

MEDALLISTS AND OFFICERS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY

THE following awards of medals have been made by the president and council of the Royal Society:

Royal Medals to Professor Nevil Vincent Sidgwick, F.R.S., in recognition of his distinguished, stimulating and continuous work on valency and on molecular structure, and to Professor Arthur Henry Reginald Buller, F.R.S., in recognition of his researches on the general biology and sexuality of the fungi.

The Copley Medal to Sir Henry Dale, F.R.S., in recognition of his important contributions to pharmacology, particularly to the pharmacology of muscle and of neuromuscular transmission.

The Davy Medal to Professor Hans Fischer, in recognition of his work on the chemistry of the porphyrins, particularly his determination of their detailed structure by degradation and his syntheses of porphyrins of biological importance.

The Buchanan Medal to General F. F. Russell in recognition of his work in relation to public health problems in many parts of the world on behalf of the International Health Division of the Rockefeller Foundation.

The Sylvester Medal to Professor A. E. H. Love, F.R.S., in recognition of his researches in classical mathematical physics, particularly the mathematical theories of elasticity and hydrodynamics.

The Hughes Medal to Professor Ernest O. Lawrence in recognition of his work on the development of the cyclotron and its application to investigation of nuclear disintegration.

The following is a list of those recommended by the president and council for election to the council of the Royal Society at the anniversary meeting on November 30:

Sir William Bragg, *president*; Sir Henry Lyons, *treasurer*; Sir Frank Smith and Professor A. V. Hill, *secretaries*; Sir Albert Seward, *foreign secretary*.

Other members of Council: Professor R. Whytlaw-Gray, Professor G. P. Thomson, Professor J. Proudman, Professor D. M. S. Watson, Dr. F. L. Pyman, Professor E. J. Salisbury, Professor S. P. Bedson, Professor M. Greenwood, Professor J. Mellanby, Sir Thomas Holland, Dr. G. T. Bennett, Professor J. Chadwick, Professor D. Keilin, Professor J. Graham Kerr, Sir Robert Pickard and Mr. H. R. Ricardo.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. CARL VOEGTLIN, in addition to his present work as chief of the Division of Pharmacology in the National Institute of Health, has been appointed by Surgeon General Parran as director of cancer research in the U. S. Public Health Service.

THE retirement is announced of Dr. Rudolf Ruedemann, New York State paleontologist. Dr. Ruedemann was appointed assistant paleontologist in 1899 and has been state paleontologist since 1926.

THE honorary degree of doctor of science was conferred upon Dr. Annie Jump Cannon, curator of astronomical photographs at the Harvard College Observatory, at the Mount Holyoke Founder's Day exercises, which marked the completion of the first hundred years of the college. Dr. Cannon made an address entitled "Stars over the Sea."

At the August commencement of the Texas Technological College the honorary degree of doctor of science was conferred on Clifford Winslow Seibel in recognition of his researches on helium. Dr. Seibel is supervising engineer of the helium plant and cryogenic laboratory of the Bureau of Mines at Amarillo, Texas.

THE University of Sheffield has conferred the honorary degree of doctor of metallurgy on Dr. George B. Waterhouse, professor of metallurgical production at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and president of the American Society of Metals. The

degree was awarded *in absentia* at a recent congregation of the college.

AMONG the honorary degrees to be conferred by the University of Reading on the occasion of the installation of Sir Samuel Hoare as chancellor of the university on November 29 is the doctorate of science on Professor James Chadwick, director of research in radioactivity in the Cavendish Laboratory of the University of Cambridge, and on Sir Edward B. Poulton, formerly Hope professor of zoology at the University of Oxford, this year president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

THE Brewster Medal of the American Ornithologists Union "for outstanding ornithological achievement" during the year was awarded on November 17 at the Charleston meeting to Dr. Robert Cushman Murphy, of the American Museum of Natural History, for his work on "Oceanic Birds of South America."

KING LEOPOLD of Belgium decided several months ago to confer the Grand Cordon of the Order of Leopold on Guglielmo Marconi, but his death on July 20 occurred before this could be done. It will now be conferred posthumously. The insignia which the King intended to present personally to Marconi will be forwarded to his family through the Belgian Embassy in Rome.

