The artist is Paul Brodeur.

THE degree of doctor of humane letters was conferred on Professor Albert Einstein at the opening on October 8 of Yeshiva College, New York City. Dr. David Eugene Smith, emeritus professor of mathematics at Columbia University, presented Dr. Einstein for the degree, and Governor Herbert H. Lehman delivered the address of welcome, to which Dr. Einstein replied.

PRESENTATION to Dr. John Uri Lloyd, of Cincinnati, of the Procter International Award of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, in the form of a gold watch, in recognition of his contributions to the sciences promoting health, was made on October 9.

SIR HENRY HALLETT DALE, director of the British National Institute for Medical Research and secretary of the Royal Society, sailed for England on October 13, after giving the principal address at the opening of the new laboratories of Eli Lilly and Company at Indianapolis.

DR. LAUDER WILLIAM JONES, who for the past five years has been associate director of the Natural Science Division for Europe of the Rockefeller Foundation, is resuming his research and teaching as professor of chemistry at Princeton University.

DR. COLLIER COBB, since 1893 professor of geology at the University of North Carolina, has been awarded one of the three Kenan emeritus professorships in the gift of the university.

PROFESSOR JAMES E. BOYD has resigned as chairman of the department of mechanics of the Ohio State University after serving for twenty-eight years. The resignation applies only to executive duties involved in the chairmanship. Professor Percy W. Ott has been designated his successor.

DR. ARTHUR E. RUARK has been appointed head of the department of physics at the University of North Carolina.

LEWIS W. TAYLOR, assistant professor of poultry husbandry, at the University of California at Berkeley, has been appointed chief of the poultry department.

DR. LEIF VERNER, assistant horticulturist at the University of West Virginia Agricultural Experiment Farm, has been appointed professor of horticulture at the University of Idaho. Dr. Verner takes the place of Professor C. C. Vincent, who died on August 19, after serving for twenty-four years.

DR. A. RICHARD BLISS, JR., has been appointed to the professorship of pharmacology and to the newly created office of dean of pharmacy at Howard College, Birmingham, Ala.

CHESTER M. ALTER, who for the past two years has been research associate in geophysics at Harvard University, has become a member of the faculty of Boston University, where he will have charge of the courses in analytical chemistry.

DR. GABRIEL SZEGOE, professor of mathematics in the University of Königsberg and a representative of the German-Hungarian mathematical school, has joined the faculty of Washington University, St. Louis, where he will teach during the coming year.

DR. D. E. RUTHERFORD has been appointed lecturer in mathematics and applied mathematics in the United College at the University of St. Andrews.

Industrial and Engineering Chemistry states that Dr. Charles H. Herty, Jr., has been appointed a research engineer in the Development and Research Department of the Bethlehem Steel Company. Dr. Herty was formerly director of research of the mining and metallurgical advisory boards of the Carnegie Institute of Technology.

ALAN T. CHAPMAN, for the past two years a National Research Fellow in Chemistry at the Gates Chemical Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, has accepted a position as research chemist with the R. and H. Chemicals Department, E. I du Pont de Nemours and Company, Inc., Niagara Falls, N. Y.

SIR HARRY ALEXANDER FANSHAWE LINDSAY will succeed Lieutenant-General Sir William Furse, who retired from the post of director of the Imperial Institute, South Kensington, on September 30.

BY an order of the Committee of the British Privy Council, made after consultation with the Medical Research Council and with the president of the Royal

Society, Dr. A. J. Clark, professor of materia medica at the University of Edinburgh, and Dr. J. C. G. Ledingham, director of the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine and professor of bacteriology in the University of London, have been appointed members of the Medical Research Council, in succession to Sir Charles S. Sherrington and Dr J. A. Arkwright, who retired in rotation on September 30.

DR. MARIUS P. RASMUSSEN, professor of marketing in the College of Agriculture at Cornell University, is conducting surveys in various states for the Farm Credit Administration on the movement of agricultural commodities by truck, as a basis for a possible change in government methods of reporting crop movements.

