

Merritt Lyndon Fernald, Fisher professor of natural history at Harvard University.

Cecelia Payne Gaposchkin, astrophysicist, assistant at the Harvard College Observatory.

John Story Jenks, president of the University of Pennsylvania Museum.

Dr. Arthur Becket Lamb, professor of chemistry at Harvard University and director of the Harvard Laboratories.

Lawrence J. Morris, director of the National Bank, West Chester, Pa.

Dr. M. H. Morse, professor of mathematics at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton.

Dr. William A. Nitze, professor of Romance languages and literature at the University of Chicago.

Dr. Linus Carl Pauling, professor of chemistry, California Institute of Technology.

Dr. David Moore Robinson, Collins Vickers professor of archeology and epigraphy, the Johns Hopkins University.

Adolph H. Schultz, physical anthropologist, Baltimore.

Dr. James T. Shotwell, professor of history at Columbia University, director of the Division of Economics and History, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Dr. George Gaylord Simpson, associate curator of vertebrate paleontology, American Museum of Natural History, New York.

Dr. Alfred Henry Sturtevant, professor of genetics, the California Institute of Technology.

Dr. John Henry Wigmore, professor of law, Northwestern University, and dean emeritus of the Faculty of Law.

Dr. George Grafton Wilson, professor of international law, Harvard University.

Dr. Robert Sessions Woodworth, professor of psychology, Columbia University.

Dr. Robert M. Yerkes, professor of psychobiology, Yale University, director of the Yale Laboratories of Primate Biology.

Foreign Residents

Dr. Peter Debye, director of the Physical Institute of the University of Leipzig, recently appointed professor of physics at the University of Berlin.

Dr. Hu Shih, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, the Peiping National University.

Thomas Garrigue Masaryk, first president of the Czechoslovak Republic, formerly professor of philosophy in the University of Prague.

Officers reelected were: *President*, Roland S. Morris; *Vice-presidents*, Edwin G. Conklin, Robert A. Millikan and Henry H. Donaldson; *Secretaries*, John A. Miller and William E. Lingelbach; *Curator*, Albert P. Brubaker. Four *councillors* were elected as follows: Max Farrand, Joseph Erlanger, George H. Parker and Marshall S. Morgan.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. REID HUNT, who retires from the professorship of pharmacology at the Harvard Medical School this year, celebrated his sixty-sixth birthday on April 20. On this occasion about fifty of his colleagues, former students and friends gathered at the Harvard Club of Boston to do him honor. Dean C. Sidney Burwell was toastmaster. Short speeches were made by Dr. A. Lawrence Lowell, Professor James F. Norris, Professor Ross G. Harrison, Dr. K. K. Chen, Dr. Worth Hale and Dr. G. Philip Grabfield. Presentation was made of an etched portrait of Dr. Hunt, which will hang in the medical school.

THE doctorate of laws of the University of California was conferred on the occasion of the Charter Day exercises on Dr. T. Wayland Vaughan, director of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. At the Charter Day exercises of the university at Los Angeles the degree was conferred on Dr. Alexis Carrel, of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research.

DACCA UNIVERSITY, India, recently conferred the honorary degree of doctor of science on Sir Jagadis Chandra Bose, professor emeritus of physiology at the Presidency College, Calcutta.

THE gold medal of the Royal Society of Canada has been presented to Dr. James B. Collip, professor of biological chemistry in the Faculty of Medicine of McGill University.

THE Board of Directors of the American Foundrymen's Association has awarded to Dr. Heinrich Ries, head of the department of geology of Cornell University, the Joseph S. Seaman gold medal "in recognition of his outstanding services to the foundry industry and to the association in the field of foundry sand research and control."

THE David Livingstone Centenary Medal was presented to Lincoln Ellsworth in recognition of his polar explorations at a meeting of the American Geographical Society on April 21. Presentation of the medal was made by Roland L. Redmond, president of the society. Mr. Ellsworth's attempt to reach the North Pole with Raoul Amundsen by airplane in 1925 and their flight the following year from Spitzbergen to Alaska in the Italian airship *Norge* were described by Mr. Redmond. After the presentation, Mr. Ellsworth delivered an address dealing with his flight, illustrated by still and motion pictures. Dr. John

H. Finley, honorary president of the society, spoke briefly at the close of the address.

THE Messel Medal of the British Society of Chemical Industry, awarded every two years "for eminence in applied chemistry," has been conferred on Sir Robert Mond in recognition of his services to the chemical industry in Great Britain. He has also received the ribbon of the French Legion of Honor in recognition of his researches in applied chemistry and for the support he has extended to archeological researches in Palestine and Egypt.