THE Chicago Section of the American Chemical Society will hold a special meeting at the Stevens

Hotel on the evening of November 26 to celebrate the seventieth birthday of Professor Vladimir N. Ipatieff, director of chemical research of the Universal Oil Products Company and emeritus professor of chemistry at Northwestern University. There will be a dinner at 7:00 p. m., followed by a symposium in which Professor Ipatieff will participate on the general subject of catalysis and its rôle in chemistry. The program includes addresses by Professor Homer Adkins, of the University of Wisconsin, on "The Ipatieff Method of Hydrogenation," and by Thomas Midgley, Jr., vice-president of the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation, on "The Philosopher's Stone of To-day." Dr. Frank C. Whitmore, president of the American Chemical Society and dean of chemistry and physics at the Pennsylvania State College, will be the first speaker at the dinner. Introduced by H. J. Halle, president of the Universal Oil Products Company, Chicago, Dr. Ipatieff will make a brief response, "In Retrospect." The dinner will close with an epilogue by Dr. Harrison E. Howe, editor of the *Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry*.

THE presentation to Dr. Thomas H. Norton of the Lavoisier medal of the Société Chimique de France was made at a meeting of the American section of the society at Columbia University on November 19. Comte de Ferry de Fontnouvelle, French Consul General, made the presentation, and Professor D. D. Jackson, head of the department of chemical engineering of Columbia University and president of the American section of the Société de Chimie Industrielle, described the life and accomplishments of the medalist, to which Dr. Norton responded. Dr. Norton was born in Rushford, N. Y., in 1851 and graduated from Hamilton College in 1873. He was professor of chemistry at the University of Cincinnati from 1883 to 1900 and had been connected with various chemical companies and had held various consulates and diplomatic positions. Since 1932 he has been on the technical staff of the American Cyanamid Company.

DR. E. P. SCHOCH, professor of chemistry and director of the Bureau of Industrial Chemistry at the University of Texas, was honored with a supper on November 9 by the San Antonio Manufacturers' Association. An embossed copy of resolutions in appreciation of Dr. Schoch's contributions to science and to the development of Texas was presented to him.

A PORTRAIT in oils of Dr. George B. Wallace, senior member of the faculty of the New York University College of Medicine, was presented to the college on November 15 on the occasion of the completion of his thirty-sixth year of active service in the institution. The speakers included Dr. Alfred N. Richards, professor of pharmacology at the University of Pennsyl-

vania, who was chairman of the portrait committee, and Dr. Phoebus A. T. Levene, of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research. Dean Currier McEwen, of the College of Medicine, accepted the portrait for the college.

OFFICERS of the American Ornithologists Union, meeting in Charleston, S. C., on November 17, were elected as follows: *President*, Dr. Herbert Friedmann, biologist and ornithologist of the U. S. National Museum; *Vice-presidents*, Dr. James P. Chapin, of the American Museum of Natural History, and James Lee Peters, of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Mass.; *Secretary*, Lawrence M. Hicks, of Columbus, Ohio, succeeding Dr. T. S. Palmer, of the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, who has served as secretary for twenty years, and *Treasurer*, W. L. McAtee, of the U. S. Biological Survey. The council voted to hold the meeting in 1938 in Washington and the 1939 meeting in California.

At the recent annual meeting in Washington of the Association of Land Grant Colleges and Universities the officers elected were: *President*, Dr. Cecil W. Creel, director of extension at the University of Nevada; *Vice-president*, Dr. J. A. Burruss, president of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute; *Secretary-Treasurer*, Thomas P. Cooper, of the University of Kentucky; *Members of the Executive Committee*, Dean O. M. Leland, University of Minnesota; President J. J. Tigert, University of Florida; President Charles E. Friley, the Iowa State College; President R. G. Bressler, Rhode Island State College; President C. A. Lory, Colorado State College; Dean F. B. Mumford, the University of Missouri; President T. O. Walton, the Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College, and Dean C. E. Ladd, Cornell University. Dr. R. A. Pearson, formerly president of the University of Maryland, and Dr. A. R. Mann, formerly provost of Cornell University, were elected life members of the committee.

At the recent St. Louis meeting of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, Frederick C. Zeisberg, of Wilmington, Del., was elected president. Other officers elected were: Dr. Webster N. Jones, dean of engineering, at the Carnegie Institute of Technology, Pittsburgh, vice-president; Stephen L. Tyler, of New York, secretary, and C. R. De Long, of New York, treasurer.