B. D. MOSES, associate professor of agricultural engineering at the University of California, is making a study of engineering problems arising from the use of ethylene gas in maturing walnuts, in conjunction with the United States Department of Agriculture.

DR. LOWELL E. NOLAND, associate professor of zoology at the University of Wisconsin, is collecting and working up material for his forthcoming monograph on the Ciliates of the United States, at the Bass Biological Laboratory, Englewood, Florida.

THE General Education Board has made a grant allowing a year of study and research in the Galton Laboratory of the University of London to Dr. A. E. Brandt, assistant professor of mathematics in the Iowa State College. He will work under Dr. R. A. Fisher on the application of statistics to fundamental problems in biology.

PROFESSOR LEONARD A. MAYNARD, of Cornell University, recently returned from a six months' visit to China, where he made a study of the food consumption of Chinese farm families. The project of educating the Chinese farmer to improve his crops is being undertaken by the University of Nanking. For the last six years the College of Agriculture has been cooperating in this work by sending one professor to China each year. The University of Nanking has defrayed travel and maintenance expenses of the visiting professors and all expenses in connection with the plant breeding work at Nanking.

THE first Smith-Reed-Russell lecture at the School of Medicine of the George Washington University was given by Surgeon-General Robert U. Patterson on October 18.

DR. JAMES S. MCLESTER, professor of medicine at the University of Alabama and president-elect of the American Medical Association, delivered the annual Gorgas address before the La Fayette Guild Chapter of the Gorgas Medical Society at the University of Alabama on October 3. His subject was the "Drifting Sands of Medical Practice." The occasion was in commemoration of the eightieth anniversary of the birth of William Crawford Gorgas.

THE fifty-second annual meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union will be held in Chicago, from October 22 to 26. Monday, October 22, will be occupied with business sessions which will be held at the headquarters in the Hotel Stevens. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday will be devoted to public sessions in the Field Museum of Natural History, beginning at 9:30 A. M. and 2 P. M., at which papers will be presented summarizing recent work in various phases of bird study. The annual dinner will be held on Wednesday evening at the Hotel Stevens, and on Friday members will visit the Zoological Gardens at Brookfield recently opened by the Chicago Zoological Society.

THE fifteenth annual meeting of the Mineralogical Society of America will be held at the University of Rochester, N. Y., on December 27, 28 and 29, in conjunction with the Geological Society of America. Headquarters and place of registration will be in the Chester Dewey Building. The first session will be held at 2 P. M. on Thursday, December 27. It is planned to publish in the December issue of the *Journal* of the society a preliminary list of the titles of the papers to be presented before the society at its annual meeting. In order to appear on the advance program, titles of papers should be in the hands of the secretary by November 10. The secretary will send an abstract blank, which should be filled out and returned, as all titles must be accompanied by abstracts before they can be accepted for the final program.

AT a meeting of the Section of Neurology and Psychiatry of the New York Academy of Medicine, on October 9, there was presented a symposium on acute anterior poliomyelitis, which included the following papers: "Pathogenesis," by Dr. Maurice Brody and Dr. Arthur R. Elvidge, of McGill University; "Immunization," by Dr. William H. Park; "Abortive Cases as Protective Agents against Epidemics," by Dr. John R. Paul and Dr. James D. Trask, of Yale University School of Medicine; "An Experimental Approach to the Problem of Resistance," by Dr. C. W. Jungeblut. Dr. John L. Rice, commissioner of health of New York City; Dr. Josephine Neal, Dr. Frederick Tilney, Dr. Bernard Sachs and Dr. George Draper took part in the discussion.