THE Paul Ehrlich medal has been awarded to Professor Enrique Paschen, of Hamburg, for his researches on smallpox and vaccinia.

DR. DUNCAN A. MACINNES, of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, New York City, was elected president of the Electrochemical Society at the recent meeting held in Cincinnati. Dr. L. H. Baekeland, of the Bakelite Company, past president of the society and a member for over thirty years, was presented with an illuminated certificate of honorary membership.

DR. RAY LYMAN WILBUR, president of Stanford University, has been elected president of the American Social Hygiene Association. He succeeds Dr. Edward L. Keyes, of New York, who resigned recently after serving for twelve years.

THE following officers of the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics were elected at the recent annual meeting held at Washington: *President*, V. E. Henderson; *Vice-president*, O. H. Plant; *Secretary*, E. M. K. Geiling; *Treasurer*, C. M. Gruber; *Councilors*, Professor C. W. Edmunds and G. Wallace; *Representative on the National Research Council*, W. deB. MacNider.

PROFESSOR HERMAN DIEDERICH, John Edson Sweet professor of engineering and director of the Sibley School of Mechanical Engineering of Cornell University, has been appointed dean of the College of Engineering to succeed Dean Dexter S. Kimball, who will retire on July 1. The election of Professor S. C. Hollister as associate dean of the College of Engineering, in addition to his regular position as director of the College of Civil Engineering, was also announced.

SAMUEL W. DUDLEY, Stratheona professor of mechanical engineering at Yale University, has been appointed dean of the School of Engineering. He succeeds Dean Robert E. Doherty, who was recently elected president of the Carnegie Institute of Technology.

PROFESSOR THORNDIKE SAVILLE, associate dean of the College of Engineering at New York University,

has been appointed dean to take the place of Professor Collins Pechin Bliss, a member of the faculty for forty years and since 1930 dean of the college, who will retire at the end of the year with the title of dean emeritus.

DR. JAMES C. GREENWAY, who has been director of the department of university health at Yale University since it was established under his leadership in 1916, will retire in June. He will be succeeded by Dr. Orville F. Rogers, who also has been associated with the department from the time of its organization, since 1921 as assistant director.

DR. KENNETH F. MAXCY, professor of preventive medicine and bacteriology in the University of Virginia, has been appointed to the professorship of preventive medicine and public health and head of the department at the University of Minnesota. He succeeds Dr. Harold S. Diehl, who last spring was appointed dean of the medical sciences.

AT Princeton University, Dr. Samuel S. Wilks, associate professor of mathematics, has been promoted to a professorship, and Dr. Hadley Cantril, instructor at Harvard University, has been appointed assistant professor of psychology.

DR. CHARLES B. WELD, of the department of physiology of the faculty of medicine at the University of Toronto, has been appointed professor of physiology at Dalhousie University. He succeeds Dr. Ernest W. H. Cruickshank, who resigned in December, 1935.

THE governors of the Rowett Research Institute have appointed Dr. J. T. Irving, lecturer in physiology at the University of Leeds, to be head of the department of physiology of the institute in succession to Dr. R. C. Garry, who recently became professor of physiology at St. Andrews University.

DR. W. E. HARPER, of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory, Victoria, B. C., who has been assistant director since 1923, is now made director to succeed Dr. J. S. Plaskett, who retired last year. Dr. J. A. Pearce, astronomer since 1924, becomes assistant director.

DR. DAVID SEEGAL, professor of medicine at Columbia University and a member of the staff of Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, has been placed at the head of the recently created Research Division of Chronic Diseases in the New York City Department of Hospitals. The committee appointed to make the nomination included: Dr. E. L. Opie, of the Cornell University Medical College; Dr. Alfred E. Cohn, of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, and Dr. M. H. Dawson, of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University.