MEMBERS of the council of the Royal Society of Edinburgh have been elected as follows: *President*, Sir D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson; *Vice-presidents*, Professor F. A. E. Crew, Lieutenant-Colonel A. G. M'Kendrick, Principal J. C. Smail, Professor J. Walton, Dr. James Watt, Professor E. T. Whittaker; *General Secretary*, Professor James P. Kendall; *Sec-*

retaries to Ordinary Meetings, Dr. A. C. Aitken and Dr. C. H. O'Donoghue; *Treasurer*, Dr. E. M. Wedderburn; *Curator of Library and Museum*, Dr. Leonard Dobbin.

CARL L. BAUSCH, vice-president of the Bausch and Lomb Optical Company, has been elected a manager of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers for a three-year term beginning on December 10.

BECAUSE of continued illness Professor Margaret F. Washburn has retired from active teaching at Vassar College and has been made emeritus in psychology.

DR. OSCAR M. BALL, for thirty-four years professor and head of the department of biology of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, has retired from active teaching with the title professor emeritus. He will devote his entire time, as curator of the college museum, to his collections of fossil plants, and to the fossil vertebrata assembled by the late Dr. Mark Francis.

THE North Dakota State Board of Administration has appointed Dr. Earl A. Helgeson, associate professor of botany, to be acting head of the department of botany at the Agricultural College. He takes the place of Dr. Herbert C. Hanson, who is now acting director of the Experiment Station.

DR. MAXIMILIAN EHRENSTEIN, formerly at the University of Virginia Medical School, has been appointed assistant professor of chemistry in the School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania. Before coming to the United States he had been assistant to Adolf Windaus, Göttingen; Paul Karrer, Zurich, and Heinrich Wieland, Munich. Later he became privat-docent at the University of Berlin.

THE departments of botany of Cornell University and the University of Chicago have arranged an exchange of instructors for the winter quarter of the current academic year. Dr. R. A. Laubengayer, of Cornell, and Dr. Paul D. Voth, of Chicago, have been selected for the exchange. Both instructors will be engaged in the teaching of general botany in the large elementary courses.

RALPH R. BEAL, supervisor of television field tests for the Radio Corporation of America, has been appointed to the newly established position of research director of the company.

N. G. HUNTLEY, mapping officer of the Government of the Union of South Africa, recently spent about twelve days in Washington for the purpose of visiting the Geological Survey and other mapping agencies of the Federal Government. He plans to organize a mapping agency for his government following the best methods and practices that have proved their

value in the United States and other nations on his itinerary.

C. W. GILMORE, curator of the division of vertebrate paleontology of the National Museum, gave an illustrated lecture on "Dinosaurs: How They are Collected, Prepared and Mounted for Exhibition" before a meeting of the Washington Academy of Sciences on November 8.

DR. HAROLD SCOTT delivered the FitzPatrick lectures of the Royal College of Physicians, London, on November 9 and 11. His subject was "Conquest of Disease in the Tropics."

THE ninth International Ornithological Congress will be held at Rouen from May 9 to 13, 1938, under the presidency of Professor Alessandro Ghigi, professor of zoology at the University of Bologna.

THE thirty-ninth annual meeting of the American Physical Society will be held at Indianapolis, Ind., on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, December 28, 29 and 30, in affiliation with Section B, physics, of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The preliminary arrangements include a joint session on Tuesday, December 28, with Section B of the American Association and the American Association of Physics Teachers, at which time the retiring vice-president of Section B, Physics, Dr. George B. Pegram, of Columbia University, will deliver an address. There will also be an address by the president of the American Physical Society, Dr. H. M. Randall, of the University of Michigan, on "The Spectroscopy of the Far Infrared," and one by Professor G. Breit, of the University of Wisconsin. The dinner will be held on Wednesday, December 29, at the Athletic Club.