A CORRESPONDENT sends to SCIENCE the following description of the fall of a meteor given in *The News and Courier* of Charleston, S. C., for September 14. "A meteor that lit up the skies in this vicinity 'as

bright as day' and was reported sighted as far south as Jacksonville and as far north as Florence, flashed through space a few minutes after 1 o'clock this morning. The first report of the meteor came to *The News and Courier* from C. M. Dempsey, night watchman at the port terminals. Mr. Dempsey said that the daylight continued for at least five seconds. His report was followed quickly by a message from the Atlantic Coast Line railroad saying that radio operators all the way from Florence to Jacksonville had reported the meteor. Several other phone calls were received from persons in this section. Mr. Dempsey said also that he had seen two smaller meteors a few minutes after 9 o'clock last night."

THE Connecticut Arboretum at Connecticut College was dedicated on October 6 with U. S. Senator Frederic C. Walcott as the principal speaker. The arboretum consists of about sixty acres of the Connecticut College property which has been set aside for the preservation and propagation of the native plant life of Connecticut. Planting in the area will be done under the direction of Dr. George S. Avery, Jr., professor of botany at the college and director of the arboretum.

DISCUSSION

BACKGROUND OF MATHEMATICS IN AMERICA

THE history of mathematics in America is greatly illuminated by the history of the coeval mathematics in Europe. For more than a hundred years after the discovery of America (1492) none of the English universities had established a chair of mathematics. The first such chair was founded at Gresham College, London, in 1596 and the second at Oxford in 1619. The first appointee to both of these chairs was H. Briggs (1556–1630), who is widely known in connection with tables of logarithms, and who has the singular distinction of holding in succession the two earliest chairs of mathematics that were founded in England. Cambridge University, England, did not establish a professorship of mathematics until 1662, more than a quarter of a century after Harvard University was founded (1636). The first appointee to this chair was I. Barrow, who resigned seven years later in favor of his pupil, I. Newton, who made this chair famous for all times.

The slowness with which mathematics was emphasized in the schools established by the early white settlers in our country is partly explained by the fact that these settlers left their native countries before mathematics was commonly regarded as an essential part of a liberal education. The pioneers who came to our land to explore and develop a new country were paralleled at home by the equally aggressive mathematical pioneers who entered into the then new and unexplored fields of analytic geometry and calculus. The fact that the latter pioneers did not mix with the former explains why no American contemporary of R. Descartes, I. Newton, G. W. Leibniz, the Bernoullis, A. L. Cauchy, L. Euler and J. L. Lagrange can be found who can be favorably compared with any of these from the standpoint of mathematical contributions. Just as in other countries, so in our country the development of mathematics did not prosper until positions were established which were filled by those selected on account of proved ability and which afforded their incumbents leisure to develop these abilities.

Early American mathematics as derived from Europe was quite cosmopolitan, just as the white settlers in America came from various European countries. In view of the relatively great mathematical advances made in France shortly after the Revolutionary War and the aid rendered by France during this war to the colonies which later became the United States, it is natural that French mathematicians had a dominating influence on American mathematics at that time and that a relatively large number of French text-books were translated for use in American schools during the first half of the nineteenth century. During the second half of this century German mathematicians attracted most of our mathematical students who went abroad for further study and they continued to do so up to the beginning of the world war. The unexcelled opportunities afforded by some of our own universities are, however, now commonly recognized, but the background of American mathematics is still decidedly European, even if some of the useful recent extensions exhibit fruitful American cooperation.

The fact to be emphasized about American mathematics is that it is essentially a mathematics of cooperation with European mathematicians and has no decidedly distinctive features. It is true that in early times the applications to surveying, navigation and astronomy were especially stressed, but this had been done elsewhere in the early development of our subject and hence it did not give rise to a new type of mathematics. Nearly all the contributions towards the development of mathematics in our country are due to professors in our universities. Although Harvard is the oldest American university it was not the first to establish a chair of mathematics. Such a chair was first founded at William and Mary College which is next to Harvard in seniority (1693) and provided for such a chair in its charter, which seems to have been first filled in 1711 by the appointment of a man