JOHN F. PRESTON, forester for the Hammermill Paper Company, Erie, Pa., has been named head of the woodland management section of the Soil Conservation Service. Mr. Preston will supervise the forestry and woodland phases of the soil erosion control program now being carried on in 141 demonstration areas and more than 450 CCC camps throughout the country. He also will maintain cooperation with the Forest Service and other agencies interested in woodland work.

PROFESSOR DANTE DE BLASI of the Italian Academy has been appointed director of the Health Institute at Rome.

DR. E. WESTON HURST, who is a member of the Lister Institute and reader in pathology at the University of London, has been appointed by the Australian government director of the Institute of Medical Science with a salary of £1,500 a year. This will be the only such institute in Australia, and the government and the University of Adelaide are collaborating in its establishment. The government is contributing £15,000 and a similar amount has been privately subscribed.

DR. JOHN R. MURLIN, of the University of Rochester, has returned after four months leave of absence which he spent in California. On February 26, he gave a lecture before the Society of Sigma Xi at the University of California at Los Angeles, on "New Methods in Human Calorimetry."

DR. LAURENCE H. SNYDER, of the Ohio State University, addressed the Western Reserve Chapter of the Society of Sigma Xi on April 9. His subject was "Heredity and Modern Life."

DR. HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, of the U. S. Biological Survey, delivered an illustrated lecture entitled "A Bird Lover about Baltimore" on April 21 at the Enoch Pratt Free Library. This was one of the series of lectures given each year at the library under the auspices of the Natural History Society of Maryland.

DR. A. B. STOUT, of the New York Botanical Garden gave an address on "The Origin and Improvement of Cultivated Plants" during the recent annual meeting of the Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry. Special mention was made of the project in breeding hybrid poplars, in which work The New York Botanical Garden has cooperated with the Oxford Paper Company, and of the relation of such breeding to reforestation.

THE American Association of Museums will hold its annual meeting in New York City on May 11, 12 and 13. There will be a general session each morning, and the fourteen sections will meet in the afternoons and on one evening. Monday night will be free and a banquet is planned for Wednesday night.

THE twelfth annual meeting of the Rocky Mountain Section of the Mathematical Association of America was held on April 17 and 18 at the University of Denver. Albert W. Recht, assistant professor of mathematics at the University of Denver, acted as chairman, and A. E. Mallory, Colorado State College of Education, as vice-chairman.

THE Symposium in Theoretical Physics at the University of Michigan will be held between June 29 and August 21. Professor Bethe, of Cornell University, will lecture during the first four weeks on the physics of high speed particles. Beginning with the second week in July, Professor Lawrence, of the University of California, will lecture for four weeks on the design and technique of the cyclotron, artificial radioactivity and the biological action of neutrons. Professor W. Heisenberg, of Leipzig, will discuss various problems of nuclear physics. It is expected that these latter lectures will continue throughout the session. Opportunity for experimental research in nuclear physics with radio-active sources, with the cyclotron and with high potential equipment, will be offered. Those interested in this work should write first for particulars. In addition the department offers numerous graduate courses, and also facilities for research in many lines of theoretical and experimental physics. A special announcement will be sent upon request. Holders of doctor's degrees may attend all sessions as guests of the university.

THE Smithsonian Institution is named in the will of Dr. William Louis Abbott, explorer and naturalist, as beneficiary of one fifth of his residuary estate, and the State of Maryland will receive his 350-acre farm in Cecil County to be maintained as a park or forest reserve. The estate was valued for probate purposes at \$535,000, of which \$525,000 was the estimate on personalty and \$10,000 on realty. Dr. Abbott provided that the Smithsonian Institution, to which he was a large contributor during his lifetime, should have its choice of his papers and books, in addition to its share of the residuary estate.

THIS summer, the University of Denver will establish a high-altitude laboratory on the summit of Mt. Evans, one of the highest peaks in Colorado. The laboratory will consist of two permanent buildings, one, the laboratory proper, and one, the living quarters. Dr. Joyce Stearns and his associates, who have been studying the cosmic ray in cooperation with Dr. Arthur H. Compton, of the University of Chicago, will be in charge.

Industrial and Engineering Chemistry reports that work on the additions to be made to the plant of the Institute of Paper Chemistry at Lawrence College, Appleton, Wis., will probably be ready by commence-

ment. The new quarters will house additional store-rooms, offices, laboratories and a large machine room, and will almost double available floor space. They

will be informally dedicated and opened to public inspection on June 8, when the institute and the college hold joint commencement exercises.