THE seventh National Symposium for Organic Chemistry of the American Chemical Society will be held at Richmond, Va., on December 28, 29 and 30, under the auspices of the Division of Organic Chemistry and of the Virginia Section. Registration and all meetings will be held in the John Marshall Hotel. The speakers will include: W. E. Bachmann, University of Michigan; P. D. Bartlett, Harvard University; M. Bergmann, the Rockefeller Institute; R. Connor, University of Pennsylvania; A. Corwin, the Johns Hopkins University; Wm. L. Evans, the Ohio State University; H. B. Hass, Purdue University; A. L. Henne, Midgley Foundation; C. D. Hurd, Northwestern University; R. E. Marker, the Pennsylvania State College; S. M. McElvain, University of Wisconsin; E. Mosettig, University of Virginia; A. A. Morton, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; C. R. Noller, Stanford University; A. Russell, Röhm and Haas Company; L. I. Smith, University of Minnesota; R. R. Williams, Bell Telephone Research Lab-

oratories. An evening session dealing with the application of micro- and semimicro-methods to research in organic chemistry will be held on the evening of December 28. An apparatus exhibit devoted to micro- and semimicro-apparatus is also being arranged. An informal dinner is planned for Wednesday evening.

THE annual two-day Ohio-Michigan regional meeting of the American Chemical Society took place at Columbus, Ohio, on November 19 and 20. Twenty-two papers reporting scientific advances in industrial and university laboratories were presented. An address on "Broad Trends in Chemical Research" was made by Dr. E. R. Weidlein, director of the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research and president of the American Chemical Society. The Ohio State University, the Battelle Memorial Institute and the Columbus Section of the society sponsored the assembly, to which the Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky and the Kanawha Valley Sections of the society, comprising a membership of 2,000, sent delegates. The technical sessions on Friday were held at the Ohio State University, and on Saturday morning a session was held at the Battelle Memorial Institute. At the annual dinner Dr. Weidlein was the principal speaker. Professor Harold S. Booth, of Western Reserve University, showed motion pictures of leaders of American chemistry at work. There were inspection trips through the laboratories of the Ohio State University, the Battelle Memorial Institute and the Owens-Illinois Glass Company in Newark, Ohio, on Saturday afternoon. The offices of *Chemical Abstracts*, under the direction of Professor Evan J. Crane, were also visited.

To provide opportunity for discussion of road and transportation problems, the seventeenth annual meeting of the Highway Research Board of the National Research Council will be held in Washington, D. C., for four days, from November 30 to December 3, instead of for the two days that formerly were found sufficient. A large part of the time will be devoted to open departmental meetings on economics, design, materials and construction, soils investigations and roadside developments. On Tuesday, November 30, the meeting of the Department of Soils Investigations will be held and on Wednesday morning papers and reports relating to soils and maintenance will be pre-

sented. Wednesday afternoon will be devoted to materials and construction and roadside development. Thursday's meetings will include a general session in the morning on finance, materials and construction and roadside development and one in the afternoon on highway safety. Friday will be devoted to design and economics.

APPROXIMATELY two hundred physicists of Upper New York State met on November 6 at Cornell University for a program of scientific papers and a business organization meeting. It was estimated that about forty per cent. of those present were teachers in colleges and universities, twenty per cent. high school teachers and forty per cent. from industry. It was unanimously voted to form an organization to be known for the present as the Physics Association of Upper New York State. No officers were elected but the affairs of the organization were placed in the hands of a Committee on Organization and Arrangements made up as follows: G. H. Cameron, Hamilton College; H. P. Gage, Corning Glass Works; R. C. Gibbs, Cornell University; L. G. Hector, University of Buffalo, and P. I. Wold, Union College, *chairman*. There was discussion as to whether it would be more advantageous to operate this association as an entirely independent organization or to seek affiliation with one of the existing national societies in the field of physics. The opinion was definitely in favor of the latter course.

THE Committee on Scientific Research of the American Medical Association has made a grant to Washington University School of Medicine to aid Dr. Martin Silberberg in his work on the influence of hormones on bone growth. This research is being carried out under the direction of Dr. Leo Loeb in the department of experimental pathology.

THE California Institute of Technology has been made the chief eventual beneficiary in the estate of Henry M. Robinson, a trustee of the institute, who died in Pasadena on November 3. The will provides that the residue of the estate, which is valued at \$800,000, after individual bequests have been provided for, shall be placed in trust for his widow, and that at her death the entire estate shall go to the institute.

DISCUSSION

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND THE SCIENTIST

FREEDOM of speech and of the press are privileges dear to the American, but do we not too frequently abuse these privileges as we do various other liberties

upon which it has become necessary to impose restrictions? The chief restriction on the scientist's publication is the publisher's profit or the bank balance of the technical society. An editor, to be sure, may reject an article for other reasons, but the author may publish at his own expense without regard to the contents.