DISCUSSION

DISTRIBUTION OF TERMITES

IN a recent issue of SCIENCE,¹ A. E. Alexander records *Reticulitermes flavipes* (Kollar) from Ithaca, New York, with the implication that termites are scarce north of the Mason and Dixon line. Such remarks may give an erroneous impression of termite distribution. Termites were recorded from Ithaca in M. D. Leonard's "List of the Insects of New York."² Maps in books by C. A. Kofoid and others,³ and by T. E. Snyder,⁴ include Ithaca within the range. As a student at Cornell in 1914-18, I frequently found these insects and can personally state that they are not scarce in central New York. Dr. L. O. Howard states in a letter to Dr. T. E. Snyder that he found termites in 1872 or 1873 in the exact locality mentioned by A. E. Alexander.

There are numerous localities along the northern border of the United States from which termites have been reported. They are now known from every state in the Union and from Vancouver Island, British Columbia. They have not been recorded previously from the Dakotas, but Miss Olive Falls has collected *Reticulitermes tibialis* Banks from Englewood, Centerville, Freeman, Canton and Alcester, South Dakota; the writer has collected the same species at Devil's Tower, Wyoming, not far from the South Dakota border; and Dr. G. C. Wheeler collected this species from a log near Amidon, North Dakota, thus adding the latter state to the records. Miss Olive Falls also collected *R. flavipes* at New Castle, Lincoln County, Maine. Other new northern records furnished by Dr. T. E. Snyder, of the U. S. Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, are Bellows Falls, Vermont, for *Reticulitermes flavipes*; Gillette, Wyoming, Glendive and Newlon Junction, Montana, for *R. tibialis*. The writer has collected *R. tibialis* near Shoshone Dam, Wyoming, between Cody and Yellowstone Park. E. Goellner has taken *R. flavipes* at Grand Haven, Michigan. Dr. Snyder also has record of damage by an undetermined species of termite at Duluth, Minnesota. Collections along the Canadian border or further north are worthy of record as well as locality records in the northern parts of all the border states.

One commonly finds press reports stating that these

destructive insects are spreading, and the above records should not be interpreted as indicating a northward migration. The genus *Reticulitermes* is a distinctly temperate genus and has not been able to invade the tropics. It has been reported from Baltic amber and from the Florissant beds (also Creede) of Colorado—a strong indication that these termites have been in temperate regions for many millions of years. Since there is no valid evidence as yet that would indicate that termites are spreading northward within historical times or are increasing markedly in numbers in any locality, the writer is inclined to discount statements of such increase or extension unless accompanied by critical evidence. Often these statements are part of the propaganda of fear which is spread by persons or firms interested in commercial eradication of termites, either through their own ignorance or through the desire to exploit the ignorance of the lay public. Reputable firms engaged in termite eradication, however, often find a strong tendency for householders to exaggerate the damage caused by termites and, unquestionably, many magnified accounts are merely examples of the human tendency to "improve the truth." Likewise it is also possible to give examples of human apathy when faced with a real termite menace.

There is need for critical data upon the abundance of termites in various localities. Specialists are aware of differences in relative abundance, but exact population studies have not been made and the causative factors governing distribution can only be surmised. The northern and southern extreme limits of distribution throughout the world seem to be correlated fairly well with the 50° F. annual isothermal line. In the United States, the northern limit of distribution is between the 40° F. and the 45° F. annual isothermal lines. Relative humidity and soil moisture seem to be correlated strikingly with the distribution of certain species. Toleration experiments by Dr. O. L. Williams⁵ indicate that humidity has a direct effect upon distribution, at least in the case of certain species.

The environmental requirements of the various species seem so rigid that it is very unlikely that species can gain a foothold in environments very different from their native conditions. *Reticulitermes flavipes*, native to the United States east of the Mississippi

¹ Vol. 83, No. 2141, p. 34.

² Mem. 101, Cornell Univ. Agr. Exp. Sta., 1926.

³ "Termites and Termite Control," Univ. Calif. Press, 1934.

⁴ "Our Enemy the Termite," Comstock Publishing Company, 1935.

⁵ "Termites and Termite Control," Univ. Calif. Press, 1934, 2d edition.